

SOCIETY OF
VERTEBRATE
PALEONTOLOGY
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

MINUTES OF 57TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, OCTOBER 9, 1997, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Louis Jacobs, President, called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M. and welcomed the group to the 57th Annual Meeting. Jacobs noted that the sale of ASue@ had been a topic for discussion at the meeting and noted that this topic would be addressed in detail at the open Executive Committee Meeting on Saturday, October 10. Jacobs did note that the SVP had created a formal statement regarding the sale of ASue@ and asked members to keep these four points in mind when discussing this topic:

- a) the sale of ASue@ validates the high level of interest in paleontology now more than ever before;
- b) the SVP is against the sale of vertebrate fossils; however, ASue@ was going to be sold no matter what;
- c) this sale reinforces the need for paleontologists to have strong relationships with amateurs; and
- d) all members should be concerned with the sale of fossils and should support ASaveAmerica@s Fossils for Everyone@ (SAFE) so that this organization can provide the financial means necessary to lobby on SVP@s behalf for protection of fossils on public lands.

John Flynn summarized facts pertaining to the purchase of ASue by the Field Museum.

Catherine Badgley, Secretary, gave her report which included the following motion: to accept the minutes as presented from the 56th Annual Business Meeting. The motion was seconded and carried by acclamation. Badgley then briefly reviewed the highlights of the June 1997 Executive Committee Minutes. She also reviewed the officer election results as follows: John Bolt, Treasurer; Richard Cifelli, Member-at-Large; and Catherine Badgley, Secretary. Badgley then noted that the current membership totalled 1,700, the highest membership in five years. Lastly, Badgley reminded the members of some Annual Meeting logistics.

John Bolt, Treasurer, delivered the 1996-1997 budget results and the proposed 1997-1998 budget. (See complete Treasurer's report in this issue.) A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made, seconded, and carried by acclamation.

Michael Parrish, Program Committee Chair, gave his report and noted that 417 abstracts had been received this year, the largest number ever. There were five symposia this year, in addition to the Preparator's Symposium. Due to the large number of abstracts, three concurrent sessions were run on Friday and Saturday in an effort to have as many platform sessions as possible. Parrish did note, however, that he was disappointed that one-third of the abstracts needed to be returned to authors due to errors. Parrish commented that next year SVP would be accepting abstracts electronically in an effort to reduce the workload of the Program Committee. (See complete report in this issue.)

Jacobs gave a brief report on the Information Management Committee on behalf of the Chair, Ralph Chapman. Jacobs said that next year the committee will look to enhance the SVP Web site as well as find a permanent location for the site. (See complete report in this issue.)

William Clemens, *BFV* Supervisor, reviewed the accomplishments achieved by the *BFV* staff over the past year. He reported that with subsidies from Don Baird and The Dinosaur Society, the staff was able to complete the *BFV* retrospective capture project. The Romer volumes through the most recent 1993 volume will be available for electronic search capability via the Internet in early 1998. Clemens recognized the dedication and hard work of Judy Bacskai, Bonnie Rauscher, and George Shkurkin in completing this monumental task. The *BFV* staff were thanked by applause. Lastly, however, Clemens noted that the cost of operating the *BFV* had become too great and that the *BFV* office unfortunately would be closing in November 1997.

Richard Fox, *JVP* Co-Editor, delivered the editor's report, noting that a total of 877 pages was printed in volumes 16(3) through 17(2). He commented that there were 69 titles with an average length of 12 pages. The review time from acceptance to print as of Volume 17(2) had been reduced to 11 months for manuscripts and 10.5 months for notes. Fox noted that he was encouraged that the review time had been significantly reduced since one year ago at this time. (See complete report in this issue.)

Don Lofgren, Chair of the Development Committee, reported that the Committee had been active and had submitted seven grant proposals to corporations but without a successful response. He also noted that the Committee had coordinated the Popular Lecture Series held at the Field Museum in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. Lastly, Lofgren noted that the Committee had developed a bequest brochure explaining the options of leaving a bequest to the Society. He encouraged members to review this brochure if they were interested in leaving a lasting gift to the Society. (See complete report in this issue.)

Michael Woodburne, Co-Chair of the Government Liaison Committee, gave an overview of the Committee's substantial accomplishments for the year. (See complete report in this issue.)

Larry Flynn, SAFE President, encouraged SVP members to support SAFE in its mission to preserve our nation's heritage by getting to know their individual congressional aides and alerting them to their views. He noted that SAFE benefits from the financial support of SVP members via both direct donations and through the SAFE auction.

Anthony Fiorillo, Education Committee Chair, noted that the Committee had received and reviewed five predoctoral applications this year. Also in conjunction with the Development Committee, the Education Committee assisted in the development of the Popular Lecture Series for the public for the first time this year. He noted that the Committee plans to expand on this effort to hold a half-day teachers' workshop at next year's annual meeting. Eventually the Committee hopes to create a portable workshop for teachers that could be used in conjunction with future annual meetings. (See complete report in this issue.)

Sally Shelton, Outreach Committee Chair, summarized their Committee's efforts over the past year. She noted that the Committee is interested in working closely with the Information Management Committee to expand the distribution of the Outreach newsletter by including it on SVP's Web site.

Mark Uhen, Membership Committee Chair, thanked Emily Buchholtz for her leadership of the Committee. He noted that one change that the Membership Committee instituted in 1997 was the addition of SVP's ethics statement to the membership application and renewal invoice. (See complete report in this issue.)

Hans Thewissen, Media Liaison Committee Chair, noted that SVP had received press coverage in *Nature* and several other magazines and newspapers. The Committee had scheduled two press conferences and welcomed 30 journalists to the meeting. Although he acknowledged that the coverage of the meeting was overshadowed by *A Sue*, Hans said he was enthusiastic about the coverage being received. He requested that SVP members forward media contact names to him so that he could continually build upon the press database that had been established. (See complete report in this issue.)

Louis Jacobs then called for new business from the floor. Jessica Theodor noted that this year's meeting as well as the 1998 annual meeting were both scheduled over the Jewish high holiday of Yom Kippur. She requested that future annual meetings not be scheduled over the holiday if at all possible. Jacobs acknowledged her request and noted that the scheduling overlap with Yom Kippur had been an oversight, to be corrected in the future.

Dave Gillette, Chair of the 1998 Host Committee, officially invited everyone to attend next year's meeting in Salt Lake City (Snowbird) and reviewed the dates of the meeting.

Louis Jacobs then invited Chuck Crumly to the podium for a special presentation. Crumly noted that, through the efforts of many authors, the *Encyclopedia of Dinosaurs* had recently been completed and was available for sale at this year's annual meeting. He acknowledged and thanked all the authors involved and noted that Academic Press was pleased to present \$4,000 to SVP. Crumly requested that this amount, which included all of the author honoraria, be allocated to the Richard Estes Memorial Fund.

Louis Jacobs then reminded the group that the Open Executive Committee Meeting was scheduled on Saturday, October 10, at 12:30 P.M.

Louis Jacobs then called Jason Lillegraven to the podium to give the motion of thanks. The motion was as follows:

WHEREAS: this year's Host Committee for the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, in far-sighted anticipation of our deference to our breathing pleasure, closed the great Chicago Stockyards in 1971; and

WHEREAS: Co-Chair John Bolt commandeered the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and the Chicago Cubs, respectively, to provide the comestibles for our feasting and entertainment at the banquet; and

WHEREAS: Co-Chair Lance Grande provided the entire Chicago Symphony Orchestra for background music during our scientific discussions; and

WHEREAS: Matt Carrano and Doreen Covey oversaw the special operations required of O'Hare International Airport, already the busiest in the world, to deal with hordes of converging paleontologists and their ponderous baggage of fragile cladograms; and

WHEREAS: John Flynn and James Hopson saw to it that the Chicago **Cubs**, the Chicago **Bears**, the Chicago **Bulls**, the Chicago **Wolves**, and the Chicago **Blackhawks** provided the preferred taxonomic balance for paleontological interests of our Society; and

WHEREAS: Laura Panko and Carter O'Brien convinced the Art Institute of Chicago to lend their treasures for the unique decoration of our hotel-room walls; and

WHEREAS: Olivier Rieppel wrote the proposals to the federal agencies that helped support, for our visiting pleasure, the Lincoln Park Zoo, the Shedd Aquarium, the Adler Planetarium, and the huge celebration planned for Jay Lillegraven's birthday this Saturday; and

WHEREAS: William Simpson long ago secured the services of Daniel H. Burnham, William LeBaron Jenney, Louis Henri Sullivan, and Frank Lloyd Wright to *inspire* Chicago's skyline, which in silhouette looks like some kind of demented stegosaurus; and

WHEREAS: the Symposium Conveners, the Auction Coordinator (who, incidentally, will not auction that boy named ASue, the Collections Coordinators, and the Program Committee *all* cooperated with the Host Committee, not only in protecting us from descendants of Catherine O'Leary's exonerated cow, but helped us, as a scientific society, to improve our discipline, and to let us enjoy the very process of its strengthening

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: that the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology shall, in honor of our hosts, permanently alter the words of Carl Sandberg, as he referred to the City of Chicago, *from* A Stormy, husky, brawling; City of the Big Shoulders to A Stormy, husky, brawling; committees of the Enlarged Pectoral Girdles.

The Lillegraven motion was enthusiastically approved by acclamation. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and carried by acclamation. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 P.M. (Catherine Badgley)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MOTIONS

During the Executive Committee Meeting at the 1997 Annual Meeting held October 8-11, 1997, in Chicago, Illinois, the Executive Committee of the Society discussed several issues. The motions below resulted from these discussions.

MOTION: To approve the Executive Committee minutes from the June 1997 mid-year meeting.

By: John Flynn

Seconded: Blaire Van Valkenburgh

Passed

MOTION: To approve a joint theme session sponsored by the SVP and the Paleontological Society at the upcoming GSA Conference in Toronto.

By: John Flynn

Seconded: Blair Van Valkenburgh

Passed

MOTION: To approve the SVP sponsorship of Dinofest which includes a complimentary advertisement in the *SVP News Bulletin*.

By: Louis Jacobs

Seconded: Catherine Badgley

Passed

MOTION: To approve the 1997/1998 SVP Budget.

By: Blaire Van Valkenburgh

Seconded: John Flynn

Passed

MOTION: To adjourn the Executive Committee Meeting.

By: Catherine Badgley

Seconded: Blaire Van Valkenburgh

Passed

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Society's fiscal year ends September 30, so final results were not available at the time of the annual meeting. These will be presented in the auditor's report.

Endowment

The Society's endowment funds are doing well. The endowment shows a significant increase over its value in preceding years, and is now at a record high. Almost all of our endowment is now invested through Merrill Lynch. The Merrill Lynch account is a commingled account, which includes the general endowment plus the Patterson, Skinner, and Romer funds. The Estes Fund is invested with Merrill Lynch as a separate account, set up to mimic the holdings of the general endowment fund so far as possible.

The Merrill Lynch portion of the endowment is split between interest-bearing securities and stock-oriented mutual funds. As of October 1997, about 60% of the endowment was invested in the interest-bearing securities and a money market fund. The money market fund is a short-term parking place for recently received funds, and for funds we expect to need during the fiscal year. Most of our interest income is derived from a five-year bond

ladder. Investments in the ladder include certificates of deposit, government securities, and investment-grade corporate bonds. About 40% of the endowment is invested in stock-oriented mutual funds. The Society currently holds six different mutual funds, with different investment objectives. Executive Committee investment policy at present is to have 25-40% of the endowment invested in equity-oriented mutual funds. We are now at the upper end of that range, and have no immediate plans to increase our equity investments.

Although extraordinary endowment gifts were not reflected in the Treasurer's Business Meeting report, I did note that we expected to see a substantial increase in endowment principal during the 1997-1998 fiscal year. That was because of two very generous gifts of which we had been informed, but had not yet received. One is a bequest of \$100,000 which is now going through probate. The other is a gift of \$150,000 which was promised by one of our long-term benefactors. I am very pleased to be able to inform the Society that this donation has now been received. Public acknowledgement of the generosity of both of these supporters will be made in the appropriate forum.

The 1997-1998 budget does not depend on revenues from these anticipated gifts. In the longer term, however, there is no question that the endowment established on the base of these and many other gifts will continue to be vital to the Society.

1996-1997 Budget

Most results for fiscal year 1996-1997 were close to projections, and I expect that we will come in close to budget. A few areas require some comment, as follows:

1. General endowment earnings, including interest and dividends received during the fiscal year, were well over budget. This does not include unrealized capital gains or losses. Fortunately, the stock market was strong last year, and we had significant capital gains.
2. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* expenses are going to be on track; revenues are not, and will be significantly below budget. This is due partly to lower page charge revenues. However, the largest factor is the financial difficulties of The Dinosaur Society: The Dinosaur Society may not be able to cover the amount of page charges that we assumed in our budget. Fortunately, SVP's own financial position is strong enough so that we could fill the gap. We were therefore able to publish the anticipated number of pages last year.
3. *Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates* revenue and expenses will both be about \$30,000 higher than projected. This is mostly thanks to a generous donation from Donald Baird, who again enabled the *BFV* staff to accomplish more than we had originally expected to be able to afford.
4. We assumed no revenue from the 1996 Annual Meeting. In the event, the meeting showed a surplus of \$14,000, almost all of which was generated from the annual auction.

5. The Bottom Line: For the 1996B1997fiscal year, we were budgeting for an operating deficit of \$59,000.The predicted final result is very close to that, which I think is quite good in itself. However, we actually did better than might appear at first sight: despite an expected significant revenue shortfall due to the financial problems of The Dinosaur Society, it looks as though we will still come in on budget.

1997B1998 Budget

In reviewing the 1997B1998 budget, I must note that we have tried to be conservative in estimating revenues. I will comment on some budget areas, as follows:

1. Administrative costs are projected to rise by about \$6,500 from the anticipated costs for last fiscal year. This is due to a combination of expected decreases in legal and mailroom costs, and increases in information management costs, staff time, and management fees. We anticipate that administrative revenues (mostly dues) will be about the same as last fiscal year. Administrative expenses thus should be about equal to administrative revenues.

2. Endowment earnings are estimated to come in at about last year's level. This is necessarily somewhat of a guess. Most of this figure represents income from the bond ladder plus money market funds, and this is pretty much assured. The rest is dividends from our mutual fund investments, and that will of course fluctuate.

3. The *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* is the budget area that shows the greatest year-to-year change. On the revenue side, we are budgeting revenue about \$20,000 lower than last year. This is mostly due to the fact that we cannot anticipate page charge monies from The Dinosaur Society. It is also due to a decision of the Board not to charge a separate abstract fee, beginning with the 1997B1998 fiscal year. In future years this will be built into the registration fee, but that will not happen until the 1998B1999 fiscal year. This loss is thus a one-time event.

On the expense side, the proposed *JVP* budget is about \$11,000 higher than last year's total expenses. Although treasurers do not usually like to spend money, I don't think that this increase is a bad thing; on the contrary. The reasoning behind the *JVP* budget proposal is spelled out below:

1. Printing is the single largest expense item for *JVP*; page charges, especially those from The Dinosaur Society in recent years, are very important in covering some of our printing costs. In 1997B1998, we expect to receive about \$20,000 less in page charges from The Dinosaur Society than was expected for 1996B1997. One response to this shortfall would be to reduce our printing budget by that amount, which would reduce proportionately the number of pages published. Instead, the 1997B1998 budget reduces the printing budget by only \$10,000. The *JVP* is the premier journal for vertebrate paleontology, and we are committed to doing whatever we can to maintain it in that position. I believe the Society is financially able to meet these printing costs for at least the forthcoming year.

2. In March of 1998, *Memoir 4* will be published. This will run over 700 pages, and all costs but postage will be paid by the authors. Postage for a work of this size is now estimated to be about \$13,000, which will be paid by the Society.

3. At the time of printing, additional copies of this large *Memoir* can be produced fairly inexpensively. The Executive Committee has decided to invest \$10,000 in a 1,000-copy overrun, to be resold at a profit to the Society. We are financially strong and stable enough at the moment to be able to make this investment. At the same time, we have a good management structure and experienced personnel in place. We are thus able to mount a serious and credible marketing effort for the *Memoirs*. As with any investment, nothing is guaranteed, and any possible revenues from sales of *Memoir 4* are not included in the 1997-1998 budget. But we have talked for years about marketing the *Memoirs* as a means for raising both income and the profile of SVP's publications. If we are ever going to market the *Memoirs*, it is hard to imagine a more opportune time.

4. Annual Meeting: It is difficult to estimate annual meeting results during the meeting itself. At the time of the Annual Business Meeting we estimated about a \$12,000 surplus, and this will likely be close to the final result.

5. The Bottom Line: The 1997-1998 operating deficit is projected to be about \$92,000. I would be concerned if I thought our fixed costs were that high relative to income. But this high deficit is really a result of unusual circumstances, and I think that at least one of those unusual circumstances represents an opportunity rather than a problem. I believe that we have the resources to meet this deficit, although it will admittedly be a stretch. All things considered, I feel that this is a responsible budget, and I am optimistic about the result.

1996-1997 UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REVIEW

(as of August 31, 1997)

Budget Area 96-97 Budget 1 Mo. Actual Forecast

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Admin. Revenue | \$105,900 | \$115,819 | \$115,819 |
| Admin. Expense | \$101,625 | \$96,816 | \$104,683 |
| Variance (Revenue | | | |
| ! Expense) | \$4,275 | \$19,003 | \$11,136 |
| General Endowment | | | |
| Contributions | \$25,000 | \$24,279 | \$25,000 |
| General Endowment | | | |
| Earnings | \$56,900 | \$80,762 | \$80,762 |
| Rest. Endowment | | | |
| Contributions | \$3,625 | \$4,742 | \$4,742 |
| Rest. Endowment Earnings | \$2,675 | \$5,863 | \$5,863 |
| Journal Revenue | \$82,353 | \$67,445 | \$68,795 |
| Journal Expense | \$124,050 | \$97,815 | \$126,110 |

Variance (\$41,697) (\$30,370) (\$57,315)
News Bulletin Revenue \$1,400 \$1,150 \$1,150
News Bulletin Expense \$15,500 \$13,993 \$13,993
 Variance (\$14,100) (\$12,843) (\$12,843)
 Awards Revenue \$0 \$0 \$0
 Awards Expense \$6,320 \$5,450 \$5,450
 Variance (\$6,320) (\$5,450) (\$5,450)
BFV Revenue \$72,000 \$102,330 \$102,330
BFV Expense \$70,850 \$106,797 \$106,797
 Variance \$1,150 (\$4,467) (\$4,467)
 Future Annual
 Meetings Revenue \$0 \$0 \$0
 Future Annual
 Meetings Expense \$3,000 \$4,110 \$4,110
 Variance (\$3,000) (\$4,110) (\$4,110)
 Merchandise Revenue \$4,465 \$3,449 \$3,449
 Merchandise Expense \$3,806 \$3,886 \$4,179
 Variance \$659 (\$437) (\$730)
 Annual Meeting Revenue \$125,160 \$154,356 \$154,356
 Annual Meeting Expense \$125,160 \$140,278 \$140,278
 Variance \$0 \$14,078 \$14,078
Total Revenue \$391,278 \$444,549 \$445,899
 (Less endowment earnings & contributions)
Total Expense \$450,311 \$469,145 \$505,600
Variance (\$59,033) (\$24,596) (\$59,701)
 1997B1998BUDGET REVIEW
 (as of September 30, 1997)
Budget Area Revenue Expense Variance
 (Revenue! Expense)
 Administration \$113,273 \$111,215 \$2,058
 Gen. Endowment
 Contributions \$25,000 \$0 \$25,000
 General Endowment
 Earnings \$80,762 \$0 \$80,762
 Rest. Endowment
 Contributions \$3,920 \$0 \$3,920
 Rest. Endowment Earnings \$5,863 \$0 \$5,863
Journal of Vertebrate
Paleontology \$61,795 \$137,550 (\$75,755)
SVP News Bulletin \$1,375 \$24,000 (\$22,625)
 Awards \$0 \$7,800 (\$7,800)
 Special Projects \$2,000 \$0 \$2,000
Bibliography of
Fossil Vertebrates \$4,000 \$3,911 \$89
 Future Annual Meetings \$0 \$4,500 (\$4,500)
 Merchandise \$4,355 \$2,915 \$1,440

Annual Meeting \$165,395 \$152,636 \$12,759

Total \$352,193 \$444,527 (\$92,334)

REVIEW OF ENDOWMENT INVESTMENTS

(as of August 31, 1997)

8/30/97 9/30/96 9/30/95 9/30/94

Fund Value Value Value Value

General Endowment \$1,172,219 \$956,530 \$670,256 \$630,743

(Merrill LynchBChicago)

General Endowment \$0 \$24,134 \$22,286 \$85,980

(CD, National Bank of

Commerce, Nebraska)

General Endowment \$20,000 \$20,000 \$40,000 \$66,275

(CD, Firstier Bank, Nebraska)

General Endowment \$11,439 \$91,070 \$89,755 \$0

(Money Market Account,

First Bank, Chicago)

Bryan Patterson Fund \$18,678 \$13,212 \$12,116 \$11,980

(Merrill LynchBChicago)

Morris F. Skinner Fund \$28,622 \$16,648 \$16,400 \$15,225

(Merrill LynchBChicago)

Richard Estes Fund \$28,253 \$24,307 \$23,580 \$22,547

(Merrill LynchBChicago)

Alfred S. Romer Fund* \$14,938 n/a n/a n/a

(Merrill LynchBChicago)

Total \$1,279,212 \$1,145,901 \$874,393 \$832,750

*The Romer Fund was previously not tracked separately.

COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY WITH THE MEDIA:

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR SCIENTISTS

Ours is a highly visible field. The public interest in dinosaurs and other life of the past shows no signs of decline. Members of the press and developers of television documentaries are generally not well trained scientifically, and do not have the same aims in presenting science to the public as scientists do. They must balance information with entertainment, and they cannot go over the heads of their audiences. They will convey your idea to their audience if they understand it and feel that their audience will too.

Prepare Your Materials

When a journalist phones to set up an interview, you need to know the scope of the article or documentary. What questions are being investigated? Who is the audience? Who else will be interviewed? This will help you to prepare yourself for probable questions, and also to prepare materials that the journalist can photograph or take away to help compose

the piece. Illustrations that can be reproduced are especially helpful if they summarize your point. These should be clear and not too cluttered, and capable of being substantially reduced or redrawn (for most newspapers and magazines). They can be colorful and more dynamic for video presentations (with computer graphics and quick-time movies, possibilities are extensive). Journalists may not understand technical articles, but they can deal with informal summaries of articles that you produce to accompany them. Increasingly you can e-mail information or refer journalists to your Web site or another that might help them prepare in advance of talking with you.

Project an Image

For journalists and their audiences, the importance of the questions that we study is not as great as it is to us. They are fascinated and often amused by our science, but they do not take it as seriously as we do. They want to inform and entertain their audience. They do not necessarily want to decide a question; they want to understand what is new and how we discovered this. Obviously, we enjoy our work, and media consultants agree that this is one of the most important qualities to convey to an audience. Projecting a pleasant and helpful image is good business. It conveys a constructive attitude and an openness of mind. It disposes people to like you and to appreciate your points. (So smile.)

Clarity and Brevity

In a talk or lecture you can convey complex ideas and subtleties, but this is not usually possible in an interview unless you alone are the subject. Generally, journalists want to find out the thing that you know that they want to convey to their audience. To be effective, the point must be given simply and briefly. Assume that your audience is intelligent, but not educated on these issues. They will appreciate your ideas more readily if they are simply and vividly conveyed. Use simple language, as if you were talking to your neighbor over the fence. A sentence or two is usually all the space that one can expect to be allotted in a report published or broadcast on a scientific issue. Even if a journalist spends an hour with you on the phone, in person, or even in front of a camera, it is likely that your contribution to the final product will be only a sentence or a couple of seconds of exposure. So it helps to speak simply, get to the point quickly, and frame it in terms that are catchy enough to resonate to an interviewer and the potential audience. It also helps to prepare a summary statement in advance, to ensure that your view will be effectively conveyed.

Do Something

Producers of documentaries don't like "talking heads." They prefer to film you doing some kind of activity, preferably recreating the experiment, the moment of discovery, the flash of insight. Some producers will ask you to go so far as to re-stage these events, but you might not be comfortable with that "docudrama" approach. Use your judgment. A good way to be effective when the film crew comes is to prepare in advance whatever materials, equipment, experimental setups, or visual aids that might be available to illustrate your work, and that will give them ideas for filming and asking questions.

They will frequently want to have some footage of you working with equipment or specimens that they can use during voice-over sequences; this is more creative than the time-worn walking-into-the-building shots. Anticipating the visual needs of filmmakers can save everyonetime and improve the final product.

Different Strokes

Controversy is the stuff of journalism; it enlivens articles and gives the audience a handle on the issues. Because neither the journalists nor the audience are usually professionalscientists, the humaninterest angle of personality is often what strikes a producer or reporter, because science is done by people. But the stuff of science is evidence and methods, not personalities. You can avoid authoritarianism and personal disputes by emphasizing that science works when a consensus on the evidence is reached in a field, after the evidence and the methods used in coming to a conclusion have been evaluated by other scientists. When explaining your point of view to a journalist, focus on how we know what we know in science, our ways of asking questions, and our methods. It is less important to evaluate or criticize opposing points of view than to show what we would need to know, or the methods that we would need to agree on, in order to advance the issue. Science as a way of knowing can be a very effective communication tool.

Answering YOUR Questions

Journalists, except for a small segment of the science journalists, cannot be expected to have much background in our field, or even in science. Often, the person on the other end of the phone has been assigned your story 20 minutes ago and has a 5:00 deadline. They generally want to know what you found, why it is important, and (inevitably) who might disagree with you if it is controversial. Even if all this was laid out in your article and press reports, a reporter still wants an original quotation from you, and all the better if it is pithy and entertaining. A simple paraphrase of what you did and a quick phrase embodying why it is important will help the reporter and will get you off the phone faster. For visual interviews, the time investment is greater. A good rule of thumb is that a fast story for the 6:00 news will take an hour, and any piece for a documentary will take half a day to a day at minimum, largely because of the logistics of cameras, sound, and lighting.

In many cases, an interviewer's questions may not be the most important ones. They may have misapprehended evidence or its significance; they may not understand the methods, techniques, or issues. It can be adaptive to answer these questions indirectly, by stating exactly what you want to say regardless of the question. You might have to do this more than once, but it usually leads to a more productive line of questioning. Often, you can discuss questions in advance, especially if the topic seems unfamiliar to the interviewer (Why don't you ask me [X], and I'll tell you about [Y]).

Pitfalls and Manipulations

A good way to ensure an effective interview is to note some points that you want to make before the interview begins. However, the angle taken by a journalist may not coincide with all your points. It may help to ask who else is being interviewed and what the journalist wants to explore in the piece. You should feel comfortable declining to participate in an effort that seems staged or forced, or to answer trick questions. A journalist looking for a reaction might say, "X says your work is all wrong. How do you respond to that?" Don't rise to the bait. Terminate an interview if you don't like the tactics or ethics, if you feel the line of questioning or the filming is manipulative, or if it is wasting your time. Don't hesitate to share your experiences with colleagues who might face the same experience. Good journalism benefits journalists as well as scientists, and slipshod journalism cannot succeed if cooperation from its subjects is withheld.

Checking Quotes

Many reporters will call you back to check what you said before publishing; nearly all will if you ask them to, and some will want to, in order to be accurate. If deadlines make this impossible, you can ask the reporter to read back what he or she thinks you said before you hang up. Most will send a copy of their printed article if you ask.

Effective coverage of our discipline in the press and in documentaries helps make other scientists, teachers, students, and the public aware of our work and how we do our jobs. Even more importantly, it makes people aware that science is an enterprise of discovery shaped by the expectations of theory, constantly inquiring and testing. It excites people, educates them, and makes them think. Good press coverage is one of the best ways we have to ensure that our discipline flourishes in the future. (Compiled by the SVP Media Liaison Committee, October 1997)

C COMMITTEE REPORTS C

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The activities of the Development Committee for the past year can be divided into three areas. They are:

Initiating a Planned Giving Program

SVP Business Manager Pam DeArgo and the Development Committee have been working on a planned giving brochure that should be completed in time to be displayed at the annual meeting in Chicago. It will eventually be distributed to members of the Society. Gifts to the Society through planned giving could significantly enhance the long-term financial growth of the Society and we hope that members will consider the SVP as a giving option as they plan their estates.

In this regard, the Society learned that Francis Schloeder, SVP member and a regular at the annual meetings, passed away in May and bequeathed \$100,000 to the Society. Dr.

Schloeder's thoughtful and generous bequest to the Society is greatly appreciated. More recently, former President of the Society Albert Wood decided to match the bequest of Dr. Schloeder and also has agreed to informally chair a working group on planned giving to the Society. The leadership and generosity of Dr. Wood is a second example of how the planned giving program will generate significant financial income for the Society both now and in the future.

Public Lecture Series

Development Committee member Cathy Forster initiated the idea of the Society sponsoring a public lecture series to be held in concert with the 1997 Annual Meeting in Chicago. With the help of staff at the Field Museum of Natural History, Peter Laraba in particular, Cathy was able to set it up for Saturday, October 11. Four speakers have generously agreed to donate their services. They are Dan Chure, Scott Sampson, David Norman, and Development Committee member Stuart Sumida. Both the Field Museum of Natural History and the Society will receive a portion of the profits from the lecture series.

Private Foundation Solicitations

Seven foundations were identified as having interest in science and/or science education. Introduction letters or proposals were sent to these foundations with the area of need targeted as support for the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* in the amount of \$10,000. Unfortunately, a favorable decision was not received on any of the proposals/letters, although one decision is still pending. The Committee knew in advance that the chances for success were slim but felt that some effort should be made to garner financial support for the SVP outside of the Society's membership. To have a better chance for success in future private foundation solicitations, a personal contact within a foundation's board of directors is needed so that the Society's proposal/message can be carried directly to a foundation's board. In this regard, the Development Committee would be glad to work with anyone who has a personal contact to a foundation that is willing to promote the Society's mission/needs to that foundation's board of directors.

Finally, the Committee is very pleased to report that honorary member Dr. Herbert Axelrod, generous benefactor of the Society and to the *Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates* in particular, recently pledged an additional \$150,000 to the Society. Dr. Axelrod's long-term support of the Society and its mission is greatly appreciated. (Don Lofgren)

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee awarded Richard Blob of the University of Chicago the 1997 SVP Predoctoral Fellowship, while Marcelo Sanchez-Villagra received an honorable mention. The Education Committee has also begun planning an education workshop for science teachers for the 1998 SVP meeting in Snowbird, Utah. (Tony Fiorillo)

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

This past year has been a transitional year for the Information Management Committee (IMC). Sam McLeod of the IMC continues his mentorship of the VRTPALEO list server and it continues to include interesting discussions on relevant topics.

However, concentration has been on the SVP Web site. Over the past couple of years David Polly, our Web master, has developed a very useful and interesting Web site with input from other members of the IMC. John Damuth generously has allowed us to use the ETEWEB server for this developmental period but now we need to migrate the site to its permanent homes. Polly, in coordination with the rest of the IMC as well as the Executive Committee, has tentatively identified two sites as potential permanent homes; one in North America, and a mirror site in Europe. Developing mirror sites should keep traffic on any one site at reasonable levels and with good response time. A proposal has been made to the Executive Committee to finalize the arrangements and allow us to start the migration. A maintenance schedule is being developed to update the site at reasonable intervals and whenever spontaneous changes are necessary. Polly will do the updating and maintenance, backed by a group of IMC members who will provide quality control on the changes.

John Damuth has been progressively uploading data from the *Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates* as it becomes available from Bill Clemens and the BFV staff. The electronic BFV is accessible through the Web site and contains a powerful search engine designed by John that allows boolean searches. Reaction from users has been exceedingly positive and many of us now use it regularly. The electronic BFV is located on the ETEWEB server and will continue there under John's administration. Those of us who have tried it can't wait for all the references from all the bibliographies currently being transferred to electronic format to be available, which should happen sometime this coming year if everything goes according to plan. When completed, the electronic BFV will be a powerful tool for vertebrate paleontologists worldwide and something for the SVP to be proud of. John will be working on the possibility of finding a mirror site for the electronic BFV.

Finally, Ralph Chapman and David Polly have been working with Mike Parrish, Rich Cifelli, Lou Jacobs, and Pam D'Arگون using the Web site to allow the electronic submission of abstracts for the annual meeting. This has been done by other groups with mixed success but we believe we can work out the procedure and hope to have a prototype to test with some of this year's submissions. We will let members know when they can try it out through the Web site. We anticipate full implementation for the 1999 Annual Meeting in Denver.

For the upcoming year (1998), we are planning to finish the migration of the Web site and implement the maintenance schedule, upload more references into the electronic BFV as they become available, complete the development of the procedures necessary for the electronic submission of abstracts for the annual meeting using the Web site, and start the process of building on the current Web site by expanding the information and

services available through it and improving even further on its overall appearance, especially with graphic images. (Ralph Chapman)

MEDIA LIAISON COMMITTEE

New York Meeting, 1996

SVP's first media effort at the New York meeting was a success, with approximately 40 journalists attending and prominent coverage of the meetings in *Time*, *New York Times*, *New Scientist*, *Discover*, and *Science*.

Before the meeting, three separate mailings were sent to the members of the press on the media mailing list, including letters of invitation, a teaser sheet (outlining some interesting presentations), and press releases for the presentations in the press conference.

The main MLC event at the meeting was the press conference, co-organized with the AMNH PR Department. The conference lasted one hour and presented the research of five scientists (Chiappe, Farlow, Krause, Gottfried, and Voorhies) with a short introduction by Novacek. In addition, Thewissen spent a lot of (too much) time trying to find scientists at the request of journalists. Our efforts also resulted in an hour-long syndicated live radio show (Science Friday) of a New York NPR affiliate. The research of four scientists was presented here.

A media survey handed out after the meeting showed that we are on the right track; journalists felt that SVP had done a good job catering to their needs, especially in waiving the registration fee. The survey also indicated that attending media are possibly equally divided into those interested in news and those interested in features. The bulk of the logistics for the press-related events was done by the SVP office.

Chicago Meeting

The preparations for this meeting will be similar to those of the New York meeting, the first of three mailings has already been undertaken. At the meeting, there will be one important difference with New York, and several minor improvements. The big change is that, in addition to the press conference at the Ramada Hotel, we also plan a media event at the Field Museum. It will be a walk through in which four to five scientists (not exclusively Field Museum people) will present research in front of an appropriate exhibit. The conference will concentrate on news, whereas the walk through will focus on visual information and will concentrate on feature information and on follow up from last year's meeting/press conference (e.g., a discussion of the origin of birds in front of the exhibit of *Archaeopteryx* by Padian).

Presenters for both events will be picked by the MLC (with input from the program officer and the FMNH). Differences with last year include that the FMNH will be responsible for dealing with the TV crews, since they tend to have demands greater than can be handled easily by SVP. FMNH PR will also target the local media, whereas the MLC

targets national outlets. SVP-MLC will be mainly responsible for the press conference (writing releases, contacting contributors), and FMNH PR will be mainly responsible for the walk through. Mailings are done from the SVP office and/or FMNH PR office.

Media Mailing List

The media mailing list is expanded whenever one of the MLC members finds the name of a new science journalist or media outlet. The list is managed by the SVP office in Chicago.

Additional Media Contacts

Fraser is giving some journalists advance notice of the table of contents of *JVP* and more and more journalists are included in this service. The wissen has received about a handful of calls from journalists requesting information about paleontology (unrelated to the meetings). These calls are referred to an appropriate specialist. Our intent to do press releases during the year (aside from the meetings) has flopped, no releases were mailed out. The reason for this is that no member has provided the MLC with any news suitable for this purpose. Actively going out after these kinds of stories would be the way to remedy this, but this would be very time intensive and probably expensive.

SVP Member Service

The charter for the MLC was submitted in 1997. The wissen wrote a piece on the embargo policies of *Science* and *Nature*, since they affect the willingness of SVP members to be part of the press conference. Both editors (Gee of *Nature* and Hanson of *Science*) wrote The wissen that this piece was helpful. Padian is preparing a sheet of guidelines for scientists in their dealings with the press.

Expanding the Concept of Media

A number of people on the media mailing list, and a number of people attending as media, are not members of the independent press. These include PR people, journal editors, and people from granting organizations. I feel that, at this point, it is best to classify these individuals as media, because they all contribute to the public's perception of paleontology and the Society, and their actions benefit members. Targetting them with mailings concerning the meetings may make the difference in their attendance of the meetings. Without creating another committee, MLC involvement in this seems to be an efficient use of resources while maximizing SVP's exposure to the outside world.

Self-Evaluation of MLC Actions So Far

Press management for the meetings was as good as can be expected for a first-time effort of a small society. Some modifications will be made this year following a critical evaluation of the New York experience. Assistance to media and members outside the meetings is effective when it is in response to a query (call from a journalist, request for

information from an SVP member).Public relations outreach on our own initiative is sometimes effective(meeting events and *JVP* content announcements), but isnot effective in most other respects. The most obvious ways toimprove this would take large amounts of time and/or money. (HansThewissen, Chair)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

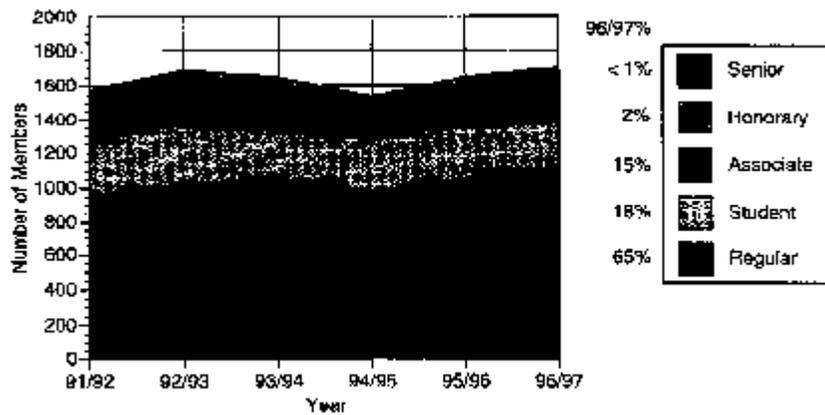
I. Number of members

A. Currently have 1,701 members

B. Number of members by category

- 1. Regular 1,107
- 2. Student 313
- 3. Associate 248
- 4. Honorary 31
- 5. Senior 2

C. Current membership trends



II. Membership renewal/telemarketing campaign

A. Results

| Contacts | # contacts 1996 | Actual payments | # contacts 1997 | Actual payments |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| will renew | 24 | 12 | 39 | 21 |

| | | | | |
|----------------|----|---|----|---|
| may renew | 7 | 2 | 8 | 1 |
| will not renew | 11 | 1 | 14 | 0 |

B. Reasons for nonrenewal

1. Not worthwhile/does not meet needs
2. No financial resources
3. Other
4. Retired/deceased
5. No one said the membership fee was too high

C. Cost/benefit analysis

1. Cost of 1997 campaign \$1,133
2. Total fees collected in 1997 via campaign \$2,165
3. Return on campaign investment \$1,032

III. New membership application review process

- A. Added ethics statement to simplify application review
- B. No one was turned down for membership in the past year

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The SVP Nominating Committee is comprised of three past presidents of the Society. This year's Committee is comprised of William Clemens, Bruce MacFadden, and David Krause. We were charged by President Louis Jacobs to provide nominations for the offices of Vice President, Treasurer, and one Member-at-Large. We are happy to recommend the following individuals for inclusion on the upcoming election ballot. As stipulated in the SVP By-Laws, additional nominations for any office may be added by petition of any ten members not later than two months after publication of this report.

John J. Flynn will have fulfilled his two-year term as Vice President of the Society and will assume the Presidency in October 1998. We are pleased to nominate two candidates for the office of Vice President, Catherine Badgley and Richard K. Stucky.

The SVP Constitution stipulates that the Treasurer shall be elected annually but shall be eligible for re-election to that office without restriction. After five years of outstanding

service to the Society, the current Treasurer, John R. Bolt, will step down from the position in October 1998. We are pleased to provide two nominees, Michael E. Nelson and Dale Winkler, for the position of Treasurer.

A Member-at-Large is required to replace Elizabeth Nicholls, who will have fulfilled her term in October 1998. Each of the three Members-at-Large serves a term of three years, with each term beginning in a different year so that the terms are staggered. The two nominees for the vacant Member-at-Large position are Zhexi Luo and Judith A. Schiebout.

All candidates have indicated their willingness to serve the Society if elected. We are very pleased to present this list of nominees in that we are fully confident that, if elected, each will serve the Society with diligence and enthusiasm. (David W. Krause, Chair)

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

At the 1997 SVP meeting, more members submitted abstracts than ever before, with 417 abstracts received. In the interest of expanding the number of possible presentations, we increased the number of Wednesday symposia to five, plus the Preparator's Session. We also added three concurrent sessions on Friday and Saturday mornings. The breakdown of presentations by type and taxonomic grouping is as follows: 53 talks in five symposia; 171 total platform talks (fishes, 9; non-amniote tetrapods, 2; Synapsida, 69; Reptilia, 65; Aves, 65; Preparator's Session, 17); 175 total posters (associated with symposia, 9; topics/history of VP, 6; preparator's, 9; fishes, 12; non-amniote tetrapods, 6; Synapsida, 67; reptiles, 58); withdrawals/rejections, 9; abstract submissions, 408.

Despite these increases in the number of talks, roughly one-third of the members requesting platform talks had to be rescheduled to posters. Posters continue to form an increasingly significant part of the program of the SVP Annual Meeting and this trend will continue, and platform slots will become increasingly competitive unless some provisions are made to increase the number of platform presentations.

One hundred forty of the 417 submitted abstracts were returned to the authors for revisions due to errors in format, grammar, or fact.

The number of submissions to the SVP program has more than doubled in the last four years. The methods of abstract processing and meeting organization that served the Society well at its smaller size are becoming increasingly inefficient and cumbersome as we continue to grow. Changes must be made, and immediately, to continue to serve the needs of our membership. (Michael Parrish, Chair)

JOURNAL OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY

As in previous years, this report is for the fiscal year, 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997, and summarizes information from the final two issues of the *Journal* from 1996 (Volume 16,

numbers 3 and 4 [September,December]) and the first two issues from 1997 (Volume 17, numbers1 and 2 [March, June]).

Total numbers of pages published are: 877 (16[3],231; 16[4], 195; 17[1], 252; 17[2], 199); this compares with 796pages, the total in 1995B1996;for the current year, the published contributions were distributedtopically as follows:

Papers (total of 64 titles; average length, 12 pages)

Fishes: 10 titles, 116 pages, 13% (of total pages)

Amphibians: 2 titles, 22 pages, 3%

Reptiles: 31 titles, 373 pages, 43% (includes dinosaurs:8 titles, 158 pages, 18%)

Birds: 2 titles, 14 pages, 2%

Mammals: 19 titles, 250 pages, 29%

Notes: 13 titles, 51 pages, 6%

Book Reviews: 5 titles, 8 pages, 1%

Rapid Communications: 1 title, 5 pages, 0.5%

Points of View: 2 titles, 3 pages, 0.3%

Announcements, Index, Guidelines for Manuscript Preparation:17 pages, 2%.

Number of contributions processed during the reportinginterval are:

Nonmammals:

Total number submitted: 42 (versus 50 in 1995B1996)

Rejected: 19 (45%, versus 33% in 1995B1996)

Mammals:

Total number submitted: 24 (versus 20 in 1995B1996)

Rejected: 14 (58%, versus 30% in 1995B1996)

Total number of contributions submitted: 66 (versus75 in 1995B1996,including five not assignable taxonomically).

Total rejected: 33 (50%, versus 31% in 1995-1996).

Speed of Publication

Time in months between acceptance and publication has steadily decreased during the reporting interval: 16(3): 14.7(papers)/13.8 (notes); 16(4): 14 (for both papers and notes; three months for Rapid Communications); 17(1): 13.1 (papers only; no notes published); 17(2): 11 (papers)/10.5 (notes). During 1995-1996, the mean lag time between acceptance and publication was not lower than about 14.5 months for any issue and was nearly 16 months for 15(4).

International Contributions

It is important to note that the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* has continued to be international in the sources of its contributors, as indicated by the addresses of the contributing authors: USA: 74 (48%); non-USA: 79 (52%) (Canada, 29; United Kingdom, 7; China, 6; France, 5; Argentina, 5; India, 5; Australia, 4; South Africa, 4; Russia, 3; Turkey, 2; Finland, 2; Costa Rica, 2; Brazil, 1; Japan, 1; Slovak Republic, 1; Kazakhstan, 1; Germany, 1; Kenya, 1; Sweden, 1; New Zealand, 1).

Innovations

Two key innovations in the *Journal* were introduced during the reporting period: the establishment of the new category Rapid Communications, with the first published contribution in 16(4), and Points of View, with two contributions published in 17(2). These new departments fill a need and do so without impinging in a deleterious way on resources required for other parts of the *Journal*: collectively, these contributions required less than 1% of the total pages published in the reporting period. One hopes that the number of submissions in each department will increase.

Change in Editors

During the reporting period, Nick Fraser completed his term as Editor of *JVP*; David Elliott, Department of Geology, University of Northern Arizona, agreed to be his replacement for a three-year term beginning with Volume 17(4). (Richard C. Fox, David Elliott)

AWARD WINNERS

1997 Awards Listing

Award Winner(s) Gift(s)

Romer/Simpson Colin Patterson Medal, framed SVP certificate

Medal

Alfred S. Romer Ryosuke Motani \$300, \$150 U of C gift
Prize certificate, Snouters book*

Morris F. Skinner Churchill Family \$500 + \$300 for expenses
Prize for the annual meeting, plaque

Joseph T. Gregory Judith Bacskai, \$500 + \$300 for expenses
Award Bonnie Rauscher, for the annual meeting,
George V. Shkurkin plaque

Bryan Patterson Kristina Curry, \$1,200, SVP certificate
Award Brian Curtice

Richard Estes Derek L. Parker \$500, SVP certificate,
Award Snouters book*, \$100 U of C certificate

Fellowship/ Richard Blob \$2,500, certificate
Predoctoral

Honorary Chang Meemann, framed certificate
Membership Donald Russell,
William Turnbull

*Snouters books are donated each year by the University of Chicago.

ROMER-SIMPSON MEDAL: COLIN PATTERSON

I submitted a short biography a couple of years ago, when elected an Honorary Member of SVP (*News Bulletin*, 166:60B61), and will not repeat it here. Once I had convinced myself that the President's letter about the Romer-Simpson Medal was not a joke (it took some doing), I was amazed that the lot should have fallen on a foreigner who works on fishes. At the Chicago meeting in October 1997, I took part in a symposium on actinopterygians at which the Great Hall of the Congress Hotel (seating capacity perhaps 600) held an audience outnumbered by the 12 speakers. So it has usually been in my previous experience of fish sessions at SVP meetings. But consulting the list of previous Romer-Simpson recipients, I was delighted to see that the second award went to my old friend and collaborator Bobb Schaeffer, who still visits us annually in London. I

learned too that three of the last four recipients are foreigners, and that my immediate predecessor is another Londoner and old friend, Percy Butler.

Receiving an award named for two people one knew brings home the passage of time. I did not know George Simpson well, and wonder if anyone did (Bobb Schaeffer has told me of his daily ordeal, trying to think of a topic for conversation to occupy the lunch hour that he had to spend with Simpson in AMNH). A characteristic memory is of taking George to lunch in the Victoria and Albert Museum, next door to BMNH. As we crossed Exhibition Road he pointed to some chalked graffiti high on a pillar at the corner of the V & A. "Mongolian script!" he said. Perhaps it was. Al Romer I got to know well when I spent a term at Harvard in 1970. Ruth and Al took me to their farmhouse at Pelham for a weekend. I tried to repay them by spending Saturday afternoon chopping logs (and almost succumbed to sunstroke). Afterwards Ruth suggested beer, having heard that I was fond of the stuff. She had got in a six-pack of Carlsberg Elephant, and I'm sure that neither she nor Al knew that it packs a far more substantial kick than everyday beer. Al and I shared the six-pack and shortly afterwards Ruth and I shared a hard time

getting him upstairs to bed.

An award like this is an occasion for thanks as much as anything. Looking back over my time in VP, I feel that I owe a lot to a series of people. First would come Kenneth Kermack who supervised my Ph.D. and his wife Doris, who taught me as an undergraduate and allowed me to escape from the horrors of parasitology into Kenneth's domain. Next would be Erroll White and Harry Toombs, at first distant giants who controlled the BMNH fossil fish collections, later friends and colleagues. Then comes Brian Gardiner, who preceded me in passing from Doris Kermack at Imperial College to Kenneth and fossil fishes at University College, and with whom I have shared a lot of fun over the years. When I joined BMNH, Brian kept me supplied with his Ph.D. students, including my present excellent colleague Peter Forey, who replaced Roger Miles (who came in when Erroll retired) moved into exhibition and management, to the detriment of our profession. Next would come Donn Rosen, ichthyologist at AMNH (and younger brother of the musician and polymath Charles) who first brought me to the States in 1967 and many times thereafter. Donn and I enjoyed a most happy collaboration until his awful death in 1986. Gary Nelson, who joined Donn at AMNH in 1968 (and had been with us in London in 1967), was, and is, another valued and influential friend. Other colleagues, American, European, and from elsewhere, become beyond enumeration once one begins to reflect, but I cannot omit Dave Johnson, ichthyologist at NMNH, with whom I have enjoyed (and that is the word) collaborating since 1990. Dave has filled Donn's place in a no easy job. My repeated thanks to all of the above, to those not mentioned, and to whoever at SVP pulled the strings. But most of all, I thank BMNH, a wonderful place to spend a working life, for its incomparable collection, libraries, and staff. I always said I would work here for nothing, and have had the chance to do so since I retired in 1993.

ALFRED S. ROMER PRIZE: RYOSUKE MOTANI

I was born in a city called Tokuyama, located near the western end of the main island of Japan (Honshu). Like anybody else, I loved dinosaurs as a kid. I often blame ichthyosaurs for taking up precious space in my dinosaur picture books; they looked too ordinary, just like dolphins. But who knows what happens in life. Now I love ichthyosaurs for being so beautifully dolphin-like. Anyway, I lost my passion for dinosaurs as I grew up, especially after my family moved to Tokyo when I was 15. I wanted to become a physicist or a mathematician.

Vertebrate paleontology is not a common discipline in Japan: no doctoral course was offered in 1990 when I chose this field as my career (now there is one in Kyoto, with Prof. Setoguchi). At that time, I belonged to the Geological Institute of the University of Tokyo as an undergraduate student in the paleontology laboratory. Everybody there worked on invertebrates, so it must have been a big headache for Prof. Hayami, the head of the lab, when I insisted on studying vertebrates. But he generously allowed me to pursue my interest with two conditions: I had to work on a partial ichthyosaur skull they had, and I should go abroad to obtain a doctoral degree. I started collecting literature on ichthyosaurs, and quickly fell in love with these, the most noble of beasts. It didn't take me long to learn that the leading ichthyosaur paleontologist was in Canada, Dr. Chris McGowan.

I had a hard time getting funding for studying vertebrate paleontology abroad (my country wouldn't pay a cent, or yen, to be precise). First, I attempted to become a student of a dinosaur paleontologist, following Dr. Tomida's (National Science Museum, Tokyo) advice, but this did not work out in spite of his generous help. So the next year, I decided to follow my true interest, ichthyosaurs, and wrote to Dr. McGowan. And this was the best decision I've ever made. Chris not only offered to take me as a student, but also provided funding out of his research grant. Once I arrived in Toronto in 1992, he became my doctor father, and I didn't have to worry about anything. Chris and his first student, Dr. Rosemary MacDougall (formerly Johnson), spent much time teaching me English writing, and this is why I can manage to write manuscripts myself. According to Chris, such help and support was passed onto him by his professor, Dr. John Attridge, who probably received similar help from his professor, Dr. Charles Camp. I was awarded an M.Sc. in 1994, and a Ph.D. in 1997, both from the University of Toronto. Thanks to Dr. Kevin Padian and the Miller Institute, I am enjoying my postdoc at UC Berkeley now. I am very lucky to have supportive parents, Kensuke and Junko, and my wife Yoko, who makes everything worthwhile.

MORRIS F. SKINNER PRIZE: CHURCHILL FAMILY

The Churchill Family's association with paleontologists began in the early 1930s when the Princeton University summer field crews, led by Professor Glenn Jepsen, came to the Churchill farm to get water. The crews were working on Polecat Bench and the farm was conveniently located in the Powell Valley just below the bench. The tie continues today. In the past 67 years professors and their students from more than 20 American universities and ten foreign countries have visited the farm.

Four generations of Churchills have enjoyed the interaction with the fossil hunters; Frederick G. and Alice, Frederick H. (Fritz) and Thelma, Winston and Beryl and their family Thomas, Todd and Janice, and Coy and Deb.

Each Fourth of July, the Churchills host a barbecue for all paleontologists doing field work in the Big Horn Basin. The family looks forward to many more years of association with the professors and students who work in the area. In every way, they believe this association has enriched their lives.

The Churchills have used the Skinner Award money to purchase a paving block at the new Powell Valley Chamber of Commerce building in tribute to the paleontologists who have worked in the Big Horn Basin and to establish an Honor Roll of Fossil Hunters which is also located in the Chamber headquarters.

JOSEPH T. GREGORY AWARD: JUDITH A. BACSKAI, BONNIE RAUSCHER, AND GEORGE V. SHKURKIN

Judith A. Bacskai

I was born and raised in Hungary, and immigrated to the United States of America in 1957. After working for ten years as a chemical technician, I stayed at home with my children and took night classes at the University of California Extension. In 1965 I was introduced to vertebrate paleontology by Samuel P. Welles. When the class was over he gave me a job preparing Triassic labyrinthodonts from Arizona. I was absolutely fascinated with fossils and ancient life, and wanted to learn more about them. I was accepted to the University of California at Berkeley and earned a B.A. in paleontology. After graduating in 1970, I joined the staff of the *Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates*, where my background in foreign languages and paleontology came in very handy. In 1973, when the *Bibliography* went out of business last time, I did some graduate work in paleontology. With the enthusiastic support of the members of this Society, Joseph T. Gregory, George Shkurkin, and I restarted publication of the *Bibliography* in 1979, and we kept it going for the past 19 years.

Throughout the years I've had the privilege of working with some of the most wonderful, dedicated people of this profession. Charles L. Camp and Rachel Nichols introduced me to all the intricacies of compiling a bibliography. Dr. Boris Brajniov was a great friend; we often used to converse in French. My long-time cohorts and co-editors Bonnie Rauscher and George Shkurkin, who share this award with me, have been much more than just coworkers. They were invaluable companions and friends, making personal sacrifices through all of our ups and downs; I shall miss them sorely. William A. Clemens, our faculty sponsor, has most generously given time and effort in support of the *Bibliography*, and deserves special thanks. Melissa Winans, Laurie Bryant, David Fastovsky, David Eberth, Jim Clark, and all the others who worked with me, I remember you well.

Joseph T. Gregory, our Chief Editor, has been a major influence over our many years of association. His exacting scholarship, his tireless toil with the minutiae of compilation and editing of references, and his generous efforts to keep this project afloat earned my great admiration, respect, and heartfelt thanks. It is therefore a very special honor to be the recipient of the Joseph T. Gregory Award. I appreciate the recognition, and wish to express my gratitude to all those members of the Society who, with their financial and moral support, made it possible for me and my colleagues to make our contribution to the field of vertebrate paleontology.

Bonnie Rauscher

I am deeply honored to receive the Gregory award with my colleagues, Judy Bacskai and George Shkurkin. I could hardly be in finer company. It means a great deal to have years of hard work recognized by the Society.

Of course I wasn't going to be a scientist in the first place. My mother was one of those dedicated natural history folks who kept dragging me off on bird walks, so I was pretty determined not to have anything to do with the natural sciences. The fact that I always scored high on science aptitude tests was irrelevant; as I told my high school advisor, "They just make those parts easier!" I started college as a history major, and switched to anthropology halfway through my first-ever anthro class. As I began doing archaeology, someone pointed out that it was useful to know a little about rocks, and maybe some botany and palynology would be helpful, and before I knew it I'd taken more than an academic year's worth of nothing but science classes. I quickly realized that bones were more fun than artifacts (a lifetime dedicated to pottery typologies? No, thanks!), and ended up with a bachelor's degree from San Diego State in physical anthropology. I did have the privilege of a summer doing archaeology with Fran H. Bordes at Lez in France.

After the anthro department at UC Berkeley turned me down (their loss, of course...), I realized that UC actually had a paleontology department, and furthermore there were more kinds of fossils than just primates (gasp!). I ended up receiving my master's in paleontology in 1983, describing a new genus of thylacoleonid marsupial, *Priscileo pitikantensis*, which is a very cool animal and I wish someone would find a whole skeleton. As a grad student, I began working for the *Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates*, continuing until the end of the project in 1997. I also do some intro level teaching for UC, and I hope that I'll be able to continue doing that, especially if a new job takes me out of paleontology otherwise. Thank you again to the Society for many years of good company, interesting meetings and discussions, and a deeply appreciated award.

George V. Shkurkin

The start of my university studies in 1947 was in chemical engineering which terminated rather quickly as I became aware of the multitude of fascinating subjects of which I knew very little. One of these was the beginning course in vertebrate paleontology taught by the late Samuel P. Welles. This led to a plethora of courses in geology, zoology, and

paleontology. Besides, finding an easy aptitude for languages, I took as many as possible to keep up my grade point average. At that time Sam Welles was working with Charles Camp and Mort Green on the 1944-1948 volume of the *Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates*, and I became a gopher for library runs for Sam. In the next volume I was making abstracts for entries.

Graduating from Berkeley in 1954, I did my stint in the U.S. Army and served in Germany where I was discharged and attended the Ruprecht-Karl (Heidelberg) University in pre- and early history. Returning to Berkeley I entered graduate school in anthropology and picked up where I left off working with Charles Camp on the *Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates*. I left Berkeley to teach prehistory at Hayward State University which interrupted my collaboration with the *Bibliography*. Meanwhile the *Bibliography* ceased to exist. With the rejuvenation of the *Bibliography*, thanks to Joseph Gregory and Judy Bacskai, I was back in the saddle until its recent demise.

BRYAN PATTERSON AWARD: KRISTINA CURRY AND BRIAN CURTICE

Kristina Curry

Kristina Curry received an undergraduate degree in biology from Montana State University in 1996. While in Bozeman, she studied under Jack Horner and conducted research on dinosaurian bone histology and did field work in the Morrison, Judith River, and Two Medicine formations. She is currently a Ph.D. student under the guidance of Cathy Forster in the Department of Anatomical Sciences at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. In addition to instructing human gross anatomy, Kristi is developing a thesis on the Prosauropoda, with a focus on phylogeny and biogeography, and the relevance of these issues to the Triassic-Jurassic dinosaurian radiation. Her work in bone histology continues with preparation of manuscripts on *Apatosaurus* growth rates and dinosaurian epiphyseal microstructure. In September, she plans a collaborative work on extant ratite histology with Dr. Jacques Castanet.

During the summer of 1997, Kristi was involved in a SUNY field expedition to Zimbabwe and South Africa. While in Zimbabwe, Kristi, Brian Curtice, and Darlington Munyikwa conducted a reconnaissance in the ?Jurassic-Cretaceous Kadzi Formation of northern Zimbabwe (where few fossils were recovered, but mambas and elephants were abundant!). She hopes to continue field work in southern Zimbabwe in Triassic-Jurassic strata in the coming months, and plans to incorporate recent discoveries from the Limpopo Valley into her dissertation. Finally, Kristi will accompany Dave Krause, Cathy Forster, and Scott Sampson to Madagascar this summer, where she will continue her investigation of the poorly sampled Ankarony vertebrate fauna.

Kristi wishes to thank Cathy, Dave, and Scott for providing so many opportunities for such amazing field work. Special acknowledgments go to Darlington and Brian, fellow adventurers in the bush. Tatenda shikuru.

Brian Curtice

My youth, spent amidst the relentless heat of northeast Phoenix's pristine deserts, offered ample time to read, reflect, and dream about the terrestrial leviathans of yore. Crepuscular activities invariably involved imaginative Mesozoic journeys featuring such childhood friends as rattlesnakes, Gila monsters, and horned toads, plus the omnipresent yellow sauropod labeled *Abrontosaurus* (of course none were permitted to call it anything other than *Apatosaurus*, regardless of what the label said!). All of the stars in these fantastic mental movies acted out their ordained roles amidst a backdrop of prehistoric-looking ocotillos, dreadhollars, and regal saguaros replete with chattering cactus wrens. In typical paleontological fashion such antics failed to abate, despite many dire predictions from all-knowing adults.

While earning a B.A. in anthropology at Arizona State University I spent many a moonless night repossessing cars. Despite the unique brand of excitement offered by such a job I still felt empty and yearned to study my beloved quadrupedal saurischians. As graduate school application deadlines loomed, the question of "What next?" took on sauropodesque proportions, for though I knew exactly what I wanted to do I had no idea of where and how to make my dream come true. In hopes of finding a solution to this dilemma I attended the SVP meetings in nearby Albuquerque, New Mexico, at which I would meet two gentlemen who forever altered the course of my life.

One can imagine my awe at discussing sauropod dinosaurs with the world's expert, Dr. Jack McIntosh, while standing beneath a *Camarasaurus* mount. Jack not only encouraged me to pursue my interests, he introduced me to Dr. Wade Miller of Brigham Young University. Wade patiently listened to my plight then enthusiastically suggested I apply to be his student, which resulted in my sauropod apprenticeship at the BYU Earth Science Museum. The two years in Provo flashed by in but a blink, during which time countless hours were spent learning my craft. Upon receiving a M.Sc. in geology I was off to New York where Dr. Catherine Forster of SUNY Stony Brook had accepted me as her student. Cathy offered me not only the opportunity to study the jaw-dropping, drool-inducing Madagascar sauropods, but also to venture into the Early Cretaceous sediments of Zimbabwe and South Africa! Sadly funding did not permit a sojourn to the Late Jurassic Kadzi Formation of Zimbabwe, which two decades earlier had produced sauropod remains. Determined to touch Jurassic beds while in Africa, a proposal was submitted to the Bryan Patterson Award Committee, and to my absolute delight and surprise it was selected for funding. The night before venturing to the Kadzi Formation, *A Ghosts in the Darkness*, a movie about Bryan Patterson's father and his encounters with a pair of man-eating lions, was shown at the Bulawayo Theater. The end of the film noted that the lions killed by Col. J. H. Patterson were on display at none other than the Chicago Field Museum of Natural History, where I would receive the Bryan Patterson Award, and look into the eyes of these lions, at the 1997 SVP meetings. Though the Kadzi offered little in the way of sauropod bones, it more than made up for this by making one desert dweller's childhood dream come true.

RICHARD ESTES AWARD: DEREK L. PARKER

I was introduced to paleontology quite by chance while I was an undergraduate at the University of Chicago. If I was to fall in love with paleontology, this was the university to do it at. I was soon interacting with researchers like Alfred Ziegler, Paul Markwick, Jack Sepkoski, Susan Kidwell, Christine Janis, John Flynn, and Michael LaBarbera. I went along with people doing field work in Texas, the Caribbean, Montana, Utah, and North Carolina. Most importantly, I was given a four-term work-study internship at the Paleogeographic Atlas Lab. This internship quickly fostered a healthy interest in terrestrial paleoecology and climatology.

In 1996 I joined the University of Cincinnati's M.S. program in geology. At Cincinnati I've been able to take advantage of Glenn Storrs' expertise on fossil reptiles, as well as the Department of Geology's strengths in paleoecology and paleoclimatology. The result has been an intriguing thesis project that is examining turtle paleoecology and Eocene-Oligocene aridification in the Western Interior of North America. I have high hopes for this project, and the possibility of applying climatology and paleoecology to areas outside of the study of Quaternary mammals.

I am, of course, grateful to the Society for my award. Without awards from SVP, I and many other students would be in the awkward position of having to pay all of our research costs out of our own pockets. SVP's investment in students helps to keep our scholarly dreams alive.

FELLOWSHIP/PREDOCTORAL AWARD: RICHARD BLOB

I've been fascinated by paleontology since my first childhood visit to the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, but the epiphany that I could actually study fossil vertebrates as a career came later. At a volleyball game during my first week as an undergraduate at the University of Pennsylvania. At a Geology Department picnic, I spotted a flyer advertising a new Individualized Studies Program in Paleobiology. After talking to students and faculty excited about the inception of the program, I realized I could actually work in the field I had dreamed about for years. I was hooked. With supervision and encouragement from Peter Dodson, Tony Fiorillo, and Ted Daeschler, I completed research on the comparative taphonomy of microvertebrate localities in the Upper Cretaceous Judith River Formation of Montana. I not only found taphonomy and evolutionary paleoecology intriguing, but I felt especially rewarded as a southeast Pennsylvania native. I was working at the museum that had spurred my interest as a child, on fossil beds that had formed important parts of the early paleontological research of Philadelphians Joseph Leidy and Edward Drinker Cope.

In 1992 I moved on to graduate studies at the University of Chicago. I've continued to work on Judithian microfaunas, collaborating with Matt Carrano, Cathy Forster, Ray Rogers, and John Flynn on a reexamination of the type area. We've been especially fortunate to have the help of volunteers from the Field Museum, who have helped us create a live exhibit sorting microfossil concentrate and answering visitor questions. For my thesis work, however, I've had an extraordinary opportunity at Chicago to explore vertebrate functional evolution by examining fossil morphology in the context of

experimental biomechanical data from extant species. After two courses with Jim Hopson, I was convinced that therapsids were an outstanding group in which to study functional transitions and decided to focus on the evolutionary shift from sprawling to non-sprawling limb posture. A crucial component of my research (guided by Andy Biewener) has been the measurement of limb-bone stresses during locomotion in living lizards and alligators. These experiments have shown the effects of differences in posture on bone loading, and help to constrain biomechanically plausible ranges of limb posture in therapsid evolution. Using these animals to make experimental trackways in clay has also provided a valuable perspective on the interpretation of South African fossil therapsid trackways (work with Laura Panko, Roger Smith, and Johann Welman), helping to quantify the extent to which kinematics and footprint form vary with differences in substrate.

I am very grateful to the Society and feel truly honored to have been awarded the SVP Predoctoral Fellowship. I would like to thank Peter Dodson and Tony Fiorillo for steering me through my undergraduate work and convincing me to pursue paleontology, and my advisors Jim Hopson and Andy Biewener for their invaluable advice and strong support through the course of my thesis. I also thank my fellow students at the University of Chicago, especially my wife, Nora Espinoza, and my paleo office mates of the past five years, Matt Carrano, Laura Panko, and Jeff Wilson, for all of their help and encouragement.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP: CHANG MEEMANN, DONALD RUSSELL, AND WILLIAM TURNBULL

Donald Russell

I saw my first live vertebrate paleontologist in the John Day fossil beds, in the persons of Ted Downs and Mort Green, during a field trip that led to a degree in geology (1949) at what was then Oregon State College. From there I went on to the splendors of the campus at Berkeley where I fell under the influence of Don Savage in the top floor warrens of the Hearst Mining Building (shared with fellow grad students Richard Estes, Malcolm McKenna, and Les Marcus). After four years in the Navy I returned to Berkeley for the degree of Master of Arts (paleontology, I assure all but the most fervent cladists will agree, is still an art). This was in 1956, the year I embarked for a one-year stay in France. The object, or the excuse, was to become acquainted with the French material of the few taxa known in common from the late Paleocene to early Eocene of North America. Four years later I was offered a job, exclusively research, with the Centre national de la Recherche scientifique, and three years after that, I defended the two theses that were necessary to obtain a Doctorat-ès-Sciences. The three-year Ph.D. had not yet reached Europe.

The principal thesis concerned essentially all that had been found of the Paleocene mammalian fauna in Europe, but treated material from only two localities: that from a fissure filling at Walbeck, housed in a gloomily picturesque castle in the Communist Halle, Germany, and the other from Cernay-les-Reims, east of Paris, where I had quarried and screen washed for four long field seasons. Using me as a foot-in-the-door, Don

Savage migrated briefly to France in the 1960s, initiating a collaboration on the mammals of the early Eocene localities that are also found in the region (Champagne) around Reims. One thing led to another and we are still collaborating (I think).

Many other collaborations enriched my career, involving programs from Portugal to Mongolia. Among these, that which left the deepest mark was surely the five consecutive and wonderful expeditions to the early Tertiary of Pakistan with Phil Gingerich, beginning in 1977. Another strong impression was left by the rigor of five collecting sessions in various parts of the Sahara. The project that was closest to my heart, however, was *The Paleogene of Asia*, a ten-year hobby whose completion was made possible by the help of many friends, the most vital of which was Zhai Renjie for data from China. In the realm of aid and counsel a particular place must be reserved for my wife, Dr. Denise Sigogneau-Russell, without whom life would have been much more difficult and poorer.

Professionally, the past 40 years have been nearly ideal. Paleontology, and the worldwide family of paleontologists that accompany it, have provided a lifetime of satisfaction. But never having aspired to celebrity, it was a considerable surprise to me to be notified of my elevation to the status of Honorary Member in the SVP. While feeling I do not equal my peers, I thank most sincerely all those responsible for granting me this distinction.

William Turnbull

I am grateful for having been selected as the recipient of the Society's Honorary Membership award for 1997. This is especially meaningful for me because the SVP has been an integral part of my life. By about age ten Silurian and Devonian invertebrate fossils found in the pebbles of the Lake Michigan beaches near my Racine, Wisconsin, home had piqued my interest in paleontology. By the time I reached high school, where no courses in either geology or paleontology were taught, I had long since devoured the available books on those subjects in the public library. I finally overcame my timidity and asked to see someone at the Field Museum for advice on how to prepare for a career in that impractical field. This, the first of my several intrusions into the Museum's inner sanctum, brought me into contact with Elmer Riggs. His advice was to take every high school science and math class offered, and some readings were suggested. Then, when I hoped to be shown some real fossils, I was given a most unexpected bit of advice: *"Son, in this field you have to be able to do everything."* It was then that I focused upon Riggs' job of the moment—repairing a broken chair with wire and glue. It would take another trip or two for me to get down to the real bones.

I attended the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee for two years before being inducted into the Army in 1942. Soon after basic training I was among the first to be entered into the Army's Specialized Training Program (ASTP), where I was assigned to the engineering section for a year at Carnegie Tech in Pittsburgh (more science and math). Then to the Armored Infantry and a six-month half-track ride through Europe that ended at the Brenner Pass on VE day. Upon discharge I walked into the museum and asked for permission to try out as a volunteer preparator, and soon was hired. Almost at the same time, to my dismay, I learned that I would have to wait several years before the University

of Chicago would accept anyone who had not already been one of their students, as those returning veterans had to be served first. At this point Everett Olson, later to become my professor and one of four mentors, suggested that I enroll as a student-at-large, a category that had no such restriction. That done, it took me two decades of part-time university study and simultaneous full-time work (ten years as preparator, then as Assistant and Associate Curator) before the doctorate was finally earned. In addition to Olson, Dwight Davis, Bryan Patterson, and Rainer Zangerl all contributed to my development, offering advice and encouragement. Four broad areas have captured my interest over the years: 1) understanding the evolutionary development of the Australian fauna (with years of collaboration with Ernest Lundelius); 2) tooth development, morphology, and function; 3) documenting the mammalian fauna of the Washakie Formation with its mixture of archaic and modern orders; and 4) investigating the mammals of the Mesozoic

It has been a great experience watching the SVP grow from a time when our annual meeting was attended by perhaps 50 people. It has always been open and friendly, with genuine enthusiasms, discussions, theories, and arguments dominating the meetings. The wonderful thing about it is that in spite of our present size and with necessarily overlapping sessions, it still somehow retains that informality and friendliness that has become its hallmark. During my year as President I was gratified to see the Society pick up and restart the *Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates*. It is a resource the likes of which few fields can boast, and I for one regret its current (second) demise. I fear that we will soon come to regret the loss. We need to capture and document the ever-growing publications in our field, without which the science will suffer increasingly as the years pass. On a more positive side, it was in that same year of my presidency that others put forth and enhanced the concept of starting a *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*. Its success is gratifying. I rank those two happenings as the highlights of my term. I thank the Society for giving me the opportunity to serve, and now for this award.

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C NEWS FROM MEMBERS C

AUSTRALIA

Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia

Zerina Johanson recently submitted her Ph.D. dissertation on a Late Devonian fish fauna from near Canowindra, New South Wales, Australia. This thesis was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Alex Ritchie (see below) who generously allowed her to work on these and other fishes upon her arrival in Australia in 1993.

The Canowindra fauna, preserving 3,100 fishes collected in early 1993, occurs along a single bedding plane and so represents the remains of one Devonian fish community. This includes very common placoderms and rarer sarcopterygians. The sarcopterygian fishes

were described with Dr. Per Ahlberg (Natural History Museum, London) and include two tristichopterids, a lungfish, and the most complete and perhaps most primitive rhizodont known to date. Overall, the fauna appears similar to Late Devonian faunas from eastern Greenland.

In January 1998, Zerina will begin an Australian Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Australian Museum, continuing projects with Per Ahlberg (e.g., on osteolepiform phylogeny and work on a new tristichopterid from near Eden, New South Wales), and with Drs. Anne Warren (La Trobe University, Melbourne) and Sue Turner (Queensland Museum, Brisbane) on rhizodont fishes from the Carboniferous of Queensland. She will travel to Britain in March to work with Per and look at as many fishes as she can, and to the SVP meeting next year. Hopefully, the Aussie dollar can slow its recent terrific plunge!

Alex Ritchie, now a Research Fellow at the Australian Museum following his retirement as Museum Palaeontologist, is still based at the Museum and coordinating plans for a brand new Age of Fishes Museum at Canowindra. This will display the finest of the remarkable local finds, and present the story of fish evolution over 500 million years. The first stage of the new Museum (costing A\$350,000) is under construction while fund raising continues for A\$1 million to complete the exhibition area and add a theatre. He is also working on new placoderms from near Canowindra, *Groenlandaspis* and a new genus and species of phyllolepid. Hundreds of complete specimens of the new phyllolepid have been recovered from a former quarry used for roadfill material, but now fenced and secured in perpetuity for scientific investigation. (Zerina Johanson and Alex Ritchie)

BOLIVIA

Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, La Paz, Bolivia

This past September (with support of an NSF International Research Fellowship to BJS) Federico Anaya Daza and Bruce J. Shockey, along with Severo Churiri of Quila Quila, found quite a few nice Pleistocene fossils near Mojotorillo. Their findings included a near-perfect skull of a very large mylodontid (cf. *Mylodon*), a maxilla with teeth of a canid, teeth and postcranials of equids and camelids, scutes of three genera of glyptodonts, and the entire carapace of one of these beasts. The biggest surprise was the finding of a nearly complete, articulated skeleton of a tayassuidat over 10,000 feet. Severo proved himself to be the most able hunter of fossils even in the most inaccessible places. On one occasion he was forbidden to collect a *Megatherium* vertebra sticking out of a vertical wall, 50 feet above the canyon floor. He initially agreed that it would be too dangerous to excavate, but snuck back by himself and somehow secured the specimen.

Shockey went to SVP. While in the states, he studied the collections of the Field Museum, Smithsonian, Pratt Museum of Natural History at Amherst, and the Yale Peabody Museum. At Yale, he was pleased to find the tarsals and metatarsals of a protherioid from Salla (late Oligocene). These represent the first unambiguous protherioid remains from Salla and show that this animal was essentially monodactyl,

having its lateral metatarsals reduced to the same degree as all Santacrucian (mid-Miocene) genera except *Thoatherium*.

In late November, Shockey and Severo, along with Juan Tarqui and Praxidas Mallcu, returned to the Department of Potosí to excavate the large complete glyptodont carapace that Severo had found in September. After five days of prep work (the day before it was to be loaded on a truck), some local politicians came by in force, ignored the permit from the ministry (Ministerio Desarrollo Sostenible y Planificación), declared the fossil theirs, threatened to incarcerate the crew, and crudely tried to excavate the animal (even though they were told that it was not ready). All this occurred on a Sunday when the authorities in La Paz and Potosí could not be contacted. These arrogant and ignorant local politicians seriously damaged the specimen, which they carried off to a church in Chaqui. The crew complained to the Perfecto (governor) of Potosí who was supportive of the work of the museum and chastised the politicians. He has ordered a hearing into the matter.

Federico has left for Japan where he will be working with Dr. Takai of the University of Kyoto. They will be studying the primates of Salla (Late Oligocene). (Bruce Shockey)

CANADA

Canadian Museum of Nature

Kathy Stewart and Alison Murray are spending the Canadian winter wishing they were back in Africa. They are nearing completion of a description of a new species of tilapia cichlid from the Miocene of Ethiopia. They are also continuing their study on the relationships of fossil and Recent African characoids, particularly examining the teeth of these fish. Murray is still plugging away at her Ph.D. project, an examination of the ichthyofauna from a Tertiary site in Tanzania which includes osteoglossomorphs, catfish, and haplochromine cichlids.

The Paleobiology group at the CMN are looking forward to welcoming Dr. Michael Caldwell this spring. The hiring committee had a very difficult time choosing among all the applicants for this position, and would like to thank everyone who applied. (Alison Murray)

Heritage Branch, Department of Tourism, Yukon Government

Field work this year included Axel Heiberg Island (with Jaelyn Eberle of Rice and Jim Basinger's paleobotany team from the University of Saskatchewan), the Dawson City and Carmacks placer areas, and the northern Yukon. Next year I plan to work on Ellesmere with Jaelyn, Chijee Bluff near Old Crow, and the Amphitheatre Formation in southwestern Yukon. I hope to visit the Devonian of the Snake River with Steve Cumbaa (Canadian Museum of Nature), a trip that was canceled in 1997.

The Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre opened in May 1997, focusing on the environment/fauna/people of 25,000 years ago. Come visit. (John Storer)

Provincial Museum of Alberta

Summer 1997 saw new Quaternary acquisitions from the Island Bluff site, near Medicine Hat, Alberta a site made famous by the work of (former SVP President) Rufus Churcher and GSC geologist Archie Stalker. One new taxon was identified from a fragment of a *Mammot* molar. We also confirmed *Megalonyx* ground sloth from a humeral shaft, along with the femoral shaft from the 1996 digs. Hitherto, it had been listed as *Megalonyx*. Now we are certain.

Local gravel pit surveys have been sporadic, in step with the vagaries of the Edmonton area construction industry. In one discouraging case, our phone system backed up and we missed the call of the decade: portions of tusk, skull, and pelvis, a left mandible with M₆, and portions of long bones from all four limbs of a 41,845-year-old male Woolly Mammoth were recovered. I am inclined to think it was more nearly complete, and possibly articulated a major first for Alberta but the rest of the skeleton and the geologic context are history. They are now in somebody's basement, the binding for their concrete foundation! (Tears and more tears!) We've added Superbase software to our arsenal of collections management and research tools and soon we will have data on our collections available at the stroke of a few keys. Tastes good and it's easy to swallow! (Jim Burns)

Redpath Museum, McGill University

Robert Carroll has been collecting and editing manuscripts for two volumes which should be ready soon. He has overseen (in collaboration with the Department of Geology) the production of a new exhibit which opened in conjunction with a new course offered this winter term: The History of Life. In addition, research into the origins of modern amphibians continues unabated.

Graduate students Alison Murray and Jason Anderson completed their Ph.D. qualifying examinations this fall. Alison is working on a Tertiary fish fauna from Mahenge, Tanzania. Preparation of her 300+ fossils is time consuming but she will eventually be able to fill in this gap in the story of African fish evolution. Jason is revising the lepospondyl order *Amphipoda*. While in Chicago for SVP he borrowed many specimens from Mazon Creek, in order to study patterns of ontogeny in this group. This will then contribute to an understanding of the overall taxonomic structure. With the study of *Amphipods*, teleosts, and caecilians, we have inadvertently become the *Aimbless lab* (Jason Anderson)

Royal Saskatchewan Museum

The Eastend Fossil Research Station had a busy 1997 field season. Two productive weeks in the Killdeer badlands (Frenchman Formation, Maastrichtian) produced a nearly complete lizard skeleton, an ornithomimid foot (both under study), many micro sites, several partial turtle skeletons, and a partial ceratopsian skeleton. An old quarry was also relocated. A second ceratopsian was located by technician Don Stoffregen in the vicinity

of the *T. rex* skeleton collected in 1994-1995. A second ornithomimid foot was found by volunteer Lorna Irish in the Frenchman Valley, and a partial disarticulated short-necked plesiosaur, together with the remains of several fish and shark teeth, was discovered in the Bearpaw near Herschel; this near-shore site will be excavated in 1998. In the Eastend lab Don continues to hammer away at Scotty, the *T. rex*, and is nearly finished extracting the bones from the original four-ton block. Fine preparation is being done by Don and our education coordinator Joan Hodgins. In the Regina lab Mel Vovchuk continues to work on the leg block.

Harold Bryant left his position of Curator of Mammalogy at the Provincial Museum of Alberta in September to become the Curator of Earth Sciences here starting October 1 (see address changes). This position had been vacant since John Storer left for the Yukon early in 1996. Harold hopes to return to various paleo projects that have been on the back burner for some time and he is looking forward to renewing his research interests in the Tertiary mammal record in Saskatchewan. Harold found a week in August to visit Ted Fremd and have a look at the nimravids that he has collected in the John Day Basin. Ted and Harold are working on a manuscript on the stratigraphic and temporal ranges of the John Day nimravids. The origin of many of the specimens in early collections can now be constrained, at least to some degree.

In September the Eastend Fossil Research Station helped to host the field trip associated with the Canadian Paleontology Conference that was held in Saskatoon. The field guide included a paper by John Storer and Harold Bryant on the mammalian fauna of the Cypress Hills Formation, and two chapters by Tim Tokaryk, one on the nonmammalian fauna from the Frenchman Formation, and one on the history of paleontology in the province. Tim's note on juvenile horn cores of ceratopsians was published in the October issue of the *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences*. He is now spending his few available moments for research on small theropods (thanks to a grant from The Dinosaur Society) and Cretaceous birds. Andrea Tail (volunteer) has finished most of the illustrations for the former project and will soon be attacking other bones with pen and paper. (Tim Tokaryk, Harold Bryant)

University of Guelph, Ontario

Jeff Thomason is continuing his studies of craniofacial mechanics in mammals. Currently he is looking at the correspondence between in vivo strain orientations and trabecular structure in craniofacial bones as a means to infer predominant loading patterns in Recent and fossil skulls. (Jeff Thomason)

FRANCE

College de France CNRS, Paris, France

A new research group (UMR) has just been formed under the leadership of Y. Coppens and J.-J. Hublin. It will be mainly devoted to the studies of fossil man and

paleoenvironments. This is a very preliminary report but we hope to provide more detailed information in the near future.

Zeresenay Alemseged is extending his taphonomic and paleoecological analyses of Omo 33 in Ethiopia (*Revue de Paléobiologie*, 15(2), 1996) to the whole French collection from the Omo valley. He is mainly using multivariate analysis with emphasis on lower member G which has yielded some of the best hominid specimens. He plans to complete his thesis, prepared under the direction of Y. Coppens, in May or June, before returning to Ethiopia. He has also studied, with D. Geraads, the *Theropithecus* specimens from Ahl al Oughlam (*Journal of Human Evolution*, in press).

Anne Marie Bacon specializes in primate postcranial anatomy, especially functional anatomy of the lower limbs. She is trying to find out which one of the middle or upper Miocene primates with combined *Ar* walking and tree climbing could have given rise to bipedal walking. She also worked on the femoral anatomy of the australopithecines (with M. Baylac) and that of *Adapis* (with M. Godinot).

Josi Braga is studying two main aspects of human evolution. The first one is the study of brain evolution and development. He is focusing his attention on the evolution of cephalic bloodflow (pattern and volume), considered to be functionally closely related to cortical metabolism. He is also studying qualitative and quantitative cerebral development during childhood. Several papers appeared recently in the *Journal of Human Evolution*. The second aspect is the study of fossil hominid growth patterns and skeletal maturation in connection with brain growth. Within this framework he is trying to determine whether there are different growth patterns among early hominids in order to recognize the oldest human developmental pattern in the fossil record. The recent strides of medical imaging and information processing, as well as new data from molecular embryology and neurobiology, stand his research in good stead. Josi was recently in Ethiopia where he could examine many fossil hominids. He has also shown his efficiency in the field, being the discoverer of one of the baby hominids recently found at Drimolen in South Africa, a new site excavated by A. Keyser.

Yvette Deloison is still involved in the study of australopithecine feet, especially the South African ones, from Sterkfontein and elsewhere, with P. V. Tobias and R. Clarke. She also recently published papers on hominid tali from Omo. She is also applying 3-D imaging to the Laetoli footprints.

Denis Geraads was in Ethiopia with Zeresenay Alemseged last October. They collected more rodents in the upper Miocene of Chorora, but large mammals are rare and fragmentary. They now plan to turn to other Miocene formations in the country. In Turkey, he completed the study of middle Miocene ruminants from Gandir, to be published soon in a special monograph edited by E. G`leg from Ankara University. He is also studying upper Miocene bovids and some carnivores from Turkey (*JVP*, 17(2), 1997). In Morocco, several mammalian groups from the late Pliocene locality of Ahl al Oughlam have been published (the latest ones were the carnivores: *Geobios*, 30(1):127B174, 1997). With more than 50 mammalian taxa, Ahl al Oughlam is now by far

the richest site of the North African Neogene. More information on this locality can be obtained at <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/dgeraads>.

Besides heavy administrative tasks, Jean Jacques Hublin tries to keep on with his research on the evolution of *Homo erectus* and *H. sapiens*. He is still involved in the study of the new Moroccan material, but concentrates on European fossils, in connection with Neandertal origins. He is employing virtual imaging, that he already used for North African fossils, to correct effects of crushing on the Steinheim skull, a key fossil found in 1931 but not yet studied in detail. He has also studied, with D. Dean, R. Holloway, and R. Ziegler, the Reilingen specimen, found in 1981 (*Journal of Human Evolution*).

Fernando Ramirez-Rozzi is working on hominid dental enamel. He is trying to evaluate the influence of environmental factors on hominid enamel development by comparison with other living and fossil primates. Careful examination of Pliocene hominids has also convinced him that there may be more species than suggested by macro-anatomy. Valiry Zeitoun is mainly working on the phylogenetic study of early *Homo*, focusing on ontogenetic variability and heterochrony of development of *Homo erectus*. To improve the cladistic analysis, he has devised a new coding method which allows him to take into account metrical data. He can recognize several species of *Homo* in the early Pleistocene, including *H. erectus* defined by several autapomorphies. (D. Geraads)

GERMANY

Institute of Palaeontology, University of Bonn

The latest news from Wighart v. Koenigswald is the relief that a new book had gone to the printer and shortly afterwards was published. It shows the beauty and the scientific importance of the fossils of the famous Eocene locality of Messel. The book is intended for interested laymen and contains large photos of specimens accompanied by short articles. The editing was done jointly with Gerhard Storch at the Senckenberg museum in Frankfurt. Currently, only the German edition is available but English and French versions are in preparation.

Concerning Pleistocene faunas, Wighart published a new survey of the mammals of the middle Pleistocene Mauer locality in a book commemorating the discovery of the Mauer human mandible 90 years ago. The other Pleistocene project is a paper on faunal change during the Weichselian with Wolf-Dietrich Heinrich from Berlin. With Dale Guthrie from Fairbanks he investigated several Pleistocene *Bison* skulls. A high percentage of the male individuals have lesions on the forehead resulting from combat during the mating seasons. Such lesions were sometimes interpreted as impacts of weapons of paleolithic people, who most probably were smart enough not to attack a bison from the front, and the new interpretation is less dramatic. Both papers were published in *Thbinger Monographien zur Urgeschichte* (Festschrift for H. Mhler-Beck), volume 11.

Concerning enamel research Wighart and Martin Sander edited the book on Tooth Enamel Microstructure published by Balkema in Rotterdam (see also Publications). In

that volume they produced the first extensive glossary of terms used for enamel microstructure. Wighart's own contributions cover a brief survey of the enamel diversity at the schmelzmuster level in Cenozoic placental mammals, the variability of the enamel at the dentition level, and evolutionary trends in the differentiation of mammalian enamel ultrastructure.

This spring Wighart enjoyed a sabbatical and went to South America in order to collect samples of tooth enamel from endemic marsupials and ungulates in several collections. Thanks to the generosity of various colleagues, especially Rosendo Pascual and Jos JBonaparte, the material allowed him to develop a model of enamel evolution in this group. What he has found mostly parallels the evolution in the Australian marsupials but shows distinct differences as well.

In December 1996, Ashok Sahni from Shandigar visited Wighart and pulled an exciting tooth out of his pocket: a hypsodont molar from the Upper Cretaceous of India. Although fragmentary, the morphology and enamel microstructure were very much like the gondwanathere molar from Madagascar David Krause had shown at the New York SVP meeting. This inspired us to prepare a joint paper for *Nature* on the first gondwanathere from India and Madagascar and their paleobiogeography.

Martin Sander divided his research time between marine reptiles and teeth. At the Third World Congress of Herpetology in Prague in August he presented a paper on the phylogeny of the ichthyosaurs, including 32 taxa and 120 characters. Although he attempted to sort out the taxa by skulls or fins only, the best resolution was achieved using as many different characters as possible. The description of the postcranium of the new pistosaurid from the Middle Triassic of Nevada was recently published in *JVP*. The biggest surprise in this animal was the reduced phalangeal formula, not exactly what one would expect in the sister group of the Plesiosauria. Now he, Olivier Rieppel, and Glenn Storrs are eagerly awaiting the preparation of the skull.

The spring of 1997 saw the submission of two papers on teeth, one on Prismless enamel in amniotes: Terminology, function, and evolution for the Teaford et al. volume on development, function, and evolution of teeth, and one on dinosaur jaws and teeth for the Encyclopedia of Dinosaurs edited by Currie and Padian.

At the annual fall meeting of Paläontologische Gesellschaft, Martin was elected co-editor of *Paläontologische Zeitschrift*. He will succeed Wolf-Ernst Reif as the vertebrate paleo guy (see also Bulletin Board).

In the sauropod paleobiology research group of Martin's Ph.D. students (Sabine and Christian Peitz, Ioannis Michelis) Ioannis Michelis has some neat results to present. The Howe-Stephens Quarry in Wyoming is recognized as a fluvial deposit reminiscent of the situation at the Carnegie Quarry at Dinosaur National Monument in Utah. The major purpose of Ioannis' Ph.D. dissertation is to investigate the taphonomy of the Howe Quarry which is close to the Howe-Stephens Quarry and was originally worked by the AMNH in 1934. The quarry shows a mass accumulation of sauropod dinosaurs belonging to

Apatosaurus, *Barosaurus*, *Diplodocus*, and *Camarasaurus*. Upon discovery, Barnum Brown had suggested that a sauropod herd got mired in the soft substrate of a levee environment. Now it turns out that the majority of the sauropods had not reached adult size, but were of subadult and juvenile ages. Our taphonomic data suggest that this deposit was indeed the result of catastrophic death but caused by a severe drought which killed preferably nonadult sauropods and preserved them in situ in their last watering hole. Ioannis greatly appreciates that he was able to work on the Howe Quarry material in the AMNH in September. As a result a paper together with Mark Norell is in preparation describing the mode of growth in juvenile *Barosaurus* cervical vertebrae.

Christian Peitz made a further field trip to Spain to examine the dinosaur eggs in the Maastrichtian of northeastern Spain. Together with a German field crew under the guidance of Martin and a Spanish field crew under the guidance of Jaume Galle from the Museu de Geologia de Barcelona he excavated several eggs. Now the material is in Bonn and in the Institute for Paleontologic Research in Sabadel (Spain) for preparation. For an exhibition about fossil sharks and rays, Christian took part in building a life-size reconstruction of the Permian shark *Orthacanthus*. He did this work together with Martin and the preparator of our institute.

Sabine Peitz is continuing her research for her Ph.D. thesis on the reptilians of the Bückeberg Formation in northern Germany. She is currently concentrating on the Chelonia and is able to distinguish three different types of carapaces and four types of plastra. They belong to species of *Plesiochelys* and *Pleurosternon*. Together with Steve Salisbury from Australia, Sabine examined skull material of *Goniopholis* (Crocodylia). The results will be published in a paper co-authored by Steve. Her examination of the pholidosaurids (Crocodylia) is not finished yet. Among the material from the Ballerstedt Collection, she also found dinosaur remains, for example those of a large theropod. This is the first dinosaur material since the discovery of *Stenopelix* in the middle of the last century.

Thomas M`rsis is going on with his research on Tertiary VP sites of the Rhineland. The richest fauna from the Miocene deposits of the Hambach open cast mine C marine and terrestrial vertebrates including 70(!) mammalian taxa C was presented by him at the Biochrom 97 meeting in Montpellier. Together with Wighart and the mining company's geologist Fritz von der Hocht, he has submitted a paper on the Pliocene rodents from the Hambach mine. It will be published in the proceedings volume (Meded. Rijks Geol. Dienst, Haarlem) of the INQUA-SEQS 96 meeting held in Kerkrade/The Netherlands.

The upper Oligocene oil shales of Enspel, which have produced the first articulated skeleton of a gliding eomyid, also attract Thomas's interest. Together with Wighart, he is studying the first large mammal from this locality. The partly disarticulated skeleton of a juvenile *Potamotherium* represents the earliest record of this otter-like carnivore.

The oil shales and the mammals of the upper Oligocene Rott locality near Bonn are the topics of two contributions (one together with Wighart) in Wighart's popular booklet

A fossil lagerstätte in Rott. The second, enlarged edition with color pictures has been available since fall 1996 (also see Publications).

In June 1997 Thekla Pfeiffer finished her Ph.D. thesis about the phylogeny of *Dama*. She pointed out that postcranial characters provide valid information about the evolution of the Cervini. She was able to discriminate between the larger lineages of fossil cervids, much better than on antler characters alone, as it is usually done in paleontology. She could separate the *Dama* lineage from the *Cervus* lineage in Europe up to the upper Pliocene. Her Ph.D. thesis will be published in the *Courier Forsch. Inst. Senckenberg* this year.

The small cervid of the German Pleistocene-age Mosbach locality, described as *Cervus elaphoides* Kahlke 1960, was verified by her as a valid species (*Mainzer Naturwissenschaftliches Archiv*, vol. 35, 1997). Also, because *C. elaphoides* was preoccupied, the small cervid of Mosbach is now called *Dama (Pseudodama) reichenau* (Kahlke 1996). Thekla also finished her research on the fossil *Dama* population of Neumark-Nord (Thuringia). More than 80 skeletons were preserved at this site and provide extensive morphological data as well as data on ontogeny, sexual dimorphism, variability, and antler development (*Jahresschriftf. mitteldeut. Vorgeschichte*, LfA Halle, in press). The *Dama* from Neumark-Nord can be separated from the Recent European *Dama* as a new fossil subspecies (*Eiszeitalter und Gegenwart*, in press). It exhibits a different antler morphology and a greater body size than other Eemian *Dama* finds from Germany (*Zeitschrift für Jagdwissenschaft*, in press). Thekla is now studying the phylogeny of the megacerines and dwarfed island deer on a grant by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft.

The incisor enamel microstructure of fossil and Recent hamsters is

still covering most of Daniela Kalthoff's research time. With the greatly appreciated help of many colleagues contributing tooth material, she has examined over 100 taxa of cricetids and other myomorph rodents. The great variety of different enamel patterns and its systematic and phylogenetic significance will be the topic of Dany's Ph.D. thesis which she intends to submit this spring. Another small paper (*Jahrbuch des Römisch-Zentralmuseums*, Mainz, in press) describes the late Pleistocene small mammal fauna from the Kettig locality (Neuwied Basin, western Germany). The faunal association is consistent with the relatively temperate climatic conditions at the end of the Pleistocene (Allerød stage).

For his master's thesis, Ingo Raufuss is investigating middle and late Pleistocene musk oxen (*Ovibos*) from Germany. Specifically he is describing 12 new skulls. Based on skull features, he is trying to distinguish the two described Eurasian fossil species of *Ovibos* (*O. moschatus* and *O. pallantis*) from each other. He is also working on the functional morphology of the atlanto-occipital region of *Ovibos* and is preparing a distribution map of fossil musk oxen in central Europe.

Dieter Schreiber will soon finish his master-thesis on a fossil rhino population from the middle Pleistocene Mauer locality near Heidelberg, Germany. The material is customarily assigned to *Stephanorhinus hundsheimensis* which is one of four European interglacial rhinos. The rich sample offers the opportunity to assess morphometric variability in the cranial and postcranial skeleton of this species.

In 1996 and 1997 Elke Knipping continued working on the differences in amelogenesis between mammals and reptiles. Elke plans to finish her Ph.D. project next spring.

For her master-thesis Cornelia Kurz is describing a small marsupial rat from the Middle Eocene Messel locality near Darmstadt, Germany. So far, two marsupial rats are known from Messel, a big one (*Amphiperatherium*) and a small one (possibly *Peradectes*). Like most of the other specimens, Cornelia's animal is refusing to bare its teeth. This makes it hard for her to position it within the Didelphidae, but based on its size it probably belongs to the small form.

For her master-thesis Andrea Goernemann is working on a bird from the famous Liaoning locality in China. Her task is a detailed morphological description of the specimen, probably pertaining to *Confuciusornis*.

In summer of 1996 Silvana Condemi from Paris VI University and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique finished her stay in Bonn where she had been working on Neandertal specimens from Germany as a Humboldt Fellow for almost two years. She had become part of the department and we were sad to see her go. (Daniela C. Kalthoff and Martin Sander)

ITALY

Museo Paleontologico Cittadino, Monfalcone (Gorizia)

Research on Mesozoic vertebrates is continuing despite the problems caused by the Italian law concerning fossil collection and possession. Fabio M. Dalla Vecchia is finishing a paper about some sauropod bones from the Lower Cretaceous of Istria (Croatia) to be submitted to *Geologia Croatica*, the journal of the Croatian Institute of Geology. The Istrian sauropods appear to have quite unusual vertebrae and are represented by very small and very large individuals. The presence of sauropods in a zone considered by many authors as a shallow-water, intraoceanic carbonate platform is somewhat puzzling! Fabio is also preparing a paper with Igot Vlahović of the Institute of Geology in Zagreb on the Cretaceous dinosaur footprints of the Brijuni/Brioni Islands (Istria). Other Istrian stuff (dinosaur footprints) is under study thanks to a Dinosaur Society grant. The goal of our team (including sedimentologist Giorgio Tunis and biostratigrapher Sandro Venturini) is to investigate the paleoenvironmental and paleogeographical meaning of the dinosaur presence on the Cretaceous carbonate platforms in the northern Adriatic region. Fabio gave an oral presentation on this subject at the first Geoitalia meeting at Rimini last October. He submitted for publication in *Gaia* a special volume "Aspect of Theropod Paleobiology" a paper about theropod tracks (Theropod

tracks in the Cretaceous Adriatic-Dinaric carbonate platform [Italy and Croatia]). Fabio is also involved in an official committee for the study of the hadrosaurian remains recently discovered in the Lower Senonian (Upper Cretaceous) karst in Italy.

A paper is in press (Tracks of large terrestrial reptiles in the Dolomia Principale Formation [Late Triassic] of Carnic pre-Alps [Pordenone, NE Italy], *Atti Ticinesi di Scienze della Terra*, vol. 7) by Fabio and Paolo Mietto (University of Padua) concerning reptile (mainly dinosaur) footprints. Our hope is to compare them with similar footprints of New Mexico, Colorado, and Galles in the future. Fabio finally submitted for publication to the *Bollettino della Società Paleontologica Italiana* his revision of the Triassic basal pterosaur *Preondactylus*, his first love (New observations on the osteology and taxonomic status of *Preondactylus buffarinii* Wild, 1984 [Reptilia Pterosauria]).

Oliver Rieppel joined Fabio in the Friuli region of northeastern Italy to check the possibility of joint research on the fine sauropterigyan and placodont material of Fucina (Ladinian/Carnian). Davide Rigo is finishing his graduate dissertation about a Lower Senonian Lagerstätte of the Italian karst (Polazzo site). This site was excavated last autumn with success: more than 100 fish remains and a reptile tooth have been found. Davide is interested mainly in fish fauna and the paleoecology of the gisement that also preserves plant remains, rare turtle bones, and crocodile teeth. A possible theropod tooth is under study by Fabio.

The exhibit *Le orme dei giganti. Impressioni e piste di dinosauri dell'Alto Adriatico* (The footprints of the giants. Dinosaur tracks and trackways in the Upper Adriatic region), Piancada (Udine), August 16–November 30, was a success and the news of the dinosaur presence in this part of the world is going to find a position in the popular culture.

The mammalian bone collection from the lower part of the Middle Pleistocene of Slivia cave (Italian karst) with 28 mammalian taxa was studied last summer by Benedetto Sala and Roberto Magaraglia of the University of Ferrara. Cesare Brizio is going on with his theoretical cladistic delirium and producing a CD-ROM about Italian fossil vertebrate collections. (Fabio M. Dalla Vecchia)

Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, Università degli Studi di Milano

Triassic fishes are coming out from everywhere here in northern Italy. A few new localities have been discovered in Middle Triassic rocks around Trento. Andrea Tintori, together with Marco Avanzini from the Museo Trentino who discovered the sites, is trying to organize field work for summer 1998. If the collecting is successful, we have at least five different fish assemblages in the Ladinian, which will improve the biostratigraphy of fossil fish to the ammonite level for this stage. The late Ladinian of Ca' del Frate (Varese, Italy) and Meride (Canton Ticino, Switzerland) has been explored during two field seasons with very good results. Thanks are due to the Museo Insubrico di Storia Naturale di Induno Olona and to the Museo Cantonale di Storia Naturale (Lugano) for supporting the field work. A few days have been also spent in the Carnian of Raibl-Cave del Predil (Udine), where a mass mortality bed was discovered by a private collector. For the first

timewe could collect fishes in place and the rich materials will behoused in the Museo Friulano di Storia Naturale in Udine. Andreawas also in the field in the Sultanate of Oman last February andmade exciting finds in the Upper Permian (Early MurgabianBEarlyWordian). Remains of hybodonts are found together with cladodontteeth, large dermal denticles that are *Menaspis*-like,*Deltodus* teeth, actinopterygian teeth, scales, and vertebralcentra. A few shell beds proved to be very rich. Most of the conodontsamples also yielded vertebrates. A proposal to work on the Omansite has been submitted to CNR, but due to shortage of money forresearch, we have only a very limited possibility to get thisgrant even if this new fauna is very interesting and almost unique.

Work is progressing also on the Permian from Sardinia:Andrea, together with A. Ronchi who discovered the fossiliferoussite, published in *Rivista Italiana di Paleontologia e Stratigrafia* a note on branchiosaurid amphibians. Andrea is now looking atacanthodian and xenacanth material. Though not rich, this is thefirst time these groups have been found in Italy. Andrea and CristinaLombardo attended the II International Meeting on Mesozoic Fishesin Buckow and gave speeches on the Middle Triassic fish faunasof Lombardy and Canton Ticino (Switzerland). They also participatedthe IX International Congress of European Ichthyologists in Trieste,and made oral presentations on sexual dimorphism in the genus*Peltopleurus* (by Cristina) and on the Norian neopterygianradiation (by Andrea).

Cristina defended her thesis last spring and is nowpreparing the work for publication starting with a new speciesof *Peltopleurus* which shows an excellent sexual dimorphicfeature. Other interesting aspects of Cristina'sthesis are the ontogenetic developments of several fishes andthe record of size classes interpreted as year classes.

A few fish people visited our collections: GillesCuny, now in Bristol, was interested in the Norian complete specimens,as he is working on isolated teeth. Gloria Arratia from Berlinspent three days with Andrea in the Induno Olona Museum to lookfor well-preserved *Prohalecites* from Caedel Frate in order to prepare a paper on the relationships ofthis small fish. Becky Hitchin from Bristol was very surprisedby the quality of our Norian material and found it very importantfor her thesis on the origin of neopterygians. She and GillesCuny visited the museum in Bergamo where most of the Norian materialsare stored. In Volume 15, 1997, of *Archaeopteryx* has beenpublished the description of a new *Leptosaurus* from theKimmeridgian of Bavaria by Silvio Renesto and Gunther Viehl. Silviofinished a note on an isolated phytosaur skull (*Mystriosuchus*)found in the Zorzino Limestone. This paper has been accepted forpublication in *Rivista Italiana di Paleontologia e Stratigrafia*.The skull represents another case of phytosaur remains in a marineenvironment. The preparation of the recently found complete phytosaur(possibly another *Mystriosuchus*) goes on despite financialrestrictions and bureaucracies. This reptile is nearly four meterslong and almost completely articulated. Its description will addsubstantial knowledge to the anatomy of *Mystriosuchus*.(Andrea Tintori)

JAPAN

National Science Museum, Tokyo

Yuki Tomida has been busy for over a year preparing a temporary special exhibition. It is tentatively titled "Dinosaurs of Gondwana Land" and will be held at the National Science Museum (Tokyo) from July 11 to October 11, 1998. Major specimens to be exhibited include *Gigantosaurus*, *Patagosaurus*, *Amargasaurus*, *Carnotaurus* (Argentina), *Cryolophosaurus* (Antarctica), *Muttaborrasaurus minmi* (Australia), *Afrovenator*, *Deltadromeus*, *Carcharodontosaurus*, and *Malawisaurus* (Africa). Some non-dinosaur reptiles are also included: *Scaphonyx*, *Tupuxuara*, *Tapejara*, *Baurusuchus* (Brazil), *Notosuchus*, *Patagopreryx*, *Alvarezsaurus* (Argentina), and others. Vertebrate paleontologists who cooperated with this exhibition include Drs. Bonaparte, Coria, Calvo, Salgado (Argentina), Kellner, Campos (Brazil), Molner, Tom and Pat Rich (Australia), Hammer, Sereno, Jacobs, and Goman (USA).

Seizing this opportunity, the National Science Museum of Japan will host a symposium on the dinosaurs and other vertebrates, tentatively titled "Second Symposium on Gondwana Dinosaurs," counting the symposium "Gondwana Dinosaurs" held in April 1994 in Trelew, Argentina, as the first one. All the vertebrate paleontologists listed above, at least, will be attending the symposium. Any of you who are interested in attending, please write Yuki Tomida for further information (e-mail: y-tomida@kahaku.go.jp).

It is the second year of Makoto Manabe's study of a small vertebrate fauna of the Tetori Group (Early Cretaceous) with Susan Evans (UCL), David Unwin (Bristol), and Liz Cook (Bristol). Makoto has started two new projects in 1997: one is to study Middle to Late Triassic marine vertebrates in British Columbia with Betsy Nicholls (TMP), and the other is to study Late Jurassic marine reptiles in Madagascar with Armand Rasoamiramanana (U. Antananarivo).

A new JSPS postdoctoral fellow, Gerard McGowan, has joined the Museum in November. He will study fossil amphibians in Japanese collections for one year. Gerry did a Ph.D. on albanerpetontid amphibians at UCL, and did a postdoc at the University of Mainz before joining NSM. (Yuki Tomida)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Northeast Region

National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C.

Things have been hectic in the NMNH, as usual, but are winding down a bit for the holidays. Mike Brett-Surman's new dinosaur book (The Complete Dinosaur) was unveiled at SVP. Mike was the junior editor with Jim Farlow, Indiana University. This was one of three new dinosaur books that were released at the meetings. Mike's book is the *first* book to formalize the use of the term "Thagomizer," and to present the actual calculations to determine how many lawyers it would take to feed a *T. rex*. The book has already gone to a second printing. It is unknown how many lawyers have bought the book.

The Bown (and Rose) Wasatchian mammal collection, consisting of over 5,000 specimens from the Willwood Basin, has been transferred here by the USGS; the collection also includes fishes, birds, and reptiles. At present the collection is stored temporarily in an area vacated by Pliocene horses that were sent to the MSC in Suitland (Maryland), and it is being unpacked by a volunteer. Ken Rose and his students continue their work on this fauna.

Shelly Applegate and Bob Purdy continue their work on lamnoid sharks; their first installment of the revision of these sharks will be a paper on the Alopiidae. These sharks are more conservative than most shark paleontologists think. Their paper should provide for a lot of discussion. By the time you read this, Shelly will be back in Mexico City.

In September, Peter J. Harmatuk, a long-time good friend and collector for the USNM, donated the remainder of his collection of over 15,000 specimens to the museum. Most of this material was fossil shark teeth from the PCS, Inc., Lee Creek Mine. Pete's gift gives the museum one of the best collections of Neogene shark teeth.

In November Bob Purdy, Dave Bohaska, and Fred Gradys spent nine days in the Carolinas collecting fossils and participating in two fossil fairs, one at the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia for the Myrtle Beach Fossil Club, and the other at the North Carolina Museum of Natural History in Raleigh for the North Carolina Fossil Club. At the fossil fairs they identified several hundred specimens for the public (over 400 visitors at Columbia and over 2,000 at Raleigh) and club members. Between fossil fairs, with the assistance of Jim Knight (SCSM), Vance McCollom, Bill Palmer, and George Fonger, they searched for fossil marine mammals at Eocene, Oligocene, and Neogene localities in both states. In North Carolina, Becky and Frank Hyne, who are also long-time good friends and collectors for the Smithsonian, donated to the museum their Upper Cretaceous fossil vertebrate collection from Phoebus Landing on the Cape Fear River; this collection of several thousand specimens includes fish (principally shark teeth), turtle, crocodile, and dinosaur remains. It was a most productive trip.

The Glasgow, Montana, *T. rex* came under some scrutiny by an assembled team of paleobiologists in early November. The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy assembled a group of interested parties to decide the disposition of the publicly owned specimen in which the Smithsonian Institution was to play a role. We were asked to assess the condition of the specimen, the potential of the site, and to work towards a solution for the disposition of the specimen. Pete Kroehler and Dan Chaney represented the Smithsonian. The other team members were Mike Greenwald and Bruce Schumacher (South Dakota School of Mines), Carrie Ancell, Bob Harmon, and Pat Leiggi (MOR), and Barb Beasley (USDA Forest Service), who convened the team.

Since the specimen was found to be on federal property, the Smithsonian Institution exercised its right of first refusal of the specimen and decided to try to find a place to keep it in or near Glasgow. There was

discussion of an interpretive center being built close to the Ft. Peck Dam that may eventually house this *T. rex*. The Institution's refusal was based on the overall condition of the specimen.

Pete stated that all members of the assembled paleo team contributed greatly to rescue this specimen from further damage and wishes that all publicly owned specimens could receive the excellent attention that this one was shown during the week of November 28-29. Pete left Montana satisfied that the *T. rex* is now in good enough condition (stabilized) that a qualified preparator may begin the many thousands of hours that it is going to take to enable this specimen to be researched. He would like to thank all those involved in the project; the folks in Glasgow, Congressman Rick Hill's office, the Museum of the Rockies, and, especially, the paleo team members.

Ralph Chapman has been busy with some trilobite research, a lot of SVP business, and continuing and broadening a long-term research program on the three-dimensional scanning and digitizing of vertebrate fossils, with subsequent computer modeling of the results. This is being done in conjunction with David Weishampel, postdoc Diego Rasskin-Gutman, University of Chicago graduate student Gene Hunt, Paleobiology chairman Richard Benson, our anthropology CT-scanning group, and zoologist Alfie Rosenberger. This fall has been a good one for publications, with three papers coming out in the *Dinofest II* volume, two in the Farlow and Brett-Surman dinosaur book, *The Complete Dinosaur*, and two entries in the *Encyclopedia of Dinosaurs*. On his spare time, he is trying to edit and develop a couple of books.

Diego Rasskin-Gutman is winding down his postdoc here at the Department of Paleobiology with various studies using computer modeling, especially of archosaur pelvises. He will be moving to Austria to start expanding his knowledge of developmental biology and doing even more sophisticated computer modeling of morphology, especially of embryonic structures.

Dan Chaney, Bill DiMichele, Bob Hook, and John Nelson continued to work up section on the Lower Permian of north-central Texas last September. Sparse remains of the xenacanth shark *Orthacanthus*, the lungfish *Gnathorhiza*, and the amphibian *Diplocaulus* were collected from a Ford County deposit that is among the youngest vertebrate-bearing horizons found thus far in the Clear Fork Group of the region. These remains were recovered from a channel-fill deposit that was excavated for a moderately rich plant assemblage. Although several channel-fill deposits were excavated in the overlying Blaine Formation (Pease River Group, late Early Permian) for plant remains, no significant vertebrate remains were found. Isabel Montanez and Neil Tabor, both of the University of California at Davis, joined the field party to obtain carbonate and paleosol samples for their investigation of geochemical and paleoclimatic changes from the uppermost Carboniferous to basal Triassic.

Kay Behrensmeyer has been working on various paleoecology projects. She and Rick Potts are completing a manuscript on the landscape archeology of Olorgesailie, Kenya, which is a well-known site for artifacts and bones from the last million years. Kay is

analyzing microstratigraphic information on several lateralkilometers of the paleolandscapes at two levels, and they will see how the artifacts and bones map onto these landscapes. A paper on African Pliocene faunal turnover was published in *Science* in late November; this represents the first major work resulting from data in the Evolution of Terrestrial Ecosystems (ETE) database, which continues to grow steadily. Manuscripts on the Miocene Kipsaramon bonebed site in Kenya and paleosols through time in the Miocene of Pakistan are in the works. (Ralph Chapman)

New Jersey State Museum

Dave Parris spent much of the last few months planning for Natural History Hall renovations. He plans to spend a few December days with Don Clements and his associates at the North Carolina site which recently yielded a pterosaur bone.

As a result of hosting *The Great Russian Dinosaurs* exhibition in Trenton, Bill Gallagher visited the Moscow Institute of Paleontology as a guest of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Bill worked with Andrei Soloviev on K/T boundary faunas from the Crimea and Kazakhstan that show intriguing similarities to American East Coast K/T sections. He also followed up on some ankylosaur research with Tanya Tumanova. Bill would like to thank Tanya, Andrei, and Oleg Lebedev for their hospitality. (Bill Gallagher)

Southeast Region

Florida Museum of Natural History/University of Florida

Dave Webb is playing midwife to the imminent rebirth of a large bull mammoth skeleton that he and his SCUBA crew collected exactly three decades ago from the bottom of the Aucilla River. As soon as this magnificent mammoth is resurrected it will take up residence in the Central Gallery of the new Powell Hall. In a related effort on the research side, Dave is helping to produce a multidisciplinary book on late Pleistocene paleontology and archaeology of the Aucilla River. It is an interesting contest to see whether the book or the mounted skeleton emerges first. Another imminent manuscript features the earliest American deer (Bone Valley, late Hemphillian), with phylogenetic notes on the New World radiation of Cervidae.

In September, Barry Albright joined Carl Swisher for some field work in Montana, then, in October, it was off to the John Day Valley to collect samples for paleomagnetic analysis. Bruce MacFadden caught up with Barry and Ted Fremd in Oregon just in time to see the movie *Mars Attacks*. By the end of the month Ted, Bruce, and Barry had memorized most of its script.

Bruce MacFadden has mostly been involved in his new administrative position as Associate Director of Exhibits and Public Programs and getting our new exhibits building ready to open to the public on 30 January 1998. Otherwise Bruce has started a project with Nikos Solounias to understand resource partitioning in coexisting late Miocene to early Pliocene Bone Valley horses. Bruce has had a paper on the

isotopic ecology of the Florida rhinos *Teleoceras* and *Aphelops* accepted to *Paleobiology*. The FLMNH and Museo Nacional de Historia Natural in La Paz, Bolivia, have received an International Partnerships among Museums grant from the American Association of Museums to plan and design a bilingual traveling exhibit entitled *The Great American Interchange*.

Phil D. Girolamo is working on Cutler Hammock, located in Dade County, south of Miami. A sinkhole deposit hypothesized to be a dire wolf (*Canis dirus*) den, Cutler contains an abundance of pre-extinction Pleistocene fauna. It is within the abundance of peccary and direwolf material that Phil is attempting to reconstruct the 11,000-year-old scene (predator/prey relationships). Biochemical techniques such as carbon isotopes and strontium/calcium ratios will be executed in this research.

Matthew Muhlbachler, Dave Webb's newest student, has twofold duties. Matt is working on Dave's Aucilla River project and is undertaking a study of Late Pleistocene mastodon gut contents. This work will be a contribution to the upcoming book about the first humans and the last megafauna from the Aucilla River. However, for his master's thesis, Matt is journeying back to the late Miocene, where he will be studying the paleobiology and ecology of two sympatric rhinos (*Teleoceras* and *Aphelops*) from Florida. The initial stages of this project include interpreting population structure and SEM analysis of dental microwear. Matt also plans to examine limb bones using CT scanning to measure bone density of *Teleoceras*. He hopes to set to rest the question as to whether or not *Teleoceras* was a hippo-ecomorph.

Jean-Louis Monfraix has had a very eventful semester. At the meeting in October, he won Honorable Mention for an outstanding talk he gave during the Romer Prize session. His talk, based on his master's research, dealt with his unique approach to typifying modern environments using characteristics of the mammalian fauna. He then applied this new system to the reconstruction of a paleoenvironment using the mammal fossils of the Leisey Shell Pit, a Pleistocene locality from the Tampa Bay region. In November, Jean-Louis successfully defended his master's thesis. Says committee chair Bruce MacFadden, "Jean-Louis did a good job in his defense. We couldn't get a word in edgewise." Jean-Louis is presently taking a deserved break from graduate school. Next semester, look for Jean-Louis' application materials at a doctoral program near you.

Jay O'Sullivan spent much of his semester writing PR for his friend Jean-Louis Monfraix (see above). He also passed his qualifying exams and submitted a grant to the NSF. In addition, Jay spent a good deal of time thinking about those yummy pastries the Ramada Congress offered for breakfast during October's meetings, especially the cheese-filled ones. (Jay O'Sullivan)

Louisiana State University Museum Of Natural Science

New material is coming out of the dissolving vats from Fort Polk all the time and the number of terrestrial mammal taxa is over two dozen. Suyin Ting just returned from leading a field trip to Fort Polk in which an additional 1,500 pounds of rock for dissolving

was collected, along with a possibly new-to-our-fauna high-crowned horse from surface collection. Judith Schiebout is writing a short paper on the first undoubted bone of a marine mammal from the Castor Creek Member of the Fleming Formation, a partial baculum from Fort Polk. This makes two partial bacula the sum total of our carnivore material from large animals. One is from a terrestrial form. Schiebout also spoke at the Phi Kappa Phi Centennial National Meeting in August in New Orleans on her 20 years of paleontological research.

Julia Sankey is aiming to defend her Ph.D. dissertation in May 1998. It is titled *Late Cretaceous vertebrate paleontology, paleoecology, and magnetostratigraphy of the Upper Aguja Formation, Talley Mt. Area, Big Bend National Park, Texas.* She presented some of her results at the SVP (Romer Prize Session) and the GSA annual meetings. Julia was the co-instructor for the LSU Geology Department's six-week freshman geology field camp this summer outside of Colorado Springs, Colorado. This eight-credit field course covered the first two semesters of introductory geology. She is actively looking for a research/teaching job and can be reached at 504-388-1510; jsankey@unix1.sncc.lsu.edu.

Alton Dooley, Jr. (Butch) is aiming for a May completion of his dissertation on squalodont whales and is seeking teaching/research jobs. He was instructor for an LSU historical geology class last summer.

Ray Wilhite is finishing his master's work on *Ontogenetic variation in the appendicular skeleton of *Camarasaurus** and is contemplating dissection of alligator limbs for the first part of his dissertation. Anyone who knows of recent published work in this area should contact Ray at rwilhit@unix1.sncc.lsu.edu. He would eventually like to use shape analysis and limb morphology to reconstruct sauropod limb musculature. He gave a presentation at SVP called *Statistical analysis of sauropod limb elements* in which Brian Curtice, John Foster, and Ray attempted to find distinguishing patterns in sauropod limb bones. The basic gist of the poster was that you can't tell a whole lot from measurements alone. Hence his idea to look at shape and see if there are discernible differences there.

Students interested in graduate study in VP at LSU should contact Dr. Schiebout at naschi@lsuvm.sncc.lsu.edu or 504-388-2717. Increased support for graduate students is available to the LSU Department of Geology and Geophysics because of the upturn in the U.S. oil industry. Inquiries on loans from the LSU VP collections can be directed to Dr. Ting at: glsuyin@unix1.sncc.lsu.edu.

Recent publications from our group include: Sankey, J. T. In press. Vertebrate paleontology and magnetostratigraphy of the Upper Glens Ferry (Latest Pliocene) and Lower Bruneau (Pliocene-Pleistocene) formations, near Murphy, southwestern Idaho. *Journal of the Idaho Academy of Science*. Schiebout, J. A.. 1997. Paleofaunal survey, collecting, processing, and documentation at two locations on Fort Polk, Louisiana. Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District. Open-file report, 93 pp. Schiebout, J. A. 1997. The Fort Polk Miocene microvertebrate sites compared to those from east Texas. *The Texas Journal of Science*, 49(1):23-32. Schiebout, J. A. 1997. Microvertebrate

sites. Pp. 437-442, in *Encyclopedia of Dinosaurs* (P. J. Currie and K. Padian, eds.). Academic Press. Ting, S. 1998. Paleocene and Early Eocene Land Mammal Ages of Asia, *Bulletin of Carnegie Museum of Natural History*, 34:124-147. (Judith Schiebout)

Paleontologist at Large, Birmingham, Alabama

Caitlin R. Kiernan has begun preparation of a small platecarpine mosasaur from the Smoky Hill Chalk of western Kansas. Originally thought to be a second specimen of *Selmasaurus russelli*, the specimen (collected by Steve Johnson and Mike Everhart and on loan to Columbus College) now appears to be a new taxon, having synapomorphies with both *S. russelli* and *Aplatecarpus planifrons*. It is hoped that description of the new material, along with a redescription of the obscure *AP. planifrons*, will yield important data on the systematics of this subfamily of masasauroids.

In November, Caitlin reexamined the holotype of *Selmasaurus russelli* and extracted a small matrix sample from the basilar canal of the basioccipital that was analyzed by Dr. Charles Smith of the Geological Survey of Alabama. Nannoplankton in the sample place the specimen (which has long remained undated due to poor locality data) within Zone CC-17 of Sissingh (1977), probably originating from the lower part of the Mooreville Chalk (basal Campanian). Caitlin (with the help of Jennifer Caudle of the University of Alabama at Birmingham) also continues her search for vertebrate-bearing exposures of the Ripley Formation (early Maastrichtian) in Georgia and Alabama. (Caitlin R. Kiernan)

Midwest Region

Cincinnati Museum Center

Since our last report we have been up to our ears in activity. The transfer of the University of Cincinnati's collection to the Museum has been finalized and a new IP curator (Colin Sumrall) is on board. We should have a new collection manager and a technician on staff by the time this goes to press. The Museum's latest touring exhibit *Beakman's World on Tour* will soon open and includes a dinosaur component that emphasizes the bird/dinosaur relationship for a general audience. This necessitated the purchase from the Royal Tyrrell Museum of two *Dromaeosaurus* casts that will later be recycled into our own dinosaur exhibit.

Field work over the summer resulted in a very popular *Earthwatch* styled dinosaur expedition to Drumheller for Museum volunteers where we collected several interesting bits of hadrosaur and ceratopsians. Excess funds raised by this project paid for a two-week trip to the Kansas Niobrara in collaboration with Dave Meyer of UC who is researching *Uintacrinus*. He managed to find a slab and the VP crew (including Glenn Storrs, Tamaki Sato, Derek Parker, and Jim Damico) came up with several good fossils. Our best specimens, however, were donated by Pete Bussen of Wallace (*Platecarpus* skull) and Mike and Pam Everhart of Derby (*Squalicorax* skull). We thank them and look forward to

working with them again this summer on two plesiosaur localities. Also, congratulations are in order for Derek Parker who won the Estes Award this year.

Closer to home, the discovery of an embolomere bone bed in western Kentucky has us excited about opening up a quarry in conjunction with the Kentucky Geological Survey this spring. Nothing of this sort has ever been found in the commonwealth before and we anticipate some notable results. Concentrate from Jim Farlow's Indiana sinkhole is also producing some good material, but we'll leave it to Jim to break the news on that!

VP volunteers Fred Moore, Hank Schlosser, Grace Castellini, Christy Connelly, Jim Clark, Jim Damico, George Riechmann, Larry Gruber, and Susan Jackson (and perhaps others I've forgotten!) are to be thanked for their diligent work during 1997. We all want to thank Wayne Wauligman for his donation of a dental air compressor and air dryer system for the lab. Thanks also to Roy Stegmann for his donation of exhibit cases for the Stegmann peccary exhibit, and to Jim Damico for his donation of needed field equipment.

A major organizational change at CMC (yet another) is also cause for celebration. The Children's Museum of Cincinnati has joined our ranks at Union Terminal and will be up and running by autumn. The addition of a third museum at UT will expand our membership base, attract repeat visitors, and go a long way to funding mission-driven activities that might otherwise be on a tight budget. Check it out! (Glenn Storrs)

Illinois State Geological Survey University of Illinois, Champaign/Urbana.

The Hell Creek Field program in South Dakota (led by Russ Jacobson, ISGS, and Steve Sroka, U of I Museum of Natural History) continued a third successful season. Two one-week sessions were held (July 13-19, and July 20-26) in which crews of 26 (week one) and 23 (week two) were involved in exploration and recovery of Hell Creek material.

This year we made a final excavation of our original *Edmontosaurus* site and found more material scattered some distance from the rest of the skeleton. This included several more vertebrae and the scapula.

Work this year concentrated on a new site found by the rancher. At this site in the base of a paleochannel we recovered material from an estimated three *Triceratops* individuals. Two of those represented disarticulated cranial (frill, jaw, and other elements) and postcranial material (vertebrae and limb material). The major find for the year was what may be a nearly complete moderate-sized skull of a *Triceratops*. Portions of the crews worked on the skull throughout the field program, and it was readied for the winter so that we could finish removal during the 1998 season.

Perhaps the most exciting highlight of the season for us was the recovery of a partial weathered nodosaur skull (jaws and portions of the cranium). We have yet to spend time preparing the specimen to see how much of the skull was present.

Since we had larger crews this year, a more intensive exploration program was undertaken. The effort located many more micro sites, scattered ceratopsian and hadrosaur remains, as well as some significant sites for work in future years.

As with previous years at the new micro sites we found abundant smaller vertebrate material including fish, crocodile, turtle, and dinosaur remains. This year a larger amount of invertebrate (some especially large bivalves) material was collected from some of the floodplain pond facies. These facies were also the source of much plant material (cones, nice leaves, etc.). Studies are being planned with Dr. Daniel Blake (U of I) and some of his students on the invertebrate material. With the discovery of the new *Triceratops* site (including the fairly complete skull) other sites found in 1996, such as one with a *Triceratops* limb (and probably other material) were left buried and untouched for this new season. We have held them in reserve for the 1998 or 1999 season (after the skull is removed and shipped).

This season, just before the dig, Steve and Russ also spent time visiting other digs and collections near to our area to do comparative work and work out cooperative arrangements towards a regional group working in the Hell Creek (which we hope to expand).

Preparation of the specimens from this season has begun as part of a class teaching preparation techniques and familiarization with dinosaur material to paleontology students (in cooperation with Dr. Daniel Blake at the U of I Geology Department). Plans are already in process (and crews being recruited) for the 1998 season when we will return again to work on the old and new sites (especially working on recovery of the skull). (Russ Jacobson, ISGS)

Illinois State Museum

Since last heard from, Jeff Saunders has prepared and submitted papers on the morphometrics and butchery of *Mammuthus columbi* from the Dent Site, Colorado, and, with Beth Dawson, one on the implications of juvenile *Pachycrocuta brevirostris* on the basis of modified bones from the Haro River Quarry, Pakistan. At this year's end he completed the task of editing (with Bonnie Styles and Gennady Baryshnikov) 17 manuscripts contributed to a joint Russian, Ukrainian, and American workshop volume titled *Paleozoology in the Northern Hemisphere*. In addition he completed text editing of an English translation of *The Exterior of the Mammoth* (N. K. Vereshchagin and A. N. Tikhonov, 1992, in Russian). Illustrations are now being assembled to enable the publication of this current Russian view of mammoths, in large part on the basis of mummified material.

The big news in our program is the appointment, effective at the New Year, of Rickard Toomey to the Museum staff as an Assistant Curator in the Geology Section. Rick has been at the Museum for several years as a Research Associate. Toomey's change in position should allow him to concentrate more on various research that he has going. The paleontological studies he has undertaken with the National Park Service at Mammoth

Cave (Kentucky) are really beginning to take off. He and Mona Colburn have been very active this fall in mapping past bat usage near the main entrance to Mammoth Cave. This work will help the NPS in their plans to restore the cave environment near that entrance. The more general paleontological inventory of the caves of the park is just getting underway. Toomey and Colburn are cooperating with the NPS and the Cave Research Foundation on this ambitious project. Cave work in areas other than Mammoth Cave is also continuing. Recently, ISM crews have found Pleistocene bone in two of the longest and most visited caves in Illinois. In addition to his ongoing research, Toomey will remain active in several exciting education projects with which he has been working for the last several years.

Mona Colburn has been working on several projects recently. She has been working with Rick Toomey on the various paleontological projects at Mammoth Cave. In addition, she helped design and construct a fiberglass freshwater mussel shell used in exhibits and presentations at this past year's Illinois State Fair. (J. Saunders and R. Toomey)

Michigan State University Museum

Since our last submission, Alan Holman officially retired from the MSU Museum but continues to come in regularly and work on a variety of research projects, including his British Eocene herpetofauna. Al's successor, Mike Gottfried, spent the last several years at the Calvert Marine Museum in Maryland and is very pleased to now be at MSU. Mike's plans include continuing with a number of shark research projects, including further work on Late Cretaceous fishes and sharks from Madagascar (as part of Dave Krause's group), some isotopic analysis of fossil marine vertebrates with Peggy Ostrom in the MSU Geology Department, future collecting in and around Michigan, reorganizing and rehousing existing collections; and expanding and improving our fossil exhibits.

Two of Al's graduate students, Rachel Walker and Carl Doney, are planning to finish their Ph.D.s this semester, and Mike expects to welcome two or possibly three new grad students starting fall of 1998. Mike would like to thank Al, MSU Museum Director Kurt Dewhurst, and everyone else here for making him feel so welcome, and looks forward to many happy and productive years at MSU. (Mike Gottfried)

Museum of Geology, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology

The School of Mines' Paleontology Program is growing! We currently have nine active graduate students. Much to Jim Martin's and Carrie Herbel's delight, several of our new students have expressed great interest in mammalian paleontology. Amid the earlier focus of Cretaceous marine reptiles and dinosaurs, this brings added variety to our diverse program. Two recent students, Heather Findlayson and Janet Bertog, graduated in December 1997 with M.S. degrees in paleontology. Heather has elected to stay with the Museum assisting with several on-going projects, while Janet continues her education in a Ph.D. program at the University of Cincinnati focusing on bentonite correlation. Bruce Schumacher received his doctorate in May 1997. His dissertation on the stratigraphy and

paleontology of the Niobrara Formation was extremely well received. Currently he is responsible for surveying state lands in South Dakota. Congratulations to all three of them!

During January and February of this year, Jim Martin is participating in the Antarctica NSF project and is looking for Cretaceous vertebrates along with Dan Chaney of the Smithsonian, Judd Case of St. Mary's College, and a small group from Argentina. The rest of us in Rapid City remain warm (relatively speaking) and are thinking about our summer field paleo programs and miscellaneous research projects.

This coming spring and summer we are working at several different fossil localities in Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, and South Dakota. In May, we head to Fossil Lake, Oregon, looking for Pleistocene fish, mammals, and birds on BLM lands. This will be followed by examining other fossil localities in central Oregon and south-central Washington. During the month of June, several projects are anticipated on South Dakota state lands, eastern Wyoming Forest Service field surveys, and to assist Badlands National Park staff in opening an incredible Oligocene bone bed site within the Park. In July, we descend upon the Jurassic rocks of northeastern Wyoming focusing on our Allosaur Pit and looking for more of our nearly complete *Camarasaurus* skeleton. And finally in August, we will continue our intensive Cretaceous paleontological fieldwork along the Missouri River in central South Dakota with the assistance of the Corps of Engineers and the Crow Creek Indian Reservation. Gordon Bell is particularly fond of this project, as each year new mosasaurs are discovered along with incredible amounts of surrounding data to add to his understanding of these fascinating creatures. This project is followed by working the unique fissure-fill site in the northern Black Hills known as the Unwily Coyote Site. Phil Bjork continues to uncover new and diverse fauna from this Pliocene deposit.

In addition to these projects, the Museum is preparing for the upcoming 1998 Fossil Conference to be held here on October 13-16, 1998. This is the fifth conference of its type since its inception in 1986 by the National Park Service. We are working with Badlands National Park, U.S. Forest Service, BLM, and the North Dakota Geological Survey. If you are interested in this conference, please contact Rachel Benton at Badlands National Park for more information. (See Calendar of Events.)

These projects, plus continued preparation and curation of associated specimens, and the teaching and taking of classes keeps us all very busy throughout the year. (Carrie L. Herbel)

Rocky Mountain Region

Dinosaur National Monument, Utah

Scott Madsen and Ann Elder reopened a site in the Cedar Mountain Formation in the Monument where Tobe Wilkins excavated part of a sauropod foot in the mid-1980s. Field observations suggest that we have a bone bed containing at least two sauropods. Work will continue at the first hint of spring. Scott also spent a few days working on a Morrison

sauropod site in Curecanti National Recreation Area with Cathleen May and a field crew from SUNY at Stony Brook headed by Brian Curtice. NPS volunteers Dale Gray and Rod Joblove helped close the site. Ann spent two weeks in August working a site in Badlands NP with Rachel Benton (Badlands NP) and Joe DiBenedetto (South Dakota School of Mines), and a crew from the park. Though taphonomic studies are much more straightforward on horizontal surfaces (as opposed to 70° dips), working with Cenozoic mammal folks is good cross-training. Planning has begun for the Preparation of Fossil Vertebrates Symposium to be held prior to the 1998 SVP meetings in Snowbird, Utah. Start thinking about your abstracts now.

Copies of *Screenwashing and Associated Techniques for the Recovery of Microvertebrate Fossils* (Oklahoma Geological Survey Special Publication 96-4) by Rich Cifelli, Scott Madsen, and Beth Larson are available upon request from Scott.

Dan Chure's thesis on the genus *Allosaurus* is perilously close to completion and has expanded to include a review of all taxa ever referred to the Allosauridae (a mixed bag indeed). Dan and Jim Madsen have a paper in press (*JVP*) on an unusual basicranium of *Stokesosaurus* from the Cleveland Lloyd Quarry. Dan has three papers accepted for the upcoming *Gaiatheropod* paleobiology volume, one on radiological surveying for subsurface bone (with Ramal Jones), one on the scavenging of an *Allosaurus* skeleton (with Tony Fiorillo and Aase Jacobsen), and one on the orbital shape in theropods. Dan was recently promoted to NPS Research Scientist and his main responsibility is now research and publication. (Dan Chure)

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

Mike Cassiliano arrived in Laramie during the spring from Long Island University to take over the collection manager's position from J.-P. Cavigelli (see item in the Bulletin Board section). While learning the ins and outs of the collection manager's duties, he has managed to shepherd three publications into print: a study of the taphonomy of Blaccan Irvingtonian vertebrates in the Palm Spring Formation of southern California (*Palaeo*³), a description and interpretation of depositional environments in the Huesos Member of the Palm Spring Formation and a proposal to recognize the Huesos as a formal lithostratigraphic unit (*Contributions to Geology*), and a review of the ecophysical literature that demonstrates the link between climate and physiology of crocodylians and large land tortoises so that the fossils of these animals can be used as reliable paleotemperature proxies (*Paleoclimates*). Mike also has a manuscript in review with *JVP* on the biostratigraphy of Blaccan and Irvingtonian mammals in the Palm Spring Formation with a review of the Blaccan Irvingtonian boundary and is nearly ready to submit a manuscript to the California Academy of Sciences that corrects and formalizes the stratigraphic nomenclature of the Palm Spring Formation and its subunits other than the Huesos Member. Mike's last project, aside from managing the UW collections, is organizing a symposium on vertebrate paleoecology for SVP '98. The symposium will include talks covering case studies, theory, methods of paleoecological investigation, and lessons/implications from paleoecological studies for understanding Recent communities of vertebrates.

Jay Lillegraven is happier than any clam has a right to be with the signing up of Michael Louis Cassiliano as our Collections Manager. Mike has jumped in with both feet, and already he is making a huge difference in the quality of our operation. And for those of you out there who failed to return long-overdue specimen loans upon our politely made previous requests, please note that Mike is quite a large and strong fellow of Italian descent, and you really, really don't want him coming after you. For pure amusement, Jay and Mike recently submitted a third-attempt proposal to NSF's program for Research Collections in Systematics and Ecology for curatorial improvement of our VP collection. Such submissions have become an annual tradition with Jay as he tries to convince the panel that strong, but relatively small, regional collections also should have a turn at the public trough. On another matter, Jay encourages members of the paleo community having geological interests to keep eyes peeled for the spring 1998 premiere of *Rocky Mountain Geology* to be published semi-annually by Wyoming's Department of Geology and Geophysics.

Fall semester 1997 was conceivably the most trying (yet enjoyable) semester of Pennilyn Higgins' academic career. She passed her written preliminary examination toward her Ph.D. and managed to pass several very difficult courses (including physical chemistry) at the same time. In her spare time she took a foray into the world of screenwriting, completing the first 30 pages of a full-length feature screenplay. Happily, she survived the tumultuous semester with flying colors and is ready to get on to writing her dissertation. Still amazingly optimistic, she plans to graduate on time, in August of 1999.

Ph.D. candidate Michael Webb has just completed a fall semester of geology coursework, and looks forward to looking at some Lancian mammal teeth from the Bighorn Basin this spring. Recent projects include several articles for the upcoming *Encyclopedia of Paleontology*, and getting parts of his master's thesis on Paleocene mammals from Alberta (Canada) ready for submittal. Michael also awaits his Ph.D. preliminary exams in spring.

John Burris will be finishing up his thesis this spring. He will use the reworked shark and ray teeth he collected from the Hanna Formation and surrounding Late Cretaceous formations, as well as other sedimentological and structural evidence, to address questions of the erosional/depositional evolution of the Hanna Basin.

Anton Wroblewski spent the fall completing three manuscripts on the evolution of fluvial and estuarine channel belts in the Ferris Formation, the paleoecology of the Lancian-Puercan transition in south-central Wyoming, and theropod tooth assemblages from the Lancian Ferris Formation. On top of that, Anton prepared core samples from the Mesaverde Group near the Rock Springs Uplift for slabbing and porosity testing in Denver, made several trips into the field to collect additional geological data, and prepared abstracts for GSA and AAPG meetings in the spring.

Kelli Trujillo is continuing her work on microvertebrates in the Morrison Formation, with an emphasis on the mammals.

Brent Breithaupt (UW Geological Museum) continues to increase the visibility of the museum as he revamps displays and develops new public/education programs. He continues his work on various projects dealing with the history of vertebrate paleontology in the West and Mesozoic and Early Cenozoic lower vertebrate faunas. (Brent Breithaupt)

Weber State University

Jeff Eaton and his students continue their never-ending field work in the Cretaceous and early Tertiary of southwestern Utah with the help of Howard Hutchison, Pat Holroyd, Dave Archibald, and Steve Diem. Collections of vertebrates are gradually increasing from the Cretaceous Straight Cliffs and Iron Springs formations of the Markagunt Plateau and significant new localities in the Wahweap Formation were found during the past field season.

Undergraduate vertebrate paleontological research projects on the Cretaceous faunas recovered from the Paunsaugunt and Markagunt plateaus at Weber State involve many students: Heidi Munk is working on the herpetiles (with the help of Janet Gillette), Angie Nebeker the crocodylians, and Megan Hardman the sharks and rays. Shino Sugimoto is sharpening her preparation skills under the supervision of Janet Gillette (Utah Museum of Natural History).

Continued research is planned over the next few field seasons to complete correlation across the Cretaceous section and interpret the developmental history of the Sevier foreland basin in the area. (Jeff Eaton)

West Coast Region

Occidental College, Los Angeles, California

Don Prothero just received a \$30,000 grant from the Petroleum Research Fund to work on the marine Eocene of California. Some of the results of the previous summers' field work are already in. The most surprising is the magnetic pattern from the A-type Montedielan (late Clarendonian) Black Hawk Ranch Quarry north of Danville, California. The 500 feet of section above and below the quarry is entirely reversed, forcing a serious rethinking of what late Clarendonian means.

Don was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society of America in October. It's nice to be acknowledged as a geologist, and not just as a paleontologist!

The textbook *Bringing Fossils to Life: An Introduction to Paleobiology* is now already in its second printing (after just two months in print). It can be ordered at the W. C. Brown/McGraw-Hill Web site, www.mhhe.com. (Don Prothero)

UNITED KINGDOM

University of Bristol

Axel Hungerbühler has submitted his Ph.D. thesis on the taxonomy and phylogeny of the phytosaurs from the Studensandstein (Late Triassic, Lower to Middle Norian) of southwestern Germany. This includes a redescription of the skull of *Nicrosaurus kapffi*, a robust phytosaur characterized by a prominent prenasal crest, and a study on intraspecific character variation in this taxon. New morphological data have been gathered from a number of hitherto neglected specimens which are usually referred to the dubious name *Abelodon plieningeri*. The specimens actually represent a second species of *Nicrosaurus*, and have allowed the diagnosis of this genus by autapomorphies. In the slender-snouted genus *Mystriosuchus*, new cranial features were found which support the presence of two species, and help to clarify the debated phylogenetic position of the genus.

Since his thesis on embryos of the Lower Jurassic ichthyosaur *Stenopterygius*, Axel has maintained a lively interest in this group. In collaboration with Michael Maisch (Tübingen), a review of the giant ichthyosaur *Temnodontosaurus* is in preparation. A redescription and systematic evaluation of the Middle Liassic *Temnodontosaurus nuertingensis* has already been published. In a second paper, important new evidence on the temporal region of post-Triassic ichthyosaurs will be presented and discussed. Additionally, a survey of the poorly known Lower Jurassic and Cretaceous ichthyosaur faunas from northern Germany has been undertaken. The first results were published in two papers (co-authored by Sven Sachs, Düsseldorf), the first dealing with a large Pliensbachian temnodontosaurid and the second on the remains of a Middle Jurassic ichthyosaur, both from the Bielefeld region (Westphalia).

Richard Kemp and David Unwin have restudied all the skeletons of *Archaeopteryx*, and they have discovered that these fall into two distinct preservational categories: one set of relatively undisturbed skeletons, and another set that have been partially disarticulated. They have disproved an earlier notion that the seven described skeletons form an east-to-west series of disarticulation as they were washed across the Solnhofen lagoon.

David Unwin, Liz Cook, Susan Evans (UCL), and several Japanese paleontologists have started a joint program to investigate Lower Cretaceous vertebrate localities of central Honshu, Japan. The sites have yielded hundreds of disarticulated remains of fishes, frogs, choristoderes, turtles, dinosaurs, and possible birds. The sediments indicate a terrestrial/freshwater setting, and the site has key importance for paleogeographic studies. Liz Cook is continuing with her work on the taphonomy of the vertebrates from this area. In addition, she is currently working on a Geological Conservation Review volume describing the Mesozoic, Tertiary, and Quaternary mammal and bird localities in the British Isles.

Clive Trueman has found that bones absorb characteristic rare earth element (REE) signatures from groundwaters soon after burial. The bones then appear to retain the REE signatures, even after reworking. He has shown the value of this new technique for detecting reworking by comparisons of similar bones from different Rhaetic bone beds.

around Bristol. His analyses of dinosaur bones from a variety of facies in the Late Cretaceous of Montana have shown that REE signatures vary greatly, but reflect groundwater chemistry rather than simply the environment of deposition.

Mike King is near the completion of his revision of all the classic Middle Triassic vertebrate footprints of England. Many species were named as far back as the 1830s, and he finds that the diversity and stratigraphic distributions of taxa are much simpler than could ever be imagined from the tortuous literature on the subject. One discovery was that numerous Early and Middle Triassic three-toed dinosaur footprints were nothing of the sort (had they been dinosaurian, they would have substantially predated the first bony remains of dinosaurs). The Lower Triassic specimens turned out to be inorganic mudflakes, curious ripple marks, and the like and the Middle Triassic specimens were broken parts of more typical five-toed footprints of primitive reptiles.

David Unwin and Jo Wright have added some additional evidence to a long-running dispute about the terrestrial abilities of pterosaurs. They have described some footprints from France, England, and the United States which they claim show that pterosaurs were generally quadrupedal on the ground. They have also reported the largest pterosaur footprints, from the Purbeck in Dorset. These are over 20 cm long, indicating the presence of pterosaurs with wing spans of 5 m or more.

Jo Wright's further work on footprints from the Purbeck has shown how the dinosaur *Iguanodon* walked: one trackway indicates that the animal walked generally on its hind limbs, but that it put down a hand here and there to steady itself. Another track shows the hitherto unsuspected presence of nodosaurid ankylosaurs in the Purbeck. Jo's work on the Late Triassic and Early Jurassic dinosaur tracks of the Connecticut Valley, USA, has also sorted out a nomenclatural tangle, and it has shown that most of the tracks were made by theropods, with rarer Otozoum prints made by a basal thyreophoran.

Mike Benton and Becky Hitchin have begun an extensive program of testing how well the fossil record corresponds to evidence for phylogeny, or the shape of the history of life. The fossil record is patchy, some would say notoriously incomplete. Until recently, this kind of assertion could not be quantified in any realistic way; it was possible only to compare relative measures of completeness between two units of time, or between two groups of organisms. A new approach is now possible. Phylogenies are routinely reconstructed by the use of information on the distribution of morphological or molecular characters, and without reference to stratigraphy. Such phylogenies may then be compared with stratigraphic data to assess congruence. Our studies of 400 phylogenies have confirmed that the fossil records of echinoderms, fishes, and tetrapods are better than random (good news for paleontologists), and indeed that the fossil records of all three groups are equally good. This latter result did not confirm the usual assumption that marine fossil records are better than continental. Further analyses have shown that fossil collecting generally improves the match of stratigraphic and phylogenetic data, again a vindication for the labors of paleontologists.

Mike Benton has continued to worry about the differences between logistic and exponential models of the long-term diversification of life. New data from The Fossil Record 2 confirmed a clearly exponential model for the diversification of vertebrates and for the diversification of continental life (plants and animals combined). Such exponential patterns imply that there is no (immediate) limit to the diversity level that might be achieved. The pattern of diversification for marine animals and plants retains a Paleozoic plateau, as indicated by other investigators before, and hence suggests a logistic pattern of diversification, with a fixed global carrying capacity. The problem is to determine whether these differences between marine and continental life are real or not, and if not, which is correct. Mike Benton made a related investigation of the nature of the origins of all 1,000 families of tetrapods with a fossil record: only 13% of these could be said to have displaced a preexisting family. The remaining 87% all apparently originated into empty ecospace; possible confirmation of an exponential pattern of diversification.

Mike Benton and David Gower have completed their reanalysis of the archosaurs of the Middle Triassic of England. They found that Sir Richard Owen, first to describe such material in the 1840s, had confounded remains of a variety of animals: the jaws of temnospondyl amphibians, the steak-knife teeth of archosaurs, and the hind limbs and vertebrae of archosaurs. From this mix, he created a monstrous amphibian, a three-to-four-meter-long frog from hell, which was duly reconstructed in solid form for the Crystal Palace exhibition in the 1850s. Owen's specimens, and new material from Devon found by Patrick Spencer, show that the English Middle Triassic archosaurs included a poposaurid, *Bromsgroveia*, and a variety of others known only from teeth.

Matt Wills has continued to explore methods for producing comparable cladistic and phenetic treatments of the same character matrices, refining approaches for ordered and differentially-weighted characters. These are currently being applied to data sets for fishes and pterosaurs, in conjunction with Becky Hitchin and David Unwin.

Simone Klutzny is analyzing mammal evolution in an unusual way, by studying the *ala temporalis*, a structure in the braincase, of embryos of a variety of species. Characteristic features of the *ala temporalis* can be diagnosed consistently by cartilaginous or ossified connections and relationships to soft-tissue structures such as nerve branches, blood vessels, and muscle attachments.

Paul Upchurch (School of Biological Sciences) has continued with his work on sauropod phylogeny and now has a new paper (including a complete data matrix) in press for the *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*. He is now turning his full attention to work on dinosaur biogeography as well as looking for a job (hint).

Gilles Cuny has identified an unusual aspect of the early evolution of sharks by means of SEM studies of tooth ultrastructures. It was generally thought that modern sharks, the neoselachians, radiated in the late Jurassic, replacing the previously dominant thyrodont sharks. Studies of large collections of isolated teeth from late Triassic localities show that neoselachians were already diverse and abundant at that time. He has found good

evidencethat *Vallisia coppi* from the British Upper Triassic is not a neoselachian. He intends to begin a study of the enameloid of teeth of *Wodnika* and *Hopleacanthus* from the Permian to trace the origin of the neoselachian lineage. A collaboration is also underway with Eric Buffetaut (CNRS, Paris) and Henri Cappetta (University of Montpellier) to study some freshwater sharks from the Lower Cretaceous of Thailand.

Gareth Dyke has started a Ph.D. grandly titled *The origin of modern birds*. He plans to look in detail at the avifaunas of the Eocene localities such as the Green River Formation, the Messel Shale, the Phosphorites du Quercy, and, most importantly, the London Clay with the aim of characterizing the diversification of modern bird lineages. Other projects include the phylogeny of the Avareosauridae and the Recent and fossil gruiform birds. Gareth is also writing up field work conducted in collaboration with Dave Varricchio (Old Trail Museum) on the taphonomy and sedimentology of the Lower Two Medicine Formation, Montana.

Don Henderson has begun an ambitious project to quantify the precise details of bipedal locomotion in theropod dinosaurs. He enters three-dimensional models of each of the bones in the hind limbs into a scientific visualization package, and codes the precise ranges of movement of each joint. He has animated the walking and running patterns of *Allosaurus*, and will add other theropods with different body shapes. This technique allows a more realistic assessment of true patterns of movement at different speeds, and it allows calculation of stresses on every bone element at every stage of movement. With this work, he hopes to answer some long-debated questions about how these dinosaurs walked and how fast they ran.

Bob Savage has published a study of early elephantoids, and he is investigating two mammal skeletons from the Middle Jurassic of Skye. He is also examining the work of Edward Owen, who in the 1750s published the first geological account of Bristol, including detailed study of the Avon Gorge, Cotham Landscape Marble, Bristol Diamonds, and the Hotwells. (Gareth Dyke)

University of Portsmouth, Palaeobiology Group

Hello again, sorry we did not report in the last newsletter, I guess preparing our poster displays for SVP Chicago impinged on our time. Vertebrate paleontology seems to be gaining in strength at Portsmouth. Once more Dave Loydell, our graptolite man, is studying vertebrates, this time conodonts. He is currently involved in an integrated biostratigraphical study of the Ohesaare borehole from Estonia with Dim Kaljo and Peep Mälik. This is a largely Silurian sequence rich in marine faunas. Mike Barker is working with volunteer Jane Clarke on the histology of some unusual osteoderms from the Lower Cretaceous of the Isle of Wight, while our joint paper (Jane, Mike, and I) contrasting the taphonomy of bones from marine and terrestrial sequences came out in the *Bulletin of the Geological Society of France* with a color plate. We think you will agree that the extra expense was worthwhile.

Discoveries this year include a few more dinosaur bones from the Isle of Wight, as well as some exciting new material from the Cretaceous of Brazil. Our undergraduate students are busy assembling an ophthalmosaur from the Middle Jurassic of Peterborough, while collaboration with Arthur Cruickshank at Leicester Museum continues on some new pliosaur material with soft tissues.

We have four new graduate students started this academic year. Aaron (Stig) Walsh is looking at the taphonomy and sedimentology of bone beds, while Jan Toporski is investigating the mechanisms of fossilization of bacteria. What has this to do with vertebrates you may ask? Well, much of his material comes from fish coprolites, although some comes from Martian meteorites! Fossil bacteria are pretty damn important in the fossilization of soft tissues, especially in vertebrates. Darren Naish is reexamining Wealden dinosaurs from the Isle of Wight while Shiela Briley will be working on marine reptiles for the local Upper Jurassic Kimmeridge Clay.

Collaboration with the Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Karlsruhe, Germany, with Dino Frey is going very well indeed. We have descriptions of three new pterosaur specimens in press, as well as of a new and exciting dinosaur. Our description of the rediscovery of the holotype of the giant pterosaur *Arambourgiani* should be published by the time you read this. You might also have heard about our pterosaur with a 13-m wing span. If not, then look out for big bits of ornithocheirids in the Lower Cretaceous, because they are there and their wing spans beat azdarchids by two meters. (Dave Martill)

C BULLETIN BOARD C

PAL?ONTOLOGISCHEZEITSCHRIFT WITH NEW LAYOUT

Pal@ntologischeZeitschrift is the journal published by Pal@ntologischeGesellschaft, the professional society for German-language paleontology. Now in its 71st year, *Pal@ntologischeZeitschrift* has received a substantial facelift and is published quarterly. The new format sports a two-column layout on an A4 page (a little taller but narrower than American letter size). This layout is easier to read than the old single-column format, allows more layout flexibility, and, best of all, providesample space for high quality illustrations. Maximum length of articles is 20 printed pages.

Other things *Pal@ntologischeZeitschrift* has going for it are a quick turnaround time, currently no backlog, and no page charges. Instructions for authors are printed on the inside back cover. They and further information are also available from the chief editor, Prof. Dr. R. Schroeder (Geologisch-Pal@ntologisches Institut der Universit@, Senckenberg-Anlage 32, D-60054 Frankfurt, Germany), and the vertebrate paleo editor, Dr. Martin Sander (Institute of Paleontology, University of Bonn, Nussallee 8, D-53115 Bonn, Germany, e-mail: gee.sander@uni-bonn.de). (Martin Sander)

FIELD WORK SUPPORT OFFERED

Do you have a small team that will be working in the West during the summer of 1998? Would you like a few days break from doing your own cooking and cleaning? As an amateur member of SVP, I would be willing to trade some drudgery for a few tall tales around the campfire. I have up to one week available following a field biology workshop in Yellowstone. I can not only pay for my own victuals, but can bring in perishables to spruce up your diet. My chuck wagon comes complete with a hand-cranked ice-cream maker, stove-top popcorn popper, and I may even have a portable shower rigged up in my pickup by then. If interested, contact Dave Dietz at (707) 526-5010 (day) or (707) 433-8113 (eve.); fax (707) 526-9721; critters@sonic.net.

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING LOANS

I have recently taken over the position of collections manager at the University of Wyoming. Jay Lillegraven and I appreciate the interest of the VP community in our vertebrate fossil collection. Jay and the former collections manager, J.-P. Cavigelli, computerized the specimen and locality records. I am now planning to update and improve those records by re-curating the collection. In order to accomplish this major goal, I have two requests to make. The first is that if you are finished with any UW specimens that you borrowed, please return them. The second is that if you are still studying the specimens, please send a list of the specimens you have so that I can confirm what specimens are where and with whom. Please include the UW loan number with any returned specimen or confirmation lists. Your cooperation is deeply appreciated as it will preclude my having to contact loan recipients individually. Specimen/confirmation lists can be sent to: Michael Cassiliano, Collections Manager, Department of Geology and Geophysics, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82071-3006; mcassil@uwyo.edu; fax (307) 766-6679. (Mike Cassiliano)

C CALENDAR OF EVENTS C

CONFERENCE ON FOSSIL RESOURCES

The Fifth Conference on Fossil Resources: Partners Preserving Our Past, Protecting Our Future will be held at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn, Rapid City, South Dakota, on October 13-16, 1998. Themes include: Education and Outreach; Science and Research on Public Lands; Paleontology and the Public Trust; Technology and Paleontology; Paleontological Resource Management; Curation, Preparation and Conservation; and Partnerships. Abstract and paper submittals are due April 17, 1998. A one-day field trip is included in the registration cost of \$150. The Conference is being hosted by the National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, South Dakota Discovery Center and Aquarium, and the North Dakota Geological Survey. For more information, please contact Rachel Benton, Badlands National Park, P. O. Box 6, Interior SD 57750; (605) 433-5361, ext. 261. (Carrie L. Herbel and Rachel Benton)

C PUBLICATIONS C

**FOSSILLAGERSTÄTTER OTT BEI HENNEF IM
SIEBENGEIRGEGEN DAS LEBEN AN EINEM SUBTROPISCHEN SEE VOR 25
MILLIONEN JAHREN** (WIGHART VON KOENIGSWALD, ED.). Rheinlandia
Verlag, Siegburg 1996, 109 pp., many color pictures. ISBN 3-931509-12-5. Price DM
40.00.

Fossils from a time 25 million years ago document life in and around a subtropical fresh-water lake in the volcanic surroundings of Germany's former capital Bonn. The fossil record shows impressively that life conditions and life forms are permanently changing. This book includes 12 contributions on this famous Messel-like oil shale locality, present the current state of knowledge. The topics covered are geology, mining history, sedimentology, paleobotany, insects, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and portraits of the paleontologists who have studied the fossils (e.g., L. Agassiz and E. D. Cope). The extraordinary well-preserved plants, insects, and vertebrates are illustrated with many color pictures.

**TOOTH ENAMEL MICROSTRUCTURE. PROCEEDINGS OF THE ENAMEL
MICROSTRUCTURE WORKSHOP, UNIVERSITY OF BONN, ANDERNACH,
RHINE, 24-28 JULY 1994.** (WIGHART V. KOENIGSWALD AND MARTIN
SANDER, EDS.). Balkema Publ. 1997, 288 pp., many figures. ISBN 90-5410-667-0.
Price US\$95.00.

Enamel, the shiny material covering teeth of vertebrates, is the hardest tissue the vertebrate body can produce and one of the most impressive products of biomineralization. This hard tissue is closely related to feeding, the first part in the energy intake process so basic to vertebrate life. Enamel has a complex internal microstructure full of phylogenetic and biomechanic information.

Although research was long centered around human enamel, its structure is far from representative for the structural diversity seen in the mammalian spectrum. The authors, paleontologists, mammalogists, and dentists draw on long experience in research on enamel microstructure in reptiles as well as in mammals. Including their own results, they provide a survey of the state-of-the-art research in this field. Important aspects are the variability of enamel microstructure at the various hierarchical levels, ranging from the crystallite level to the dentition level, biomechanical constraints, and evolutionary trends documented in the fossil record. In addition, the ontogeny of enamel is discussed and the first glossary of terms used in the description of enamel microstructure is presented.

PLEISTOCENE AND HOLOCENE FAUNA OF CRETE AND ITS FIRST SETTLERS

A new book from Prehistory Press, edited by David S. Reese, includes topics such as the Pleistocene sites and dates, the paleogeographic and pre-Pleistocene background, Pleistocene animals, Holocene animals, and prehistoric archaeology. It is available from University Museum Publications, The University of Pennsylvania Museum of

Archaeology and Anthropology, 33rd and Spruce Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6324; phone (800) 306-1941; publications@vax.museum.upenn.edu.

HALF-PRICE CLEARANCE SALE OF VP/BIOSTRATIGRAPHY PUBLICATIONS

The New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources is sponsoring a half-price clearance sale of many of its titles in VP and biostratigraphy. For more information or a complete listing, call, fax, or write: Special Offer 98-1, New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, NM 87801-5410; phone (505) 835-5410; fax (505) 835-6333.

OBITUARIES

JACK M. CALLAWAY, 1930-1997

It is with great sadness that we report that Jack M. Callaway passed away on November 20, 1997, after a two-year battle with cancer. During his illness, he still managed to co-edit (with Elizabeth Nicholls) "Ancient Marine Reptiles," as well as contribute a chapter about his own research on ichthyosaurs. Jack was cheered by the news at the October SVP meeting that the book was in its second printing. The work is a fitting legacy of Jack's dedication and enthusiasm for vertebrate paleontology.

Vertebrate paleontology was actually Jack's second career. Growing up in the ranch country of the south Texas coastal plain, Jack's first fascination was with aviation. After graduating from high school in the small town of Taft, Texas, he attended the University of Texas, Austin. He majored in geology, but left after three years when he had the opportunity to enter the U.S. Navy flight program. After the two-year program, he became an officer and a naval aviator. Jack's love of the naval service, and of naval aviation in particular, led to a career of 24 years, which included time as an instructor in the Navy's Topgun school. Early in his naval career, Jack married Beverly A. Evans. Their son and daughter were born on Bermuda, where Jack was stationed for three years. Unfortunately, not all of his naval service was so idyllic. His service spanned times of war, and included many long months at sea, away from family.

Jack had plenty of flying stories, but being a modest man, these had to be pried free. Once, following an engine flameout, Jack instructed his navigator to eject, and then landed his disabled Phantom on the ocean surface. Using the arrestor hook in the tail to gauge his approach, he touched down, with only seconds to spare, before the aircraft slipped beneath the waves. He recounted what it was like being on an aircraft carrier at night: the short eternity, strapped inside the cockpit, waiting to be catapulted into the dark. And when the mission was over, you had to find your way back to the small speck of light on the ocean and land upon it. It is not hard to imagine that clean-cut Texan going about the serious business of flying with rock-steady assurance.

During his years in the Navy, Jack developed an intense interest in vertebrate paleontology, largely inspired by his visits to the many museums throughout the world. After his retirement with the rank of Commander, Jack and Beverly moved to Laramie so Jack could complete his long-interrupted degree. He earned his B.A. in geology from the University of Wyoming in 1976 and then enrolled in the graduate program at UW. Jack already had a strong interest in ichthyosaurs, and we (JM) would get together in front of the *Myopterygius* skull and talk about life in the Mesozoic oceans. Family considerations and a growing disinterest in early Tertiary mammals led to his leaving UW after two years in graduate school.

Back in Texas, Jack taught high school earth science for a year in San Antonio. Then he worked for the consulting firm of Morrison-Knudsen for five years as a coal and mining geologist involved with the development of lignite resources in Texas. Jack never lost interest in vertebrate paleontology, and continued to attend SVP meetings regularly, but he believed that time was against him. It was the encouragement and urging of Robert Bakker, by then a good friend of Jack's, that finally persuaded Jack to return to graduate school. Jack entered the University of Rochester's graduate program in 1985. His advisor was a new Ph.D., some 20+ years his junior. At subsequent SVP meetings, it was often difficult for others to figure out who was the student and who was the professor. Jack took it all in stride (although he never did take orders). Jack completed his M.S. in 1987, and his Ph.D. in 1989, at an age when most folks are thinking about retirement! When Jack began his dissertation research, only a few paleontologists were interested in ichthyosaurs. Today the numbers have probably quadrupled and a large portion of them are working on Triassic ichthyosaurs and ichthyosaur origins, the subjects of Jack's dissertation. His paper on the geographic and stratigraphic distribution of ichthyosaurs may well have been a starting point for some of them. We would like to think that Jack's infectious enthusiasm played a part in stimulating interest in ichthyosaurs, and in marine reptiles in general. Jack was free with his ideas and information, and was always encouraging to others entering the field.

After a year at UR as a post doc, Jack returned again to south Texas in 1990, this time as an Assistant Professor at Laredo Junior College, with a joint appointment at Texas A&M International University. He was promoted to Associate Professor and granted tenure a few years later. He taught courses in introductory geology, earth history, and vertebrate paleontology. Jack loved teaching and continued teaching throughout his illness, even until two days before his death. Jack's publications include many papers describing new Triassic ichthyosaur specimens, and one on ichthyosaurian affinities in which he established that ichthyosaurs are diapsids.

Jack was a lucky man. He had two distinguished, totally separate, careers. And he remained operational right to the end, which comes as no surprise to anyone who knew him. He once described what a good aircraft the Phantom was: "A tough old bird," he said. But no tougher than Jack. We will miss Commander Jack tremendously, especially at the SVP banquet where there won't be another Spitfire tie to be seen. (Judy Massare and Chris McGowan)

A. S. Romer B.G. Simpson Medal
**** Call for 1998 Nominations ****

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

1987 Everett C. Olson 1988 Bobb Schaeffer

1989 Edwin H. Colbert 1990 Richard Estes

1992 Loris R. Russell 1993 Zhou Ming-zhen

1994 John H. Ostrom 1995 Zofia Kielan-Jaworowska

1996 Percy Butler 1997 Colin Patterson

Nominations must include a formal nominating letter and at least two seconding letters of support; there is no limit on the number of supporting letters that can be submitted. Nominating and supporting letters should explain how the individual being nominated fits the criteria for the award, emphasizing the nominee's contributions to vertebrate paleontology over the span of his or her career. Nominees should not be informed by the nominator or by anyone else that they are under consideration for the award. It is the responsibility of the nominator to gather all original letters and forward these to the committee chair by no later than April 1, 1998.

Please address questions and send complete nomination packets to: Dr. Audrone R. Biknevičius, Department of Biological Sciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine, Ohio University, Athens, OH 45701-2979, USA. (740) 593-0487; fax (740) 593-9180; e-mail: biknevic@ohiou.edu.

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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