

# CENEX UPDATES



## AASP Chair Goal Reached!

LSU and AASP are pleased to announce that the AASP Chair in Paleopalynology in the Department of Geology & Geophysics has reached the \$600,000 goal in private funding. By achieving this goal, the chair is now eligible to receive an additional \$400,000 in matching funds from the Louisiana Board of Regents. LSU is currently in the process of applying. The matching of endowed chairs is a state-wide competitive process, and announcements are usually made during the summer.

In 1990, the Center for Excellence in Palynology (CENEX) was awarded to LSU. The primary objectives of the Chair and of CENEX are:

- (1) To promote excellence in the teaching of applications-oriented stratigraphic paleopalynology, with particular reference to the contributions paleopalynology can make toward chronostratigraphy and paleoecology, and toward resolving geological problems in the collateral disciplines of stratigraphy, sedimentology, sequence stratigraphy, geochemistry, paleoecology and kerogen studies; and to train, advise, and direct graduate students to graduate degrees so that those individuals become broadly capable geologists with special expertise in biostratigraphy and paleoecology.
- (2) To promote scholarly research and publication in paleopalynology.

AASP initiated this collaborative effort as a result of their concern for the availability of trained palynologists in the United States. To support these efforts, AASP members and other industry leaders have been raising funds to establish the AASP Endowed Chair in Paleopalynology. Once a Board of Regents match is received, the LSU Department of Geology & Geophysics will be able to conduct an international search for an eminent scholar to fill the chair position.

This important milestone for CENEX was achieved because of the generosity of donors and corporate partners who contributed to the chair. LSU and AASP sincerely appreciate the efforts of everyone involved.

## Supporting CENEX

There are several funds held in the LSU Foundation for the purpose of supporting CENEX. In addition to the endowed chair and professorship, these accounts provide important resources for students and research. Private funding for CENEX can help attract and retain top faculty and scholars from around the country, thus advancing the goals of the Center and LSU's National Flagship Agenda.

Gifts in support of CENEX can be made in a variety of ways including check, credit card, stocks, and through estate planning. If you are interested in supporting CENEX through private, tax deductible donations and would like more information, please contact:

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## CENEX Update

Dr. Sophie Warny, palynologist, has recently been appointed as an assistant professor in the Department of Geology & Geophysics with a joint appointment as curator in the Museum of Natural Science. She received a Ph.D. in Sciences from the Catholic University of Louvain (UCL), in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium in 1999, under the direction of Dr. Jean-Pierre Suc, from the University of Lyon, France. She has been working in the US since 1999, and at LSU since 2000. She has been an active member of AASP for over 15 years, and served on the AASP Board of Directors from 2006 to 2007. She will use the CENEX facilities for her research program and is looking forward to welcoming the first CENEX chair at LSU once the match is received and a search is conducted. In the meantime, earnings from the AASP Professorship will be used to support the CENEX lab.