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SVP HEADQUARTERS – STAFF TRANSITIONS
After approximately five years of service, Sean Allen resigned from the SVP Headquarters staff effective 18 June 2004 to pursue new career opportunities. We wish Sean much success in his new endeavors.

Join us in welcoming Thom Gauthier, CAE, as the SVP Executive Director. Thom joined the SVP Headquarters office on 6 July 2004 and we are delighted to have him on board. Thom's 25 years of association experience includes stints as Executive Director with the Hemophilia Foundation of Illinois, the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, and the National Association of Social Workers, Illinois Chapter. Thom can be reached at tgauthier@vertpaleo.org or (847) 480-9095, ext. 224.

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— NEWS FROM MEMBERS —

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

Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Ontario

The CMN team has expanded this year with Tamaki Sato joining us as a postdoctoral research fellow working with Xiao-chun Wu, and supported by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. Tamaki will be at the CMN for the next two years, working on plesiosaurs. At the time of writing Xiao-chun is partaking in fieldwork in China.

Robin Cuthbertson is another addition to the team—he is studying hadrosaurs for his M.Sc. degree (Carleton University), supervised by Rob Holmes. Rob is also busy with various ceratopsian projects, as well as continuing work on early amphibians (with Jason Anderson, Western University of Health Sciences). Rob is busy travelling this year, having attended the very well-run First Mosasaur Meeting in Maastricht (with Alison Murray), participating in fieldwork in Nova Scotia (with Jason Anderson), and later in the summer he will be in Alberta to examine material at the Tyrrell (with Michael Ryan).

Alison is continuing her work on African Tertiary ichthyofaunas. After fieldwork in Egypt last fall (with Elwyn Simons, Duke University) she is spending this summer skeletonizing modern fishes to aid in describing all the many fossil fishes from those sites.

Stephen Cumbaa and Rick Day hosted colleague Olga Afanassieva (Paleontological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences) for fieldwork in Devonian deposits of northern New Brunswick and Gaspé, Quebec in May. They will be joined by Tamaki for continuing fieldwork in Saskatchewan and Manitoba in the later summer, for research on Cretaceous deposits containing plesiosaurs, mosasaurs, birds, and fish. (Alison Murray)

Heritage Resources, Yukon Government, Whitehorse, Yukon
The Ice Age of Yukon continues to yield new fossil mammals. Thistle Creek, near the southern end of the Klondike Goldfields, is the source of both a last interglacial fauna (being studied) and a Middle Pleistocene assemblage (in press in *Paludicola*). The Fort Selkirk fauna (Early Pleistocene, 1.55–1.6 mya) has now been researched, with publications on *Microtus deceitensis* (2003, in *Quaternary Research*), and a new mustelid (in press, *Paludicola*). A Late Pliocene locality on the Old Crow River, CRH-94 (2.3 mya) has produced a few rodent teeth representing three species, and evidently there will not be many specimens to study even though there is a lot of concentrate to sort. A July–August trip to the Old Crow with Duane Froese (University of Alberta) will search for more sites.

Our first paper on the mid-Cretaceous dinosaur tracks from Ross River (with Roland Gangloff and Kevin May, University of Alaska–Fairbanks) will appear this year in *Ichnos*.

I am editing a group of manuscripts arising from the Third International Mammoth Conference, held in Dawson City, Yukon last year, for publication in a special issue of *Quaternary International*.

We look forward to the arrival in Whitehorse of Paul Matheus and his wife Toos. They plan to move here from Fairbanks during the summer. (John Storer)

Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Ontario
Gallery planning has been taking up much of our time. Certainly the lab is humming with all the work required to get specimens ready for display. Research Casting International will be doing (or re-doing) all of our large mounts (dinosaurs and mammals) for the new gallery. Palaeobiology will get administratively re-organized into a larger Natural History department this summer, along with all other science departments at ROM.

Kevin Seymour has had a paper accepted in *Michigan Academician* on the Pleistocene vertebrates from Mill Creek, Michigan. The paper he wrote on empirical data for archaeological fish-weight analyses will be a chapter in Kitty Emery's new book on Maya zooarchaeology. Finally, a tribute to Loris Russell will soon appear in the *Canadian Field-Naturalist*.

Thomas Carr has accepted a position at Carthage College, Kenosha, Wisconsin. We will miss him and wish him the best! (Kevin Seymour)

Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, Drumheller, Alberta
Phil Currie is continuing his studies of theropod dinosaurs from Alberta, Argentina, southern China, and elsewhere. He and Eva are in the final stages of editing a book on the paleontology of Dinosaur Provincial Park. It is hoped that this will be published in 2005, the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Park.

David Eberth is undertaking studies of the stratigraphy and paleoenvironments of the Late Campanian/Early Maastrichtian Edmonton Group. Xiao-chun Wu and Don Brinkman are working with David in documenting changes in vertebrate assemblages through this interval. We hope to determine to what extent the changes in vertebrate assemblages are a reflection of changes in climate during this period. Don Brinkman is also undertaking studies of marine reptiles from southern Alberta and of the vertebrate microfossils in the Judith River Group. David Eberth and Don Brinkman are also working with Scott Sampson from the Utah Museum of Natural History and staff at the Museo del Desierto in Saltillo, Mexico, on the stratigraphy, environments, and vertebrate assemblages of the Cerro del Pueblo Formation in the Parras Basin, Coahuila.

Betsy Nicholls has completed the description of the giant ichthyosaur from northeastern British Columbia, and it is currently in press in *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*. She is currently

working on a nearly complete skeleton of the mosasaur *Prognathodon* from the Bearpaw Formation of southern Alberta. She has also nearly finished preparing the skull of one of the primitive ichthyosaurs from the early Triassic of British Columbia and hopes to have a description of that completed soon.

Jim Gardner has had two papers on salamanders and one paper on albanerpetontids (with Susan Evans & Denise Sigogneau-Russell) published. Currently he is completing revisions to a manuscript with Marton Venczel on the geologically youngest albanerpetontid and preparing a manuscript on Late Cretaceous and Paleogene salamanders. Andy Neuman is continuing work with Raoul Mutter, postdoc at the University of Alberta, on Triassic fishes from Wapiti Lake. Currently they are working on sharks as well as some of the actinops. Darla Zelnitsky successfully defended her thesis on dinosaur eggs and is starting a two-year postdoc at the University of Calgary to continue with her work on fossil eggs. (Don Brinkman)

University College of Cape Breton, Sydney, Nova Scotia
Sean Modesto has been based at University College of Cape Breton since August 2003. Although he has been busy teaching introductory biology courses in the Science Bridge program at UCCB (which has extended academic terms), he was able to participate in fieldwork during April in northeastern Uruguay, looking for early synapsids and reptiles in the Buena Vista Formation with Graciela Piñeiro, Martín Ubilla, and Jorge Ferigolo. Thanks to a generous Discovery Grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, Sean was also able to spend a month in South Africa, where he attended the Palaeontological Society of Southern Africa conference in Johannesburg, examined museum collections at the Bernard Price Institute for Palaeontological Research at the University of the Witwatersrand and at the South African Museum in Cape Town, and spent a week touring some old, familiar Beaufort Group localities with Ross Damiani and Juan Cisneros. Projects that are (finally!) getting off the backburner include a description of the skull of *Mesosaurus tenuidens*, the full description of the procolophonoid *Sauropareion anoplus* (co-authored with Ross), and a description of the skull of the captorhinid *Labidosaurus hamatus* (co-authored with Dave Berman, Johannes Müller, Robert Reisz and Diane Scott). (Sean Modesto)

FRANCE (Xiaoming Wang, International Editor, xwang@nhm.org)

Département Histoire de la Terre, Laboratoire de Paléontologie, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, UMR 5143 du CNRS
Gaël Clement described a new coelacanth from the Late Jurassic of France. This specimen, housed in the MNHN, was found around 1870 near Mâcon. Gaël has relocated the old carry, abandoned for more than a century, and new fieldwork is planned. This new genus is closely related to *Macropoma* and to the extant coelacanth *Latimeria*. Many fine details of its anatomy are obvious (structure of the "calcified bladder," of scales, and of collagen bundles), and its diet is known thanks to the preservation of its stomach content. Gaël is also working on the Permian dipnoan *Sagenodus* from Montceau-les-Mines, France, and on a new Devonian rhizodont from the Catskill Formation of Pennsylvania, the latter in collaboration with Ted Daeschler (Philadelphia). But his main fieldwork is the Late Famennian of Belgium. In collaboration with the Belgian team of Liège, and with Alain Blieck (Villeneuve d'Ascq), Hervé Lelièvre, Philippe Janvier, and Vincent Dupret (MNHN), he spent much time excavating in these vertebrate localities. Important new material was found, e.g., sarcopterygians (Dipnoi, Rhizodontida, Tristichopteridae, Megalichthyidae, Porolepiformes) and placoderms (*Groenlandaspis*, *Bothriolepis*, *Phyllolepis*). The most striking discovery, made in the Liege collection, is a tetrapod lower jaw which is the first known from western continental Europe (Clément et al. 2004. *Nature*). This *Ichthyostega*-like form suggests a significantly wider geographical distribution than previously thought for at least one Devonian tetrapod taxon. An important multidisciplinary project is just starting on the paleoenvironment of this Belgian Devonian tetrapod. Comparisons of the Belgian Famennian environment with those of other Devonian tetrapod localities of the world will provide important

informations on the "fish-tetrapod transition" and on the evolutionary process of the conquest of land. Gaël joined the Per Ahlberg's team in August 2004 at Uppsala University, Sweden, for a two-year post-doc, to develop his work on Late Devonian vertebrates, Famennian environments of Belgian, Greenland, and Pennsylvania formations, and phylogeny of tristichopterids.

Cecile Poplin is still busy (and will be during an undetermined time in the future!) in coordinating the elaboration of the volume of the Handbook of Paleoichthyology devoted to non-teleostean actinopterygians. For the time being, her collaborators are Toni Bürgin, Didier Dutheil, Lance Grande, and Francisco Poyato. She already wrote about many “paleoniscoid” genera and encountered some problems, such as that of *Palaeoniscum* with its 95 species, of which only the type species is valid!

After several awards from the French Geological Society and the British Palaeontological Association, and a postdoc in Czech Republic (as Marie Curie Fellow), J. Sébastien Steyer got a permanent position in our lab as Researcher of the CNRS. J. Sébastien is still working on temnospondyls. Invited in 2003 by Dr. Chris Sidor (NYCOM) to a very fruitful expedition in the Permian of Niger, he has now been invited to present results in the next ICVM in Florida. J. Sébastien is describing new temnospondyls from Niger, and is analyzing bone histology and biogeochemistry of temnospondyls from Europe for paleoenvironmental questions.

Although retired since the end of 2003, France de Lapparent de Broin has to finish her study and description of some fossil turtles. She is in her office for a long periods of time, either alone or in collaboration with Gérard Breton, Marcelo de la Fuente, G.V.R. Prasad, and others, on plesiochelyids and various pleurodires. She is writing her contribution to describe a new Eocene locality of the south of France, Rouzilhac, and a Cretaceous fauna of Laos, and she is still working on the prepation of the material from the late Paleocene of Romania. But in the future, she will focus on the study of anatomically complex structures. It appears that the understanding of the evolutionary processes of these structures in turtles is a prerequisite before any cladistic analyses.

As in the last year, Nathalie Bardet is intensively carrying on with the study of the marine reptiles from the Late Cretaceous of Morocco. Her work deals with two main outcrops: the Turonian of southern Morocco and the Maastrichtian phosphates. Concerning the Turonian of southern Morocco, two recent papers were published on the discovery of a new polycotylid genus (*Palevol,* 2, 307–315) and of a new genus of mosasauroid that represents the sister group of the Mosasauridae (*Palevol*, 2, 607–616). Concerning the Maastrichtian phosphates, several papers have been published and others are in review: A revision of *Mosasaurus beaugei* Arambourg, 1952 (*Géobios*, 37, 315–324); A new species of the basal mosasaur *Halisaurus* (*Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*, in press); in collaboration with Xabier Pereda Suberbiola, A new azdharchid pterosaur genus (*Geological Society Special Publication*, 217, 79–90); and Titanosauriformes dinosaur remains (*African Journal of Earth Sciences,* in press). Other papers are in progress on the remainder of mosasaurids taxa (*Prognathodon*, *Globidens*, and "*Platecarpus*" *ptychodon*), as well as on a newly discovered plesiosaur. Finally, Nathalie has published, in collaboration with Xabier Pereda Suberbiola and Carmelo Corral, a paper dealing with shark-tooth marks on a mosasaur vertebra from the Late Cretaceous of the Basque Country (*Revista Española de Paleontología*).

Jean-Claude Rage is trying to do what he would like to do and, at the same time, what he has been requested (kindly) to do. Although not planned, the studies of the second category have sometimes provided pleasant surprises. These include new material of *Xenopus stromeri*, a frog from the Miocene of Namibia, the original description of which is very cursory and the original material is lost, and a braincase of the anguid lizard *Pseudopus laurillardi* from the Miocene of France (in collaboration with S. Bailon). Such a state of affairs has resulted in a number of undertakings but no completed studies. Uncharacteristically, the last few months have been mostly devoted to Miocene faunas, but Jean-Claude will soon be back to older herps.

In January 2004, Philippe Taquet made a new field trip to Laos, on the lower Cretaceous of the province of Savannakhet. Bones of a big theropod were discovered and the material collected during the previous expeditions was prepared and put in order in the small local Musée des Dinosaures. In May a field trip to the new Moroccan locality of Tazouda, at the southern border of the High Atlas, yielded numerous bones of a new Liassic sauropod. They were recently published in *Palevol* as a new primitive sauropod, *Tazoudasaurus naimi*. Philippe gave a lecture on the first geologic explorers of the Sahara Desert at the Congress of the International Commission for the History of Geology in Dublin. In September, he returned to Morocco with Dale Russell and Michel Monbaron. With Najat Aquesbi they presented the new Liassic sauropod to the press and the Moroccan authorities. There is a project to build a small museum on the fossiliferous locality, in order to present in situ some of the dinosaur bones. In March, Philippe was invited by the geologists of the SONATRACH (the Algerian oil company) to collect dinosaurs on a new Middle Jurassic locality from western Algeria. Two of his recent publications are devoted to the history of paleontology, with a paper published in the *Annales de Paleontologie* (2003, 89, 37–64) on the connection between Georges Cuvier and Mary Anning from Lyme Regis in England. Cuvier bought, for the MHNH collections, numerous marine reptiles from the Lias of the Dorset, including the second plesiosaur skeleton ever discovered. With Kevin Padian, Philippe also published the first drawing of the reconstruction of a flying reptile (*Palevol* 2004, 3, 2). The reconstruction, drawn by Hermann, a professor in Strasbourg, and sent to Cuvier in 1800, looks like a bat. Cuvier was interpreting *Pterodactylus* as a reptile but didn't publish it. Philippe and Kevin discovered that the first description of this animal made by Collini, the secretary of Voltaire, provided Cuvier with a strong theoretical underpinning for his prospectus for his great work: Ossemens fossiles de quadrupèdes.

Emilie Lang, PhD, is dealing with the study of cetiosaurs and evolution of Middle Jurassic Eusauropoda (anatomy, phylogeny, and paleogeography) under the direction of Professor P. Taquet. Her main material consists in diverse specimens from Madagascar, Morocco, and Algeria. Comparisons especially involve other Middle Jurassic Eusauropoda from South America, Asia, and Europe.

Karin Peyer is a third-year PhD student at the MNHN in Paris under the supervision of P. Taquet. Her thesis focuses on the reevaluation of *Compsognathus corallestris* (Bidar et al., 1972) from the Tithonian of southern France. A new description of the specimen and a phylogenetic analysis of basal coelurosaurs and more specifically Compsognathidae allow for a better understanding of the genus *Compsognathus* and its phylogenetic position. Karin is currently also working on the description of a new rauisuchian (Archosauria: Crurotarsi) from the Late Triassic of North Carolina, USA. An undescribed material beloning to a Moroccan rauisuchian (Dutuit, 1979) from the Argana basin is in the process of being studied.

Estelle Bourdon is continuing her PhD work on the Paleogene avifauna from the Ouled Abdoun Basin (Morocco) and from the Kpogamé-Hahotoé Basin (Togo). The description of a new Prophaethontidae from Morocco has been completed (*JVP*, in press). Description of new bony-toothed birds (Odontopterygiformes) from the two localities will be completed in the next few months.

Sandrine Ladevèze is studying for her PhD the auditory region of metatherians from the early Tertiary of South America, and its bearing on the origin and phylogeny of Gondwanan metatherians. Her main material consists of diverse isolated metatherian petrosals discovered in two important South American deposits, the sites of Tiupampa (early Paleocene of Bolivia) and of Itaboraí (middle Paleocene of Brazil).

Emmanuel Gheerbrant submitted, this year, to *Geodiversitas* the monographic study of *Phosphatherium escuilliei* (skull and dental anatomy), in collaboration with J. Sudre and P. Tassy. This work includes a cladistic analysis of early proboscideans, but also of the main representative lineages of altungulates. New mammalian material from the phosphates of the Ouled Abdoun Basin (Morocco) includes hyraxes, and especially a new hyaenodontid creodont. In collaboration

with H. Thomas, we also published this year in *Palevol* a preliminary paper on nearly complete skeletons of the hyrax *Saghatherium* recently discovered in the early Oligocene locality of Jebel Hasawnah (Libya) by an amateur. We are now working on a more-detailed study of these fossils, and on a field project on the locality. Following promising first evidence found by Romain Vullo, Emmanuel spent a few days with C. de Muizon, D. Néraudeau, and Romain in the French department of Charente-Maritime, where we screenwashed two tons of Cenomanian coastal sands looking for micromammals. Emmanuel is also involved this year in the study of the early Eocene mammals from Le Quesnoy (Paris basin). In collaboration with K. D. Rose and M. Godinot, he recently submitted the description of the first paleanodont from the Eocene of Europe.

Virginie Bouetel is studying the phylogenetic relationships of the nonmonophyletic family of baleen-bearing mysticetes: the Cetotheriidae for her PhD under the supervision of C. de Muizon. New fossils from the Pisco and Caballas formations (Peru), which range from the early Miocene to the early Pliocene, were collected by C. de Muizon, and constitute one of the most complete series of fossil baleen-bearing whales. This new material has already revealed important new data and Virginie intends to propose a preliminary phylogeny of the Mysticeti and thus to define the proper monophyletic family of Cetotheriidae by the end of 2004.

Martin Pickford and Brigitte Senut continued their surveys of the Miocene deposits of Kenya, Uganda, and Namibia, while Dominique Gommery, José Braga, Franck Sénégas, and Loïc Segalen pursued their research in South Africa. The long-awaited monograph on the paleobiology of the Lower Orange River valley was published by the Geological Survey of Namibia (*Mem.* 19, Geol. Surv. Namibia). This monograph treats all the plants and vertebrates from the various sites on the Namibian side of the river, the richest being Arrisdrift. Because of the novelty of the time period in southern African paleontology, many of the taxa are new. It turns out that quite a number of vertebrate lineages occur appreciably earlier in Namibia than they do in eastern or northern Africa (Nile crocodile, ostrich, percrocutids, bovids, and black rhino among others). The Namib became arid about 17–16 Ma, long before other parts of Africa did. The focus of our fieldwork has now shifted to the north of the Sperrgebiet where immensely rich deposits occur, first treated by Stromer in the 1920s and seldom visited since.

The Moroto II site (17.5 Ma, Uganda) continues to yield fossils to Martin and Brigitte. Old collections contained only six mammalian taxa. As of January 2004, the number of species has climbed to 34, including many rodents and other micromammals, which permit more precise biostratigraphic correlation. The diversity of primates has increased dramatically, with a galagid (*Komba*), a victoriapithecid (*Prohylobates*), and four hominoids (*Micropithecus*, *Kogolepithecus*, *Ugandapithecus*, and *Afropithecus)*.

Martin and Brigitte still collaborate with the Community Museums of Kenya. Kipsaraman (14.7 Ma) has now yielded well over 200 catarrhine fossils as well as galagids and a rich nonprimate fauna, several taxa of which are new. Biostratigraphic data suggest that the site is somewhat younger than recently published, so in collaboration with Japanese colleagues they have re-sampled the succession in order to resolve the matter. The same applies to the site of Fort Ternan, which seems, on the basis of the fauna, to be younger than 14 Ma. Their surveys of the Lukeino (6–5.7 Ma) and Mabaget (4.5–5 Ma) formations have led to the recovery of abundant fauna and flora which is currently under study. Of great importance is the discovery in both formations of rich microfaunas including galagids, insectivores, macroscelideans, bats, and rodents. It is clear that the period 8–6 Ma was one of major reorganization of the fauna in eastern Africa, just as it was in other parts of the world (e.g., MN 13 in Europe). Finally, our paper on tragulids and peafowls from the Mabaget Formation (ca 4.5–5 Ma) was published (*C. R. Palevol*). David Kinyanjui is carrying out his research on the lacustrine and perilacustrine carbonates of the Lukeino Formation for his thesis, which will throw light on the paleoenvironment. Considering that the Lukeino and Mabaget formations were accumulated in or near forests, it is perhaps not surprising that some of the hominoid specimens collected belong to a gorillalike species which

occurs alongside the late Miocene bipedal hominid *Orrorin tugenensis*. New specimens of the latter species have been collected, and reveal the presence of a remarkably humanlike thumb.

Still active and focused on equids, Vera Eisenmann is presently trying to understand their taxonomy and relationships in North America during the Pleistocene. She will be happy to exchange photographs, measurements, and information in general, with anyone, as she already does with A. Harris, J. Howe, and Mario Pichardo. (Emmanuel Gheerbrant)

INDIA

Geological Studies Unit, Indian Statistical Institute

The members of the Geological Studies Unit of the Indian Statistical Institute inform with profound grief the sad demise of Prof. Sohan Lall Jain, one of the most eminent vertebrate paleontologists of India. Prof. Jain did his study, including PhD and DSc, at the University of Lucknow and joined this Institute in 1958 under the aegis of the late Dr. Pamela L. Robinson. His main interest was Mesozoic fishes but he later delved into research on dinosaurs, including dinosaur eggs, fossil turtles etc. He published more than 50 scientific papers in reputable science journals and several popular articles covering different aspects of vertebrate paleontology and zoology. Though he retired in 1991 and settled in Lucknow, he continued his research on Indian titanosaurids. His contribution to the development of this Unit and the Geology Museum is highly commendable. His enthusiastic and jovial mood used to keep everyone around him in good humor. The members of this Unit will miss him very much, especially his letters from Lucknow with all sorts of information.

As we mentioned in our last report, the number of VP workers in this Unit went down to only two. We became quite enthusiastic when Sanghamitra Ray joined here as a Research Associate after coming back from South Africa. However, we are happy to inform that Sanghamitra has joined the Department of Geology and Geophysics in the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, as an Associate Professor in March 2004. Though she will continue as a collaborator in our research program, we expect that there will be another VP laboratory in India. Her recent publications include "Late Permian vertebrate community of the Pranhita-Godavari valley, India" (along with S. Bandyopadhyay), "Lower Gondwana fluvial succession of the Pench-Kanhan valley, India: Stratigraphic architecture and depositional controls" published in the *Journal of Asian Earth Sciences* and in *Sedimentary Geology*, respectively. Along with Anusuya Chinsamy of University of Cape Town she published "Functional aspects of the postcranial anatomy of the Permian dicynodont *Diictodon* and its ecological implications," "*Diictodon feliceps* (Therapsida, Dicynodontia): Bone histology, growth and biomechanics," and "A theropod tooth from the Late Triassic of southern Africa," published in *Palaeontology*, *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, and *Journal of Biosciences* respectively. Kasturi Sen, our former Research Associate, has published "*Pamelaria dolichotrachlea*, a new prolacertid reptile from the Middle Triassic of India" in the *Journal of Asian Earth Sciences*. Her other paper "A new rauisuchian archosaur from the Middle Triassic of India" is due to appear in *Palaeontology*, 48(1).

Saswati Bandyopadhyay and Dhurjati P. Sengupta have found a new fossil site in the Middle Triassic Denwa Formation of the Satpura Gondwana Basin in central India. This is the first record of a large nonamphibian faunal association from the Satpura basin. Preliminary identification indicates presence of a rauisuchid and an erythrosuchid. Saswati has completed an article on wildlife of India through the ages and their relation with present day animals in Indian forests. This is going to be published as part of a book on history of forestry in India. Dhurjati has published "A lapillopsid temnospondyl from the Early Triassic of India" (along with A. Yates) and "Triassic temnospondyls of the Pranhita-Godavari basin" in *Alcheringa* and the *Journal of Asian Earth Sciences*, respectively.

During the last couple of years several visitors, namely Dr. Jeffery A. Wilson from the University of Michigan, Mr. Rodrigo M. Santucci from the University of Sao Paulo State, Ms. Robin Whaitley from the University of California–Santa Barbara, and Mr. Tomasz J. Sulej from the Institute of Paleobiology of Warsaw, came to the Institute to study our collection. (S. Bandyopadhyay)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Northeast Region (Margaret Lewis, Regional Editor, lewism@stockton.edu)
No news was received from this region.

Southeast Region (Richard C. Hulbert, Regional Editor, rhulbert@flmnh.ufl.edu)
No news was received from this region.

Midwest Region (Joshua Smith, Regional Editor, smithjb@levee.wustl.edu)
No news was received from this region.

Southwest Region (Dennis R. Ruez, Jr., Regional Editor, ruez@mail.utexas.edu)

Northern Arizona University, Quaternary Sciences Program and Department of Geology

Larry Agenbroad, Don Morris, Kelly Minos, and Sam Shepard comprised the field team that spent the last week of May and first week of June on Santa Rosa Island, California, recording new pygmy mammoth (*Mammuthus exilis*) localities and collecting specimens in danger of loss by erosion. More than 40 new localities were recorded by GPS coordinates and 20 specimens collected.

In the first week of May, Agenbroad presented a poster at the Rocky Mountain/Cordilleran Section joint meeting of the Geological Society of America on the first Pleistocene musk ox (*Bootherium bombifrons*) from Arizona. Beginning 27 June, he will be at the Mammoth Site of Hot Springs, South Dakota for four weeks of excavation. (Larry Agenbroad)

The University of Texas at Austin, Department of Geological Sciences and Vertebrate Paleontology Laboratory

Gabe Bever continues his dissertation work on skeletal variation and evolution in kinosternoid and testudinoid turtles. He is nearing completion on several studies that examine variation in the skulls of extant turtles and its implications for interpreting fossil specimens. Gabe recently published a description of new *Bassariscus* material from the Miocene of Kansas. In addition, Gabe has a paper in press that analyzes morphometric variation in the skulls and dentition of *Canis latrans*, *Canis lepophagus*, and Irvingtonian *Canis* from Porcupine Cave, Colorado, and has a paper in review that examines ilial variation in North American *Bufo*. Gabe spent time in the field this summer prospecting for Miocene localities in northwestern Nevada as part of a team headed by Chris Bell of UT and Nick Czaplewski of the Oklahoma Museum of Natural History.

Jonathan Franzosa finished his dissertation—Evolution of the Brain in Theropoda (Dinosauria)—and is currently looking for long-term employment while working in the CT lab at UT for the summer. Patrick Wheatley is finishing his Master's thesis titled "A calcium isotope growth series of the domestic chicken (*Gallus gallus*)" and will graduate from UT in August of this year. He will then be moving to California to begin a PhD at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Congratulations to both Jonathan and Patrick!

Ron Tykoski is keeping busy in the VP lab. He spent most of the last six months preparing, molding, and casting a large phytosaur skull collected from the Chinle Formation near Petrified Forest National Park. He and Bob Rainey just opened and began preparation on a large block from the Kayenta Formation that contains an excellent, articulated prosauropod skeleton. Ron is rapidly finishing his dissertation on coelophysoid anatomy and systematics, and will defend this fall.

Ted Macrini is continuing to collect data for his dissertation. He is generating digital cranial endocasts of various mammals and nonmammalian cynodonts. This August he returned to New

York City to visit the AMNH and collect more data for his phylogeny character matrix. Chris Jass returned to Cathedral Cave, Nevada, this summer and completed the fieldwork for his dissertation

Jonathan Wagner spent June preparing for the Phylogenetic Nomenclature meeting in Paris, as well as a brief tour of western Europe to visit museum collections. This spring he was awarded an NSF IGERT traineeship in Computational Phylogenetics through the Biology and Computer Sciences programs at UT for the 2004–2005 academic year. His work on the hadrosaurs of Big Bend and hadrosaur phylogeny continues at a glacial pace. In contrast, his dissertation research on the phylogeny and nexogeny of jacarean caimans has gotten off to a brisk start, and he hopes to have a preliminary molecular phylogeny ready for presentation next year, and he is currently planning visits to museum collections in North and South America.

In the spring Eric Ekdale successfully defended his dissertation research proposal entitled "Eutherian relationships and phylogenetic significance of the inner ear and nose of placental mammals." Nina Triche is currently studying for her qualifying exams and researching and writing her dissertation proposal, which centers on penguin systematics and biogeography. She has also recently completed the inventory and catalogue of 9,000 rudist specimens for the Nonvertebrate Paleontology Laboratory at UT. (Dennis R. Ruez, Jr.)

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION (Brent Breithaupt, Regional Editor, uwgeoms@uwyo.edu)

BYU Earth Science Museum and Department of Geology

Ken Stadtman, curator of the Earth Science Museum (ESM) retired from BYU at the end of June after 34 years of service to the university and vertebrate paleontology. Since 1970 Ken has worked as preparator, head preparator, and later as curator of the Earth Sciences Museum at Brigham Young University. His hiring marked the beginning of a vertebrate collection that has grown to over 18,000 specimens, consisting primarily of dinosaurs and Cenozoic mammals. Ken collected the majority of the specimens with his own hands and he either prepared or supervised the preparation of all of them. Furthermore, he catalogued and curated most of the specimens. He literally spent years of his life on the Colorado Plateau of Colorado and Utah collecting, first under the direction of James Jensen, then Wade Miller. In the 1990s Ken was made curator of the ESM. The specimens he collected, prepared, and curated form the basis of a wealth of publications. Ken was especially helpful to students, training them in the art and science of preparation, but more importantly, by making sure specimens relevant to their study were prepared and ready for study. The bulk of Ken's professional life has been spent collecting and supervising or preparing specimens collected from the Dry Mesa Quarry, which is located near Delta, Colorado, which has proved to be the most taxonomically diverse Late Jurassic locality in the world. Ken will be relocating to his home town of Grand Junction, Colorado, where he will enjoy the mountain air, fishing, and perhaps some contract preparation.

Although Wade Miller retired two years ago he remains very active in research and continues his work in central Mexico. His latest project is in the state of Durango where he is working with personnel at the Museo del Desierto in Coahuila, Mexico, to develop a new Pleistocene vertebrate site which turns out to be the only Pleistocene vertebrate fauna from the entire state. Wade has identified 14 taxa and more may turn up when the field jackets are prepared. Wade continues to work with Bart Kowallis and others. Bart and Wade have three papers in press relating to K/Ar, fission track, and paleomag dates on faunas from central Mexico.

Brooks Britt continues to work on the Dalton Wells fauna. Two manuscripts are nearing completion—one on the sedimentology (with Dave Eberth, Royal Tyrrell Museum) and the other on the taphonomy of the Dalton Wells quarry (also with Dave and Rod Scheetz). The taphonomy of the site is interesting because there are four stacked bone-bearing horizons and apparently the bones were trampled, rotted, transported, trampled again, burrowed by insects. As a consequence of these conditions most specimens consist of bone fragments and only 3% of the bones are reasonably complete. This summer the BYU crew hope to work at Dalton Wells recovering an associated but in-situ trampled skeleton of *Utahraptor*. We currently have over 200

bones of this taxon, representing seven individuals, and will work to finish a detailed description by the end of the year.

Brooks has been working with Rose Difley and students Brent Greenhalgh and Teagan Tomlin on the K-T boundary in Utah's North Horn Formation. Rose found a well-preserved site where the boundary is delineated by palynolomorphs, vertebrates, and shocked quartz resting on the boundary clay. We are currently working on the magnetostratigraphy aspect of the project. This is a very exciting project, and we are in awe at Rose's detailed knowledge of the Formation.

This summer our crew will work with Dan Chure to recover more material of a brachiosaurid sauropod from a Cedar Mountain Formation quarry within Dinosaur National Monument. The quarry has already produced three skulls, two articulated and one disarticulated. All were found within a radius of three meters. We hope to recover additional postcranial material.

Undergraduate Anne Dangerfield is starting a project involving an associated skeleton of a very large *Allosaurus* and a census of allosaurid specimens from Dry Mesa Quarry. This project is tied to a recently completed digital map (in ArcMap) of the quarry compiled by students Brent Greenhalgh, Mark Nolte, Dan Martin, and Jeanette Lyman (now at Oxford). The same group likewise digitized the Dalton Wells quarry map.

Brooks has three graduate students working on Master's degrees. Stephen Sandau will submit his thesis on the fauna, flora, and paleoenvironment of a Uinta Formation site near Myton, Utah, this fall. In addition to a rich vertebrate fauna he found a rare flora-bearing horizon with good leaf compressions and some petrifactions.

Andy Stanton is working on the taphonomy of the Calico Gulch Quarry in northwestern Colorado. The quarry was opened in 1970s by Ken Stadtman and Jim Jensen to recover a partial, articulated *Diplodocus* skeleton. The quarry also produced parts of other dinosaurs including portions of several baby *Dryosaurus* specimens, crocs, and turtles.

Brent Greenhalgh begins work on the basal Cedar Mountain Formation this summer, focusing on the depositional environments with emphasis on paleosols. The goal is to elucidate the conditions that led to the preservation of the wealth of vertebrates preserved near the base of this Lower Cretaceous formation. (Brooks Britt)

University of Wyoming

Jay Lillegraven is having a productive summer, as he approaches his retirement in September. Mike Cassiliano (Collections Manager, Scientific Collections at the University of Wyoming) continues to host visiting researchers, curate the collections, work on various research projects, and teach various paleontology and zoology classes at the university.

At the University of Wyoming Geological Museum, Brent Breithaupt continues to chase dinosaurs around Wyoming, following their tracks to various new and creative interpretations. Students Thomas Adams and Jerry Shinn have been accepted into graduate programs at Southern Methodist University in Dallas and the University of Wisconsin in Madison, respectively. Thomas and Brent continue their work on the Bathonian theropods of the Sundance Vertebrate Ichnofaunal Province in the Bighorn Basin of northern Wyoming. In addition, Brent and Neffra Matthews (National Science and Technology Center, Denver) are continuing their photogrammetric documentation of dinosaur tracksites in the Rocky Mountain West. Beth Southwell and Brent continue to discover new information, as they trace the history of dinosaur fossil collecting in Wyoming. (Brent Breithaupt)

PACIFIC COAST REGION (John M. Harris, Regional Editor, jharris@nhm.org)

Colorado Desert District Stout Research Center

The Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® (ABDSP) Paleontology Society (PS) volunteers finished the 2003–2004 field season with reconnaissance surveys and specimen recovery work in the eastern Borrego Badlands, Loop Wash, Fish Creek, and Vallecito Creek badlands. In May five new PS volunteers completed this season's Paleontology Certification Training Program.

Numerous marine and terrestrial mammal remains were recently found associated in the 4.5 Ma marine delta deposits of the Deguynos Formation that were previously known for an abundance of corals and molluscs. The new vertebrate materials include two sharks, a ray, osteichthyes, numerous chelonid remains, a small cetacean, and *Valenictus*, as well as a small canid, gomphothere, an equid, and at least three camelids. The assemblage is presently under study by PS volunteer Jerry Hughes and paleontology student intern Jessie Atterholt.

A team from UC Riverside headed by Martin Kennedy and Ursula Edwards, under interagency contract with State Parks, has completed a three-year project to GPS/GIS map and describe the abundant fossil woods in the ancestral Colorado River delta. The study described the deltaic section and located and documented over 75 large logs representing palms and deciduous hardwoods in the 4-Ma deposits that also yield *Gomphotherium*, *Dinohippus*, and camelids.

Micro-Jack air scribe impact tools were added to the paleontology laboratory's equipment. These greatly facilitate the removal of ABDSP's sometimes tough matrix, and can be used under the microscope. New high-pressure air lines were routed to all 12 work stations, and industrial filters and moisture-removal equipment installed by PS member Ron Shugan.

We continue to welcome visiting researchers. Most recently, Kesler Randall who completed his Master's degree at San Diego State University on the Irvingtonian-age vertebrate assemblage from the Coyote Badlands. Good work Kesler.

Architectural plans for a major addition to the District Stout Research Center paleontology collections area have been approved and are now out for bid. Construction should start in July. We will be reorganizing the collections, and they may periodically be unavailable for research later this year through the spring of 2005.

Work continues on the ABDSP paleontology book *The Fossil Treasures of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park*®, to be produced by Sunbelt Publications. The third phase of editing progresses with over half of the chapters near completion. Twenty-plus illustrations of the more common taxa, as well as a series of five landscapes depicting Park scenes from 5 to 1.5 Ma are in development.

It is with sadness that we report the death in December of Elizabeth Stout, long-time active volunteer and paleontology programs supporter. The Research Center is named after Betty. William Loerke, a veteran ABDSP volunteer and charter PS member also passed this May. Betty and Bill will be missed. (G. T. Jefferson)

Mark Hallett Paleoart

Mark Hallett and Kent Stevens (University of Oregon) have joined forces to delve into the complexities of sauropod neck biomechanics, and are working on reconstructions of ligament and muscular systems for *Camarasaurus*, *Brachiosaurus*, *Diplodocus*, *Apatosaurus*, and *Dicraeosaurus*, which will be the subject of a future paper. On the mammalian side, Mark is continuing his series of anatomical reconstructions of the John Day mammal fauna, in concert with Ted Fremd (John Day Fossil Beds), for the new Condon Visitors Center in eastern Oregon. (Mark Hallett)

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
In June, Larry Barnes and Howell Thomas made a presentation at the Old Courthouse Museum in Santa Ana, southern California. They demonstrated to the audience methods of interpreting new species of fossil vertebrates, in this case an apparent new taxon of large Early Miocene platanistid dolphin and a strange, new, very large, highly derived latest Miocene paleoparadoxiid desmostylian. These specimens, now on exhibit in the Old Courthouse Museum, were discovered in the western part of the Santa Ana Mountains during construction of the Eastern Transportation Corridor highway.

Larry Barnes and Bruce Crowley of the University of Washington Burke Museum are proceeding with their description of a strange, primitive baleen-bearing mysticete from the Oligocene Pysht Formation on the Olympic Peninsula, Washington. The need to specify that this mysticete had baleen may seem unnecessary, but that is because it was collected from a horizon that has become notable for continuing to produce relatively diverse and abundant tooth-bearing Mysticeti, thanks largely to the efforts of James Goedert, also of the Burke Museum.

Gerald Grellet-Tinner passed his PhD exam at the University of Southern Californian and is now looking to complete his dissertation by the end of the year 2004. So far during this year, half a dozen manuscripts were published, accepted for publication, or already in press. Most of those are part of his PhD dissertation and focus on different facets of oology such as biomineralization, diagenesis, paleobiology, taphonomy, and systematics. This summer he will return, with P. Makovicky, for a field season in Wyoming and Montana to search for more *Deinonychus antirrhopus* material. Once the dust settles, he will be actively looking for a postdoc or a permanent position in a museum or university in the US, Australia, Canada, Europe, or Brazil. (Xiaoming Wang)

Occidental College, Los Angeles
Oxy hosted WAVP on Valentine's Day, with a big crowd using our brand-new building for the first time. All five seniors did presentations (some more than once), and helped with the logistics. Then on 1 May, we also hosted the CalPaleo meeting, again with a big crowd and a full slate of speakers from USC, UCR, UCB, UCLA, UCSB, SDSU, and Oxy. Nice way to break in our new building! The new paleomagnetics laboratory is now up and running, and several students are analyzing their samples of the Miocene rocks of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties. In August, Don Prothero and three of his rising seniors went up to northern California to sample in the Gualala block, then over to northwestern Nevada to sample the Miocene Massacre Lake and Virgin Valley beds.

The big crop of five paleo seniors successfully defended their comps research and have now all graduated. Jingmai O'Connor completed her study on the Miocene mustelid *Sthenictis*, and will be a student of Luis Chiappe at the LACM and USC this fall. Josh Ludtke published his papers on the Eocene protoceratid *Leptoreodon* and on the paleomagnetism of the Duchesnean Baca Formation of New Mexico in the *New Mexico Museum Bulletin*. He will be a student at San Diego State next fall. Matt Liter defended his project on the dromomerycids, and is currently working in the consulting field before applying to grad schools in another year. Francisco Sanchez completed his revision of *Leptauchenia*. His papers on the paleomagnetism of the Florissant fossil beds, and on the Beaver Divide section in central Wyoming, were both published in the *New Mexico Museum Bulletin*. He is also working in the consulting field before deciding where to apply to grad school next year. Paula Dold completed her paleomagnetic study of the Pawnee Creek and Martin Canyon formations in northeastern Colorado. She is planning to apply to grad school in science journalism. In addition, Jonathan Hoffman '03 (now a grad student at University of Florida) published his study of the leptauchenine oreodont *Sespia* in the *New Mexico Museum Bulletin*.

On 11 May, Don and his students delivered three papers (on the land mammal fossils and paleomagnetism of the Sharktooth Hill bone bed area) at the Pacific Section SEPM-AAPG

meeting in Bakersfield. During the summer, Don completed the camera-ready pages for his rhino monograph, which should be on sale at the Cambridge University Press booth at SVP this fall. He also completed his trade book on "The Age of Mammals," which is now in review, and produced the SVP abstracts volume for the last time (now that Greg Buckley is SVP Program Chair, and taken over most of the time-consuming responsibilities). A number of papers have appeared, including several book reviews, the annual review of VP for *Geotimes*, his long-delayed paper (with Don Rasmussen) on the Arikareean Cabbage Patch beds of Montana, and the Chadronian-Whitneyan chapter (with Bob Emry) for the new Woodburne biochronology volume. Many more papers are expected out soon. Don had Matt Liter revamp his Web site and scan all of his papers into PDF files, so the age of mailing paper reprints is nearly over! (Don Prothero)

— CALENDAR OF EVENTS —

TRACKING DINOSAUR ORIGINS: THE TRIASSIC/JURASSIC TERRESTRIAL TRANSITION

15–17 March 2005
Dixie State College
St. George, Utah, USA

Followed by the **Utah Friends of Paleontology Annual Meeting**—18–20 March 2005

The Triassic/Jurassic transition is a critical time in Earth history, recording the origins and early radiation of dinosaurs, pterosaurs, crocodilians, mammals, and several other significant Mesozoic vertebrate clades. Additionally, a major interval of faunal stepwise extinction is recorded in both the marine and terrestrial environments that may be linked to impact events, setting the stage for the ascendance of dinosaurs to a position of dominance for the remainder of the Mesozoic. Current research in this area is dynamic with important implications to a number of areas in paleobiology and geology.

A number of recently discovered fossil localities in a little researched area of southwestern Utah that preserves a thick sequence of rocks spanning the Triassic/Jurassic interval are proving to be a catalyst for new studies on this time period. In addition to discoveries at Zion National Park and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, many of these discoveries have centered on the basal Jurassic St. George Dinosaur Tracksite at Johnson Farm. This remarkable new site preserves an extraordinary series of track levels along the margin of a Hettangian lake (“Lake Dixie”) and has associated fossil plants, invertebrates, fish, and dinosaur remains making it particularly significant. These discoveries, along with a new interpretive center slated to open in the summer of 2004, provide an impetus to bring scientists together to discuss terrestrial faunas across the Triassic/Jurassic transition in a dramatic geologic setting unfamiliar to most attendees in the warm palm-tree studded desert of southwestern Utah.

A full-color overview volume is planned by the Utah Geological Survey for initial distribution to attendees at the conference. This volume will include short review papers on areas of critical interest regarding the Triassic/Jurassic terrestrial transition in various areas of the world, summary papers on these rocks, and their preserved fossils in southwestern Utah.

Preliminary Conference Program

15 March AM	Plenary Papers	30 min. each
15 March PM–16 March	General Conference Papers	20 min. each
17 March	Field Trip: Triassic/Jurassic Geology and Paleontology in the St. George and Zion National Park areas	

Abstracts

Electronic abstracts are due 15 October 2004. They are to be no more than one page long at 12 point, Times Roman with titles in all caps followed by an indented list of authors (names in caps) and affiliations. Speaker's information should include e-mail address. Abstract text follows. Send to e-mail jameskirkland@utah.gov; or by snail-mail James Kirkland, Utah Geological Survey, P.O. Box 146100, Salt Lake City UT 84044.

A proceedings volume is to be published by the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science following the conference. For more information contact Spencer Lucas; NMMNH, 1801 Mountain Road NW, Albuquerque NM 87104-1375; slucas@nmmnh.state.nm.us.

Conference participants may fly into St. George, Utah, directly, or speakers may fly into Las Vegas, Nevada, and then be transported by volunteers to St. George.

Conference participants are invited to remain for the Utah Friends of Paleontology Annual Meeting, which will include additional afternoon field trips on 18–19 March.

In addition; there will be a Paleo Art Show, The Beginning of the Age of Dinosaurs, that will be up from February.

Hosted by Pioneer Center for the Arts.

For more information contact: Gary Sanders, Community Arts and Exhibits Administrator, City of St. George, Pioneer Center for the Arts, 47 East 200 North, St. George Utah 84770; (435) 634-5942, ext. 16; artadmn@infowestcom.

Information on the St. George tracksite may be viewed starting on page 4 of Survey Notes v. 34, no. 5. http://geology.utah.gov/surveynotes/snt34-3.pdf.

Sponsored by Utah Geological Survey, Dixie State College, City of St. George, Utah Friends of Paleontology.

Spring is a busy time in St. George (Utah's Palm Springs) so book your rooms early.

Host Hotels have reduced their price and set aside a block of rooms until 21 February 2005.

Crystal Inn

Rooms being held under Group Name: Dinosaur Origins Conference
Rate: single/double: $69.00/$69.00
triple/quad: $79.00/$89.00
Toll-free reservation line: 800-662-2525
Hotel location: Crystal Inn, I-15, Exit 6, 1450 S. Hilton Drive, St. George UT 84770

Hampton Inn

Rate: $85.00 (+ tax (10.35%)

Toll-free reservation line: 1 (800) 426-7866 (HAMPTON)
Location: 53 N River Rd., St. George UT 84770

Other nearby budget hotels include:
Sands Motel
Phone: (435) 673-3501
Location: 581 East St. George Blvd., St. George UT 84770

Days Inn
Phone: (435) 673-6123
Location: 150 N. 1000 E., St George UT 84770

Comfort Inn
Toll-free reservation line: 1 (877) 577-6740
Location: 999 Skyline Dr., St George UT 84770

Ramada Inn
Phone: 435-628-2828
Location: 1440 E Saint George Blvd., St. George UT 84790

Additional Questions: contact Theresa Walker, 1 (435) 703-3776; 2flyfree@infowest.com

3RD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PALAEOENTOMOLOGY with 2ND INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON PALAEOARTHROPODOLOGY and 2ND WORLD CONGRESS ON AMBER AND ITS INCLUSIONS

7–11 February 2005; Hammanskraal, South Africa

Please request the first circular form from Prof. Brothers (contact information below).

Please note new snailmail and e-mail addresses (although previous e-mail will function through 2005).

Prof. Denis J. Brothers, Head, School of Botany and Zoology, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Private Bag X01, Scottsville, 3209 South Africa; tel: +27 (0)33 260 5102; fax: +27 (0)33 260 5105; e-mail: brothers@ukzn.ac.za.

— OBITUARIES —

JAMES REID MACDONALD II

James Reid Macdonald II died on 4 February 2004 after being operated on for a brain tumor. He was 85. Remembered by most for his work in the American West—Cenozoic rocks—giving names of Lakota origin to ancient beasts, he had a life of travel to many other parts of the world.

His interest in mid-Tertiary mammalian evolution took him to Mexico, Brazil, and, during the latter years of his life, Australia, where he took part (as cook! among other things) in several years of digging for dinosaurs at Dinosaur Cove (of Early Cretaceous age) in southeastern Australia. He also gave many distance education courses in paleontology for the state of Victoria along with some Australian colleagues. Reid and Mary Lee Macdonald, in fact, became Honourary Associates of the Museum Victoria (working with Tom Rich) on curation of the collections there for many years and prepared, curated, and served as volunteers in the Earth Sciences Department, School of Geosciences, at Monash University in Melbourne. They also toured many

isolated places all over Australia, and it became a second home for a number of years. Reid's last trip to Australia was in 2002 when he was an honored guest at the opening of the Monash Science Centre in Melbourne for the public outreach and children's education in science.

Reid was an avid field man, but also was, all through his career, involved in one way or the other with public education—in a variety of places—the Los Angeles County Museum, Foothill College, and the University of California (Berkeley), all in California, and for a number of years at the South Dakota School of Mines (where he and Mary Lee were also long-term volunteers after they retired there more than 20 years ago).

Reid is survived by his beloved wife Mary Lee and sons James Reid Macdonald III, Duncan Macdonald, and Phil Macdonald, and daughter Patricia Vickers-Rich.

A memorial fund has been set up at the Monash Science Centre, Monash University, Melbourne (Victoria), Australia, for the purpose of setting up an enduring Chair in Palaeontology in his name. This, which seeks $450,000 in total, will provide the only secure paleontology position on the continent for the next generation and insure that this field has representation in the geosciences. Donations should be addressed to Prof. Patricia Vickers-Rich and funds given to the Monash Science Centre (Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3800). The position honors Reid's long-term interest in the paleontology of the antipodes and his dedication to public education. (Patricia Vickers-Rich)

BOBB SCHAEFFER 1913–2004

Dr. Bobb Schaeffer, Curator Emeritus in the Department of Paleontology, American Museum of Natural History, passed away 2 June, at the age of 90. Bobb was one of the most prominent and well respected paleontologists of his generation.

Bobb Schaeffer was born in New Haven, Connecticut, on 27 September 1913. He attended Cornell University as an undergraduate and graduated with a doctorate in zoology from Columbia University in 1941. He came to the American Museum of Natural History in 1936 as a graduate student of William King Gregory, at a time when comparative anatomy and embryology were dominating forces in evolutionary studies. Bobb excelled in this area and in 1946, after four years of military service, was hired as an Assistant Curator in Vertebrate Paleontology, beginning more than 40 years at the Museum. During Bobb's career at the American Museum, he served as Chair of the Department of Vertebrate Paleontology, Dean of the Council of the Scientific Staff, and served on many committees. Officially retiring in 1978, Bobb remained active for many years afterwards, first in New York City and later in Rochester, New York.

Bobb was very active in the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology. He was a charter member and a former president. In 1988 received the Society’s highest honor, the Romer-Simpson Medal.

Bobb's scientific work is characterized by detailed morphologic studies and an intellectual flexibility that kept him at the forefront of analytic methods throughout his long career. Starting out in the Simpson-Mayr era of the New Synthesis fusion of paleontology and genetics, Bobb made major contributions by studying the functional evolution of limbs from fish to mammals and evolutionary rates in fishes. Given his early training and many publications in the Simpson-Mayr school of evolutionary systematics, it is a testimony to his intellectual prowess that he was an early convert to cladistics, which was being discussed in the late 1960s at the American Museum. Because of Bobb's distinguished reputation and stature as a scientist, he was able to induce other paleontologists, particularly graduate students, to give serious attention to this

methodology, now the norm for phylogeny reconstruction, and to question some of the accepted wisdom of his peers.

Although he began his career working on the functional morphology of the mammalian ankle, he is primarily known as a world authority on fossil fishes. Throughout his career, his work is characterized by detailed morphology, by an emphasis on a functional approach to biomechanical problems, and by a persistent interest in the developmental aspects of evolution. Although he described many new taxa, he had a particular interest in certain problem areas. His papers on the origin of tetrapods (1965), osteichthyan vertebrae (1967), the origin of osteichthyes (1968), vertebral calcification (1970), and the origin of the dermal skeleton (1977), were influential contributions that derived much of their significance from his interpretation of development in lower vertebrates.

Among Bobb's achievements, his prolific scientific research, as expressed in his many publications, will be the most permanent, but his contributions to his younger colleagues and students hold a high place. He taught a History of Fishes course through Columbia that became famous as a thorough systematic, morphologic, and developmental review of fishes and the anatomy of vertebrates. Bobb was very generous with that most precious commodity, time, and mentored many aspiring paleontologists. By asking us questions he himself could not answer, he taught the essence of scientific inquiry.

His wife, Elizabeth White Schaeffer, passed away about a month after Bobb. He is survived by his son, Richard W. Schaeffer, both of Rochester, New York, and his daughter, Elizabeth S Brickman of Dexter, Michigan, and five grandchildren.

More biographical material on Bobb Schaeffer can be found in: Response on receiving the Romer-Simpson Medal, Bobb Schaeffer, *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 1988, 8(4):459–460; Bobb Schaeffer, a biographical sketch, Edwin Harris Colbert and Eugene S. Gaffney, *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 1984, 4(3):285–291; also *New York Times* obituaries, Sunday, 20 June 2004. (Gene Gaffney, Department of Paleontology, American Museum of Natural History)

BARBARA JAFFE STAHL, 1930–2004

With the death of Barbara Jaffe Stahl on 16 January 2004, our Society has suffered a great loss. Not only was she a warm and friendly scholar, totally dedicated to teaching and to her discipline, she also was a person of great cultural breadth and understanding. Those attributes found their way into her biological teaching, including student trips to museums and the Boston Symphony. Her husband, Dr. David G. Stahl, expressed it this way, “It was important to her that an educated person be well rounded in all aspects of life.”

As Professor of Biology at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire, she was legendary, admired by students and faculty alike. Vertebrates were her life-long consuming interest. Her textbook, “Vertebrate History: Problems in Evolution,” which was in print for over 20 years, developed out of her growing interest in fossil fish. For the last 15–20 years paleoichthyology has been her main research interest. It evoloved from her PhD thesis and it is this aspect of her work with which one of us (R.Z.) is most familiar. She consulted concerning many aspects of her work on early sharks, especially the holocephalians. She was always driven to get it right. During those sessions her passion for teaching comparative anatomy would frequently surface during the consult when some connection was made that would be useful in class.

In 1999, after a more than decade-long preparation effort, she published the monumental work, volume 4 of the H.-P. Schultze-edited “Handbook of Paleoichthyology. Chondrichthyes III, Holocephali.” This work enhanced her international reputation. She credits her husband with photographing most of the tooth plates she illustrated in that work—objects whose features are

subtle and difficult to bring out. It was a labor of love, and her dedication to “Friend, Husband and Photographer” expresses her appreciation.

Barbara was born in Brooklyn, New York, on 17 April 1930, and as a child visited the American Museum where her biological leanings were fostered. Formal education included the Albany Academy for girls, where she was valedictorian; Wellesley College, for her bachelor’s degree and Phi Beta Kappa; Radcliffe College, for her Master’s degree in biology; and Harvard University for her PhD. In 1952 she married David Stahl. They have four children: three daughters, Susan Hardy, Nancy Wilsker, Sarah, and son John.

At Saint Anselm she began teaching in 1954, and became the first woman on that faculty. She chaired the biology department for nine years and served on many committees. She authored articles published in various scientific journals including *Palaeonotology*, *Copeia*, the *Journal of Morphology*, and Harvard’s *Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology*. Honors and awards include a place on a Nobel symposium where she was the only woman among the seven Americans participating; outstanding alumna of the Albany Academy in 1992; and Honorary Doctor of Science from Saint Anselm College in 1993.

Her long interest in education led her to becoming a founder of the Derryfield School in 1964. Board memberships included the cultural committee of the Jewish Federation, the Institutional Review Board of Catholic Medical Center, and the Northeast Regional Advisors to the Health Professions where she was treasurer.

By her warmth and enthusiasm she was a natural mentor to many students. One of these became a valued colleague, and in 1994 Didier, Stahl, and Zangerl coauthored “Development and growth of compound tooth plates in *Callorhinchus millii* (Chondrichthyes, Holocephali).” She will be missed. We miss her. (William D. Turnbull and Rainier Zangerl)

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AS OF 29 JULY 2004

In 1986, the Society established an Endowment Fund to meet the urgent needs of the science as determined annually by the Executive Committee. Initially, the income was applied largely to support the Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates. In recent years, endowment funds have also been used to support other strategic initiatives of the Society. Currently, members may support the dedicated funds of the Society (Patterson, Skinner, Estes, and Romer) in addition to supporting the endowment.

The following list includes contributors to the general endowment fund as well as contributions made to one or more of the Society's dedicated funds for the 2003–2004 fiscal year based on funds and/or written pledges received through 29 July 2004.

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