



A.A.S.P. NEWSLETTER

Published Quarterly by the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists Inc.

June 2004 Volume 37, Number 2

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A.A.S.P.

American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists Inc.

The American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists, Inc. - AASP - was established in 1967 by a group of 31 founding members to promote the science of palynology. Today AASP has a world-wide membership of about 800 and is run by an executive comprising an elected Board of Directors and subsidiary boards and committees. AASP welcomes new members.

The AASP Foundation publishes the journal *Palynology* (annually), the AASP Newsletter (quarterly), and the AASP Contributions Series (mostly monographs, issued irregularly), as well as several books and miscellaneous items. AASP organises an Annual Meeting which usually includes a field trip, a business luncheon, social events, and technical sessions where research results are presented on all aspects of palynology.

AASP Scientific Medal recipients

Professor William R. Evitt (awarded 1982)
Professor William G. Chaloner (awarded 1984)
Dr. Lewis E. Stover (awarded 1988)
Dr. Graham Lee Williams (awarded 1996)
Dr. Hans Gocht (awarded 1996)
Dr. Svein B. Manum (awarded 2002)

AASP Honorary Members

Professor Dr. Alfred Eisenack (elected 1975)
Dr. William S. Hoffmeister (elected 1975)
Professor Leonard R. Wilson (elected 1975)
Professor Knut Faegri (elected 1977)
Professor Charles Downie (elected 1982)
Professor William R. Evitt (elected 1989)
Professor Lucy M. Cranwell (elected 1989)
Dr. Tamara F. Vozzhennikova (elected 1990)
Professor Aureal T. Cross (elected 1991)
Dr. Robert T. Clarke (awarded 2002)

AASP Board of Directors Award recipient

Dr. Robert T. Clarke (awarded 1994)

Teaching medal recipients

Professor Aureal T. Cross (awarded 1999)
Professor Alfred Traverse (awarded 2001)

AASP Distinguished Service Award recipients

Dr. Robert T. Clarke (awarded 1978)
Dr. Norman J. Norton (awarded 1978)
Dr. Jack D. Burgess (awarded 1982)
Dr. Richard W. Hedlund (awarded 1982)
Dr. John A. Clendening (awarded 1987)
Dr. Kenneth M. Piel (awarded 1990)
Dr. Gordon D. Wood (awarded 1993)
Dr. Jan Jansonius (awarded 1995)
Dr. D. Colin McGregor (awarded 1995)
Professor John H. Wrenn (awarded 1998)
Professor Vaughn M. Bryant (awarded 1999)
Dr. Donald W. Engelhardt (awarded 2000)

Awards at each Annual Meeting: Best Student Paper Award, and Best Poster Award.

AASP Student Scholarships may be awarded annually to three students in the amount of US\$1500. The qualification of the student, the originality and imagination evident in the proposed project, and the likelihood of significant contribution to the science of palynology are factors that will be weighed in selection of award winners. Previous winners of this award are eligible only if they are pursuing a different degree than the one they were pursuing when they received the previous award. AASP Scholarships are available to all students of palynology in all countries and need not be members of AASP. Application forms appear in the January issue of the AASP Newsletter, are available from the Chairman of the AASP Awards Committee (Fred Rich frich@gasou.edu), or can be downloaded from our website at <http://www.palynology.org/content/scholar.html>

AASP Membership categories and dues (in US\$ per year) are as follows:

Individual (\$45.00), **Student** (\$30.00), **Retired** (\$15.00), and **Institutional** (\$70.00). Dues may be paid up to three years in advance by using credit card (MasterCard, Visa, American Express), check or money order (made payable to AASP Inc.), and must be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer. All members receive the AASP Newsletter (mailed quarterly by hard copy or via email), Membership Directory (mailed annually), and (with the exception of Retired members) the journal *Palynology* that is published annually. Overseas members can receive their Newsletter and *Palynology* by airmail, rather than book rate surface mail; an additional surcharge is required in the amount of US\$12.00 for Europe & South America, and US\$15.00 for Africa, Asia & the Pacific region (includes Australia and New Zealand).



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Carlos Jaramillo, Editor

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The AASP Newsletter is published four times annually. Members are encouraged to submit articles, "letters to the editor", technical notes, meetings reports, information about "members in the news", new websites and information about job openings in the industry. Every effort will be made to publish all information received from our membership. Contributions which include photographs should be submitted a week before the deadline. Deadline for next issues of the newsletter is SEPTEMBER 1, 2004. All information should be sent by email. If possible, please illustrate your contribution with art, line drawings, eye-catching logos, black & white photos, colour photos, etc. We **DO** look forward to contributions from our membership.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Sharma Lynn Gaponoff

As we head toward our AASP Annual Meeting to be held July 4 – 9, 2004, in conjunction with the XI International Palynological Congress in Granada, Spain, the folks behind the scenes of AASP have been quite busy, as has the membership. The 2004 AASP Election results are in. Thanks go out to all the members who voted and importantly to all of you who graciously accepted nominations. It is my distinct honor to congratulate the following newly elected members of the Board of Directors: President-Elect, Robert Cushman; Directors-at-Large, Pete McLaughlin and Jörg Pross; Secretary-Treasurer, Thomas Demchuk; and Managing Editor, James Riding. Congratulations again to you all.

The mid-year Board of Directors meeting was held this year on March 13th, at the Center of Excellence for Palynology (CENEX) at Louisiana State University and convened by CENEX director and long-time AASP member John Wrenn. The following are highlights from this meeting:

AASP is now close to 600 members in good standing. Although this is an improvement it falls short of our membership goal. In order to increase our membership the Board of Directors and the AASP Foundation have agreed to offer one free AASP book for each new member who signs up at the annual meeting next month in Granada, Spain. Thank you to the Foundation and to ConocoPhillips, who at the request of Thomas Demchuck is underwriting the mailing of all the books to the new members at the meeting in Spain.

An AASP Membership Directory is available to all members in good standing as a .pdf document. If you did not receive yours in a recent e-mailing, please contact Thomas Demchuck to receive a copy: Thomas.D.Demchuk@conocophillips.com.

Volume 28 of *Palynology* is slated to be mailed out to active members in September/October this year. In

addition to the journal articles, this volume of *Palynology* will include all the abstracts (30 pages worth) of the presentations at the Annual Meeting in 2003 in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada. Our thanks to all of the contributors to this volume and to Owen Davis as Managing Editor and Bob Clarke as coordinator of publishing. Without the excellent contributions from members, or the mammoth efforts of these gentlemen and the reviewers, none of this would happen.

The Center of Excellence in Palynology (CENEX) at Louisiana State University, USA, headed by John Wrenn continues to be quite active. Current research projects include marine and non-marine palynology from Miocene to Recent in locations as varied as Louisiana and the Ross Sea, Antarctica. Along with John Wrenn, Director, the following personnel are currently at CENEX: Sophie Warny, Research Associate; PhD Students, Lawrence Febo and Rebecca Tedford; and undergraduate student Robin Camors. You can learn more about CENEX through the LSU Department of Geology and Geophysics website: <http://www.geol.lsu.edu/DeptResearch/Paleontology.htm>. AASP is short only \$54K of our \$600K goal for requesting matching funds from the state of Louisiana. When these remaining funds are generated, it will provide CENEX with an Endowed Chair to accompany the current Endowed Professorship held by John Wrenn. If any of you have ideas on how to generate these missing funds, please contact John Wrenn; wrenn@geol.lsu.edu.

Please visit the Oral History pages at the AASP Primary Records web site, <http://www.palynology.org/history/> and see the latest additions. Read the extraordinary histories of the people who made tremendous impact to the science of palynology in the 20th century.

As mentioned earlier, this year's Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the XI International Palynological Congress in Granada, Spain, July 4-9, 2004. Please visit the meeting website for details on the meeting: <http://www.11ipc.org/>. There are many Association activities planned for this meeting. In addition to the technical sessions, students and other members will have the opportunity to participate in the Silent Auction/Swap Shop headed by Eddie Robertson who has generously offered a copy of AASP's 3-volume book set, *Palynology Principles and Applications*. I encourage senior members of our organization to bring items to be offered at this event. This is a great way to share literature with our colleagues and to support our organization. If you have any questions about the Silent Auction/Swap Shop please contact Eddie Robertson: ebr@mail.reihardt.edu.

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend any of the Board of Directors meetings. The Outgoing Board of Directors meeting will be on Sunday, July 4 at 3:00PM, and the Incoming Board of Directors meeting will also begin at 3:00PM on Thursday, July 8.

Owen Davis and his Organizing Committee have done an outstanding job in preparation of this Annual Meeting in Granada. This is an excellent opportunity to meet and extend our "sphere of influence" to other palynology colleagues from around the world. Please plan to attend the AASP Business Luncheon on Wednesday, July 7, where I will pass the gavel to our current President-Elect, Martin Head, welcome the new members of the Board of Directors, acknowledge and thank those who will end their terms of office at this meeting. I hope to see many of you in Spain next month. Hasta luego, mis amigos.

LOGAN LOUIS URBAN, AN OBITUARY

By William C. Meyers



Logan Lewis Urban, one of the founding members of AASP, died March 3, 2004, at his home in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, from complications of pancreatic cancer.

Logan was born October 8, 1937, in the small town of Rush Springs, Oklahoma. He was educated in the Rush Springs public schools, earned a BS in Geology in 1962 from the University of Oklahoma, and subsequently an MS in Geology from that same school. His graduate work was done under the supervision of Dr. L. R. (Doc) Wilson. Also in 1962, he married J. Irene (Harrell) Urban.

His first job in the oil industry was with Sun Oil Company in Dallas, Texas, but he soon accepted a permanent position as a palynological supervisor with Phil-

Phillips Petroleum in Bartlesville in 1966. Working in the special studies group with James Dempsey, Logan was soon recognized for his ability to use palynology to solve stratigraphic problems. His contributions to Alaskan North Slope stratigraphy and thermal history were key factors in Phillips obtaining valuable lease acreage in the Prudhoe Bay Field, the largest oil field in North America.

In recognition of his contributions and capabilities, Logan was appointed Chief Palynologist for Phillips, and recruited five professionals to continue solving palynological problems worldwide. His work took him to Alaska, South America, the Far East, the North Sea, the Zagros Mountains of Iran, and numerous states in the western U.S. He introduced vitrinite reflectance and TAI, along with kerogen descriptions to help evaluate the petroleum potential of frontier areas, and he designed a mobile palynological laboratory that was used on key wells worldwide. His success led to his appointment as Senior Exploration Geologist and Science Advisor for Phillips International in Columbia in 1977, and represented a major transition from a specialist to a generalist position that was responsible for generating exploration plays.

In 1980, Logan transferred to Phillips International Headquarters in Coral Gables, Florida. Shortly thereafter, Logan's brother, Jim, and his family were killed in a private plane accident, and Logan and his wife separated. These events, in part, prompted Logan to leave Phillips to return to Bartlesville and manage the oil leases that had been held by his brother. He went on to develop new prospects, and drilled and completed numerous shallow wells. He founded United Energy Development, and became a successful producer and a respected consulting geologist. Following the decline in oil prices in the early 1990's, Logan retired from the oil industry, and remarried – to Gale (Bateman) Urban in 1994.

After mastering the plethora of government regulations concerning commercial pollution, Logan began a new career working as an environmental consultant for eight years with U. S. Filter Company in Bartlesville. He retired from that position in 2003. In late 2003, he was incapacitated by a fall in which he sustained severe damage to his vertebrae.

The strong work ethic and sense of self-reliance that Logan acquired from working in the fields near Rush Springs in his youth helped see him through the early death of his father, and the tragic and early death of his brother. His family accompanied him to Colombia for his assignment there, and they enjoyed the totally different cultural atmosphere of Bogota. For Logan,

it involved field work in the Andean jungles, with the accompanying risk of encountering either bushmasters or armed guards in drug-growing areas, as well as numerous visits to distant wildcat wells.

Twice in his life, during his undergraduate years, and again while running United Energy Development, Logan was able to indulge his passion for riding Harley Davidson "hogs". During the latter interval, he also fulfilled his love of owning and driving fast sport cars.

Logan engendered deep respect in his many friends and colleagues, not only by his keen analytical mind and numerous accomplishments, but also for his firm and loyal friendship and his willingness to help anyone who asked. His fellow palynologists knew that they could talk to Logan about common problems, and that they would always receive from him an honest answer – the "unvarnished truth". He never forgot his mentor, teacher and friend, L. R. Wilson. Following Professor Wilson's retirement, Logan and other colleagues often went to Norman to share a "wee dram" with 'Doc' during fondly-remembered evenings.

Logan took great pride in his dogs – Brittany spaniels. He enjoyed training them and hunting with them in the Osage Hills of northeastern Oklahoma, and even converted some of his long time "American Pointer" friends to Brittany fans.

Logan will be sorely missed by all those who knew him as AASP, as well as his many friends and acquaintances outside the geological profession. His life was lived intensely – he truly "did it his way".

Edited by Ken Piel and Larry Leffingwell

STANLEY A.J. POCOCK, AN OBITUARY

By Jan Jansonius



Imperial Oil archive photo

From L to R Frank Staplin, me (JJ --standing) and Stanley Pocock

Stanley Pocock was born and raised in London, England. In 1950 he obtained his BSc in Geology, with a major in Palaeobotany, at University College, London. He then served in the military, including time in the Korean war. From 1952 to 1956 he worked as Experimental Officer in what was then known as the Geological Survey of Great Britain and Museum of Practical Geology, in London, where he met his future wife Isobel, a librarian at the Museum. In 1956 he was hired by Imperial Oil, and assigned to the newly established Palynology Laboratory in Calgary, headed by F.L. Staplin (who had trained at the Carter Co. in Tulsa, with W.S. Hoffmeister).

Stanley started to document the spore-pollen assemblages of the Cretaceous strata of Western Canada (Saskatchewan and Alberta), working his way down into the Jurassic. Inevitably, he also observed cysts of many new species of dinoflagellates. In the meantime, Staplin had been documenting spore assemblages from the richly oil-bearing Devonian, working his way up the column into the Carboniferous. In 1958, I was invited to join that team, and was assigned to do the same for the Permo-Triassic of northern Alberta.

These were the first of some 25 happy years, full of new vistas of the microscopic plant and animal life of various ages in that part of the world, with their dazzling structural and sculptural varieties. New

species needed to be described and named, and were compared with those from other parts of the world. The Imperial Oil laboratory in Calgary, one of the early centres where palynology was developed, enjoyed visits from such luminaries as Potonié, Erdtman, Venkatachala and many others.

Stanley's PhD thesis was based on research conducted in Calgary. His enthusiasm for palynology, his charm and communication skill is attested to by the serendipitous happening that occurred while he was on his way to defend his thesis in London, England, in the summer of 1964. Stanley could talk up a storm on many subjects, and on the train to London struck up a conversation with a fellow traveller. Excited about his career in palynology, he talked about the science, the need to find zone-specific fossils, the practical application in the oil industry and even his thesis. The passenger listened attentively; interrupted Stanley with some pointed questions, and discussed this somewhat unusual subject in great detail. Stanley did not think this was remarkable till ... hours later, when he entered the university, he discovered that the man was one of his examiners!

Stanley enjoyed being in the forefront of new developments, and made the most of opportunities provided at his workplace. A glance at the titles of some of his publications (below) shows the breadth of his interests. Not only did he co-author with a number of scientists, he also established contacts with fellow palynologists in far away places. Some of his last papers are among his best.

Art Sweet, a palynologist at the Geological Survey of Canada, commented: 'We are reminded of the accomplishments of our colleagues in different ways, but most often when we turn to a valued publication. When word of Stanley's death came through, I had just had occasion to reach for his extensive account of the "Palynology of the Jurassic sediments of Western Canada," and realized once again how important the documentation of whole assemblages are to the application of palynology. His monographic treatment of terrestrial Jurassic microfloras, together with his 1962 analysis of spore-pollen assemblages across the Jurassic Cretaceous boundary, are a legacy that will remain important to the biostratigraphic application of miospores well into the future, and serve as a persistent reminder of his pioneering accomplishments in the field of western Canadian Mesozoic palynology.' Stan Stancliffe (Imperial Oil) concurred with that assessment of the Palaeontographica papers: 'My copies were heavily used; no regional papers of that type had been published before then (or since, really).'

Stanley would follow his convictions in matters of fairness and faith. He worked hard to establish a pension plan for the ministers of the Anglican church he attended, as he felt that the remuneration of priests was inadequate. With his wife Isobel, he prepared a weekly "music hour" for patients in the Alzheimer ward of one of Calgary's hospitals. They felt that such patients might have difficulty in communicating, but would respond to music and melodies that rekindled old memories. His spiritual interests eventually involved the legends and stories of Indian Buddhism, a country he visited a couple of times.

In the mid 1980ies Stanley and Isobel retired to a custom-designed wooden cottage in the forested area of Arrow Creek, just east of Creston, British Columbia -- a lovely place along a wilderness road, where Stanley (ever an avid gardener) carried on a long but good-natured battle with the deer who ate his garden as fast as he could plant things. He loved being close to nature there, had a magnificent library, a small lab space with a fume hood, and even his own properly dedicated chapel. There he continued palynological and nature studies. In his spare time he volunteered at the 7000 ha Creston Valley Wildlife Centre, collecting and cataloguing samples of the local plant life; he was a major donor to this RAMSAR site. Rev. Leslie Lewis wrote that Stanley enriched her life greatly with his tremendous knowledge of church history, patristic theology, geology and botany: 'What a combination! He will be severely missed.'

Stanley became increasingly involved in the Anglican Church, where he acted as lay Minister of the Word and Sacrament for a number of years, then became a Deacon, and around 2001 was formally ordained to the Anglican priesthood. Yet, a few years later he moved over to the Roman Catholic church, believing that he might serve as a priest in that church as well, and help realize a coming-together of these two creeds. Stanley died peacefully in February 2004, of prostate cancer, in the Swan Valley Lodge, Creston. He is sadly missed at the town's nursing homes, where he was an honorary (and very active) chaplain. His wife Isobel remains in Swan Valley Lodge; she may not realize he's gone, but the rest of us certainly do.

[Incidentally, Wilson Stewart, another paleobotanist living near Creston, died in Kootenay Bay, April 5, at the age of 87.]

Jan Jansonius (03 05 2004).

(With contributions by Rev. Leslie Lewis, Theodora

Masran, William Mitchell-Banks, Bernard Owens, Stan Stancliffe, Frank Staplin, Art Sweet.)

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MIKLÓS KEDVES , AN OBITUARY

By Lilla Hably



On the 6th of November, 2004, Prof. Kedves Miklós, a widely known Hungarian palynologist, passed away unexpectedly in his home in Szeged, Hungary.

He was born on the 21st of March, 1933 in Szeged and was also educated there. He graduated in biology and chemistry at the University of Szeged in 1955. In the beginning he had taught in a grammar school and after three years in 1958 he took his doctorate with „summa cum laude” qualifications and returned to the university in Szeged as an assistant lecturer. He was appointed to be senior lecturer in 1963 and after two years when he obtained candidate’s degree in Biological Science he became reader till 1975. Meanwhile, in 1974 he took the degree of „Doctor of Biological Science”, the highest academic degree of the Hungarian Academy of Science. That time onward he did research and was a lecturer at the university as a full-time ministerial researcher and consultant. Due to the compulsory staff reduction at the university he was retired on the 1st of May, 1986. However, it was perceived by professional circles neither at home nor abroad, since he continued work, did research, taught at the university, organized field trips and travelled to Spain, India, etc. with undiminished

energy. He established a laboratory at the Botanical Department of the university under the name of "Cell Biological and Evolutionary Micropalaeontological Laboratory", which became widely known among experts. Supported financially by applications he published a brochure regularly under the name of "Plant Cell Biology and Development". Meanwhile, he gave lectures in palynology at the Department of Palaeontology of the Eötvös Lóránd University and was pronounced habilitated doctor by the Habilitation Committee and the Rector of the university on the 7th of March, 1996.

His scientific public activity was quite far-reaching. He was a member of the Hungarian Biological Society, the Hungarian Geological Society, the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists, the Association des Palynologues de Langue Francaise, the Association Internationale de Palynologie Africaine, the New York Academy of Science, the Research Fellow of the American Biographical Institute USA and the National Committee of the ICSU International Geosphere – Biosphere Programme in which he was responsible for the following themes: Techniques for Extracting Environmental Data of the Past; Evolutions of the biopolymer system of the cell walls; Adaption mechanisms of plants and the palaeophytogeographical changes based on micro- and macro-remains.

Appointments held by him in various organizations were always coupled with active work and participation. He was a member of three, the Microbiological, Palaeontological, and the Geonomical Scientific Committees of the Hungarian Academy of Science.

Among his editorial activity first of all the establishment of the serial "Plant Cell Biology and Development" is noteworthy. Sixteen volumes of the serial were published between 1991 and 2004. He was a member of the editorial boards of *Acta Botanica* (published by the Hungarian Academy of Science, Budapest), *Geologija* (Ljubljana, Slovenia) and *Taiwania* (Taipei, Taiwan).

At the beginning of his career, in 1966-67 he spent one year in Paris granted by the CNRS. In 1969-70 he accomplished investigations in Cairo for three months supported by the Hungarian Academy of Science. In the scope of a research cooperation of the NSF and KKI he was afforded the possibility to have research for three months in Athens, Georgia, USA. In addition, he spent several weeks abroad either with invitation or with the financial support of the Hungarian Academy. His scientific achievement is well indicated by the high number of his publications. He had more than 450 publications among which monographies,

volumes published by the Akadémiai Kiadó, the Oxford University Press and the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists Foundation are to be found. His works were published in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Czech Republic, South Africa, Egypt, United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, India, Japan, Canada, Taiwan, Peoples Republic of China, Columbia, Cuba, Morocco, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Slovenia, the former Soviet Union, Tunesia and the USA.

He was awarded twice abroad as an appreciation of his scientific work. First in 1986 he was given the honour "Medalla universitaria con el sello del estudio que se entrega en conmemoraciones o en atención a servicios distinguidos" of the Salamanca University, Spain and later in 1995 he was awarded with the "Birbal Sahni Centenary Medal" from the Institute in Lucknow, India.

Miklos Kedves will be warmly remembered both by his colleagues and friends and his research activity will be missing from Hungarian palynology.

2004 CRANWELL AWARDS

by Fred Rich, AASP Awards Committee

The AASP Awards Committee is pleased once again to announce the names of the winners of the annual student scholarship competition. Fourteen applications were received from students in seven countries. This is the best response we've had in several years and, hopefully, is a sign that palynology in the classroom is alive and well.

After careful consideration of the proposals, the committee, which consists of Drs. Owen Davis, Leonard Eames, Barbara Whitney, and Fred Rich selected three winners. Deborah Skilliter, Dalhousie University, and Ali Soliman, Graz University, were awarded AASP scholarships in the amount of US\$1500 each. Lawrence Febo, Louisiana State University, was awarded the Lucy Cranwell Award, also valued at US\$1500. Brief descriptions of the winners and their projects follow.

We are thrilled with the response we received this year, and the committee encourages all students to consider applying for awards next year. Announcements will be printed in forthcoming newsletters, but this is an annual event, and we will once again review proposals after the next deadline for submittal (March 31, 2005).

Deborah Skilliter

"A Biostratigraphic and Paleoenvironmental Model for the Tertiary of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland"



I obtained my Honours Bachelor of Science in Geology from Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1995 and my Master of Science in Geology from Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts in 2001. I am currently the Curator of Geology at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

I began to study palynology as part of my Master's thesis research on the famous fossil cliffs of Jogjins, Nova Scotia, examining the possibility of distal marine influence in a portion of the section. As part of the study, the Forty Brine coal seam was analysed for petrology, reflectance, geochemistry, and palynology. While studying at Boston College, I had the opportunity to work with Dr. Paul Strother and Dr. John Beck on two field research projects. One project examined Silurian palynomorphs from the southern Appalachians and the other Cambrian palynomorphs from the Grand Canyon. I was trained in palynological sample preparation and palynomorph identifications.

I am currently enrolled as a doctoral candidate in the Earth Sciences Department at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. My research involves defining a concise biostratigraphic framework for the Late Cretaceous-Tertiary of the Grand Banks and Scotian Margin based on palynomorphs (dinoflagellates, pollen and spores), developing a paleoenvironmental model, delineating third-order sequences and reconstructing influence and timing of offshore currents,

particularly the proto-Gulf Stream. This innovative research will result in a more refined zonation, a better understanding of paleoenvironments and the recognition of warm and cold water assemblages and events. The research will be supervised by Dr. Graham Williams and Dr. Rob Fensome of the Geological Survey of Canada (Atlantic) and Dr. Grant Wach of Dalhousie University.

Ali Soliman

“Early-Middle Miocene Dinoflagellate Cysts, Gulf of Suez, Egypt”



In 1995, I received a B.Sc. in Geology with honors from Tanta University, Egypt. Following a year in public service, I was introduced to palynology by Profs. M. Faris and A. Zalat, who are professors of micropaleontology at Tanta University. In 1997 I began studying palynological principals with Prof. Salah El Beialy, Mansoura University, Egypt. Three years later I finished my M.Sc. under the supervision of the above-mentioned professors. The Master thesis dealt with Bajocian-Oxfordian dinocysts, acritarchs and miospores. Two publications arose from these results.

In 2002, I was awarded an Austrian Exchange Service (ÖAD) PhD scholarship under the principal supervision of Prof. Werner Piller, Head of the Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Graz University, Austria. Dr. Martin J. Head of Cambridge University, UK, provides co-supervision. My thesis research investigates the marine palynology of the Miocene in the Gulf of Suez. The Gulf of Suez is a very important oil and gas province in Egypt, with the Miocene serving as the main reservoir in the area. Only a few scattered contributions have been published previously on the palynology of the Gulf of Suez. My project will be the first large-scale study focusing on dinoflagellate

cyst taxonomy, stratigraphy and palaeoenvironmental analysis in northeastern Egypt. Dinocysts will provide valuable information on the depositional history and sequence stratigraphy of the Gulf of Suez. In August, 2003, I visited Cambridge where I discussed dinocyst taxonomic problems with Martin Head. It was a fruitful visit and I gained a lot of experience. In April of this year I was fortunate to attend an excellent workshop on dinocysts in Lyon, France, organized by Drs Jean-Pierre Suc and Speranta Popescu within the EEDEN Program. Aspects of my current thesis research will be presented later this year at the 11th IPC in Granada, Spain and 32nd IGC in Florence, Italy.

WINNERS FOR AASP SUPPORT FOR TRAVEL TO IPC-11

The following applications for support for travel to IPC-11 were approved by the Awards Committee of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists. They will be sent a check in the amount of US \$500 from AASP.

Dafna Kadosh, Sokolov 36, Nahariya 22424
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Julius Lejju Bunny, Department Of Geography Trinity College, University Of Dublin, Dublin Dublin 2
IRELAND

Maria Papanikolaou, Downing Place, University of Cambridge, Geography Department, Wolfson College, Cambridge CB2 3EN
ENGLAND

Matthew Dixon, School of Earth & Geographical Sciences (M004), University of Western Australia, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley WA 6009
AUSTRALIA

Tambra L. Eifert, University of Missouri-Rolla, 125 McNutt Hall, Rolla MO 65409
USA

Carmen Isela Ortega Rosas, Instituto de Ecologia UNAM-ERNO, Colosio y Sahuaripa s/n Col. Los Arcos, Hermosillo 83250 SONORA
MEXICO

Barry Taylor, School of Earth & Geographical Sciences (M004), University of Western Australia, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley WA 6009
AUSTRALIA

DINOFLAGELLATES 2004, UNIVERSITY OF TUBINGEN, MAY 24-29, 3004

By Thomas D. Demchuk, ConocoPhillips, Houston, TX

The 2004 edition of the highly successful Dinoflagellate Short Course took place at the University of Tübingen, May 24-29, 2004. The University served as the perfect setting, originally being the home of research for such dinoflagellate pioneers as Alfred Eisenack and Hans Gocht. A hearty round of applause to Joerg Pross who acted as local coordinator for the course, for organizing the technical sessions in comfortable and pleasant surroundings, as well as putting together some attractive social activities. Congratulations to Joerg on his hard work and efforts; Tübingen's loss is Frankfurt's gain.



Hans Gocht, Joerg Pross, and Susanne Feist-Burkhardt

Course instructors included Henk Brinkhuis from the LPP, Utrecht University, and Jim Riding, British Geological Survey. Other presenters included Joerg Pross, and LPP grad students (present and former) Bas von de Schotbrugge and Appy Sluis. 39 participants including academicians, consultants and industry palynologists took part in this five-day class. A half-day fieldtrip to late Triassic and early Jurassic strata punctuated the lectures. Participants came from various parts of the globe, attending from Europe, North and South America, and Australia/New Zealand.

The lectures were ordered chronostratigraphically, beginning on Monday with the late Triassic, and progressing through to the Plio-Pleistocene by week end. Individual species were described in their chronostratigraphic context with calibration to absolute time, from the northern and southern hemisphere where applicable and possible. Participants were



Henk Brinkhuis

provided with thick notebooks containing several spreadsheets of dinoflagellate data, pertinent references, illustrations of dinoflagellate morphological concepts, and a CD containing digital images of all the described taxa, all the notebook material in digital format, plus other dinoflagellate goodies.

Monday AM began with an introductory lecture to dinoflagellates including morphology and taxonomy, as well as an overview of geological timescales and chronostratigraphy, and calibration of the dinoflagellate data to absolute time. Monday PM through Wednesday AM, sessions on Triassic through early Cretaceous dinoflagellate concepts and chronostratigraphy took place. Bas von de Schotbrugge gave us a presentation based on his thesis work on the micropaleontological and geochemical nature of the Turonian anoxic event in southern Germany.

A quick half-day fieldtrip was carried out on Wednesday PM. Two localities were chosen to investigate the local southern German stratigraphy. After a brief diversion and turn down the wrong road, we eventually arrived at a working cement quarry to look at the late Triassic Upper Muschelkalk Beds. A brief discussion of the carbonate lithologies ensued. The second and more exciting stop was to a lower Jurassic Toarcian black shale quarry where participants spent much time searching for numerous well-preserved ammonites. Several (almost) museum quality specimens were found and displayed; the best part is they were ours to keep. The quarry manager, obviously excited about the geology of the various shale beds, regaled us with the latest paleoenvironmental and paleogeographic interpretations. With the keen interest in these shale beds, and the hunt for good ammonites, this stop ran well over time and the coordinators were forced to cut out the third stop and



Lower Jurassic quarry

return to Tübingen. Wednesday evening's social function was a fabulous buffet dinner at the Schloss Hohentübingen, a large castle high on the hill overlooking the city of Tübingen, which is now a University facility. After a welcoming speech by University dignitaries, a grand buffet of local Swabian fare was had. This was accompanied by excellent German red and white wine, and local beers. A major highlight of the evening was the presence of Hans Gocht. Many of the class participants took the opportunity to introduce themselves to Dr. Gocht, who was obviously pleased to be part of this dinoflagellate social scene. He made it clear that although he was retired from palynology, he had not retired from other scientific interests.

Back to the dinoflagellates! Thursday AM through Friday PM centered on the late Cretaceous through Cenozoic dinoflagellate chronostratigraphy, including some discussion of dinoflagellate paleoecology. A short presentation on dinoflagellate preservation and morphology was given by LPP grad student Appy Sluijs during these times.

The class and lectures were well organized through the week, although timing was a concern in covering some chronostratigraphic intervals....too much information to present, and not enough available time. With the exception of the punctuated fieldtrip (not enough time to search for ammonites!) the class was a great success and well worth every Euro. The quiet city of Tübingen was an excellent host, with the historical part of the city providing an excellent number of opportunities for food, drink, shopping, and general sight-seeing in the beautiful surroundings of the Neckar River valley. After lectures, the local beer gardens down by the river and near the Town Hall were fun and relaxing, and of course, the German beer was most delicious.



Tübingen Town Hall

From the personal standpoint, this class was an excellent update to the Urbino 1999 class which I was fortunate to attend. With the diversity of participants at this Tübingen class, and previous classes having been held in Europe, a North America version of this class in the future would be a great success.

NEWS FROM INDIA

By Naresh C. Mehrotra nareshmehrotra@indiatimes.com

Recent Researches from Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow The discovery of Permian, Mesozoic, and Palaeocene palynomorphs from the Nindan forearc basin, exposed along the Indus Suture zone in Ladakh, is reported. The palynomorphs are from volcanogenic sandstones and are poorly preserved, distorted and show the effects of abrasion (striation marks). The Palaeocene provenance area was characterized by an estuarine, near shore, tropical, warm-humid environment and was situated at equatorial palaeolatitude. (Upadhyay, R., Awatar, R., Kar, R.K. & Sinha, A.K., 2004. Palynological evidence for the Palaeocene evolution of the forearc basin, Indus Suture Zone, Ladakh, India. Terra Nova (in press). Dinoflagellate cysts recovered from well-dated ammonites from the Tethys Himalaya reveal their biostratigraphic potential in age determination and correlation of the Tithonian succession in the Indo-Pacific region. Tethys Himalayan dinoflagellate cyst assemblages show a distinctive Indo-Pacific character. Occurrence of some characteristic Bo-

real and European Tethyan species is also recorded suggesting co-occurrence of Northern and Southern Hemisphere dinoflagellate cysts in this part of the Tethys realm (Garg, R., Attequzzama, K., Krishna, J. & Jain, K.P., 2003. Biostratigraphic potential of dinoflagellate cysts recovered from the Late Jurassic ammonites of the Tethys Himalaya, India. 2003. J. Palaeontol. Soc. India 48: 41-58).

Recent Publication from KDMIPE, Dehra Dun. The study of modern sediments assumes importance as present is key to the past. The earlier concept that the deposition of spore-pollen is maximum at the shelfal region and minimum at the slope needs to be revised in view of the present observations. Even the organic matter like flaky charcoal transports for a longer distance offshore and deposited at the slope region. Phytoplankton like dinoflagellate cysts with various morphological characters do occur at the bathymetry up to 700m where the photic zone gets nutrients. The diatom study suggests warm water tropical environment during deposition of sediments. The age of the sediments is assigned less than 0.65 million years. The studies also suggest phytoplankton bloom that is later on followed by sudden supply of sediments and preservation of marine derived organic matter in an anoxic environment. The preservation of terrestrial derived organic matter took place during slow deposition, whereby, low resistant organic matter is not preserved and only high resistant and reworked organic matter is preserved. These observations are to be considered while interpreting depositional environments for the older/subsurface sediments.

An attempt has been made in the present study to understand occurrence of the marine/non-marine entities with respect to depth. Similarly sporomorph/phytoplankton ratio with the increase in depth plots help in deciphering depositional environments. The knowledge of the present study can be applied in subsurface sediments for interpretation of paleoecology and search for organic rich sediments to locate source kitchen for hydrocarbon generation. (Significance of Marine Phytoplankton and Organic Matter from the Sea Bottom Sediments of Karwar Offshore (Kerala-Konkan Basin) in Paleocology and search of Hydrocarbons) P.N. Kapoor, S.N. Swamy and R.K. Chauhan; ONGC Bulletin, 39 (2). Email: pushkarkapoor@ongc.net

NEWS FROM THE NETHERLANDS

by Jan Jansonius

Since the AASP Newsletter always tries to stay on top of the news, we don't want to withhold word any longer that Prof. Henk Visscher retired as active professor, but continues work in this field as professor emeritus (which means that he will still have plenty of opportunities to stay involved in palynology).



Prof. Henk Visscher, Head of the Laboratorium for Palaeobotany and Palynology at the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands, officially retired on 6 June 2002. He has been succeeded by Prof. Andre' (Andy) F. Lotter, originally from Switzerland, who now occupies the Chair for Palaeoecology.

A symposium was held on June 6th, 2002, dedicated to Prof Henk Visscher (see: www.bio.uu.nl/~palaeo/Congressen/Visscher2002/Visscher_symp2002.htm)

More information on his research, and on the presentation he held during the symposium (in dutch): www.bio.uu.nl/~palaeo/Personeel/HenkV.htm

More information on his successor prof Andy Lotter can be found at www.bio.uu.nl/~palaeo/Personeel/AL/AL.htm

The LPP (Laboratorium for Palaeobotany and Palynology) has a broad base, and supports widely varying studies conducted by biologists, palaeobotanists and palynologists; palaeoecology will become increasingly important. In Stuifm@il, the Newsletter of the LPP group of students and interested supporters (some 150 in all), provided bits of information of recent developments. We thought that some of these might be of interest for a wider circle. In particular

the Valedictory address, given by Henk Visscher on the day he retired, deserves to be read by palynologists and geologists interested in the Permo-Triassic boundary problems.

Originally, this extended "fare-well" speech was given in Dutch; as such, it was published in *Stuifm@il*, Autumn Issue, No. 2 2002; pp 14-22. In order to make it accessible to a wider audience, I (J.J.) undertook to translate it into English. You can find the full speech at AASP web site <http://www.palynology.org/history/visscher.html>

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GEOLOGICAL PROBLEM SOLVING WITH MICROFOSSILS, Rice University, March 6-11, 2005, Houston, Texas
By Thomas Demchuck

All AASP members are cordially invited to Houston in March of 2005, to attend the meeting "Geological Problem Solving with Microfossils". This gathering is meant as a follow-up to the very successful meeting held in London in September of 2002 which was then sponsored by the TMS, AASP, and NAMS.

Currently for the Rice University meeting, eleven geological and micropaleontological organizations have pledged sponsorship, with SEPM and NAMS serving as the host societies. Rice University will serve as the backdrop for all the technical sessions. There are plenty of opportunities for oral sessions, and even greater opportunity for posters. Invited speakers will commence each of the morning and afternoon oral sessions. The meeting website is <http://www.sepm.org/microfossils2005.htm>

The aim of this conference is to bring together a diverse group of geoscientists to enhance the ability of utilizing microfossils in solving geological problems. A wide range of geological ages and microfossils groups will be highlighted throughout the three days of oral and poster sessions, answering a number of geological problems and questions. Those presenters whose abstracts are accepted, will also have the opportunity to prepare written manuscripts for publication as an SEPM Special Publication.

The Warwick Hotel will be the accommodation host for attendees to the meeting. This historic hotel in the heart of Houston's museum district is right across the street from the Rice University campus. Hotel rooms will be available for US\$119 per night, single or double occupancy. The hotel will further serve as the host for the Icebreaker on the Sunday evening (March 6). Reservation information will soon be made available to all interested parties, and will also be on the website in the near future. To ensure all participants safety, free shuttle buses will transport attendees to and from the Warwick Hotel to the technical sessions.

On Tuesday evening, March 8, a plenary dinner is planned at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Diners will be able enjoy cocktails and appetizers among the dinosaur skeletons, and dessert among the mineral exhibits. At least one and possibly two special guest speakers will entertain us in the IMAX theater.

Thursday and Friday following the technical sessions (March 10 and 11) a fieldtrip will take place to the Upper Cretaceous outcrops of central Texas. Watch further meetings announcements, or check the website for future information.

Important dates to remember include: October 14, 2004 will be the deadline for acceptance of abstracts; Registration will commence on September 6, 2004, through the conference website. This website is currently up and running and updates will be posted often. The registration fee has not yet been calculated, but will be remarkably low owing to corporate gener-

osity. Suffice it to say, attendees will get an extremely exciting meeting with lots of activities at a relatively low price. Registration fee will include access to all the oral and poster sessions, Sunday evening Icebreaker, Plenary Museum Dinner on Tuesday, lunch and coffee breaks for Monday through Wednesday, plus an abstracts volume. Additional tickets for the Icebreaker and Plenary Museum Dinner will be available for significant others and guests. As well, the Museum district offers plenty of opportunity for daytime activities for guests (the Houston Museum of Fine Arts across the street, the nearby Menil Collection of art) and the new Houston Metro light-rail offers quick and affordable transportation to the revitalized downtown for more leisure activities.

Students are strongly encouraged to submit abstracts for oral and poster sessions. With respect to AASP, students are also encouraged to apply for travel scholarship funds to help offset their expenses to attend the meeting. At least 2, and possibly more AASP Student Travel Scholarships in the amount of US\$500 will be awarded to deserving students. Applications may be submitted to Dr. Fred Rich at Georgia Southern University. Please check the AASP website for application details (www.palynology.org).

Houston is easily accessible from all points of the globe, with major airlines flying directly to Houston George W. Bush Intercontinental Airport from all major hubs in Europe and United States. Shuttle service is available from the airport to the major hotels in the museum district including the Warwick. Taxis are also available from the airport, with expected fare approximately US\$30. Other less expensive hotels are available surrounding Rice University campus, but attendees are encouraged to stay at the Warwick if possible. No other arrangements will be made with other hotels.

Please watch for future announcements in the AASP Newsletter, and check the AASP and SEPM websites for updated information. Specific questions concerning the meeting can be directed to Dr. Thomas Demchuk at thomas.d.demchuk@conocophillips.com.

The vision of this meeting, and its early planning are the result of efforts by Dr. Garry Jones who suddenly and very sadly passed away in mid-May. It was his hope to have a successful multi-disciplinary meeting where microfossil experts from around the world discussed geological problems and used micropaleontological methodologies to solve them. This meeting is being held in his memory. Please plan on attending and making this meeting a great one.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas D. Demchuk
Meeting Chair
AASP Secretary-Treasurer

CARNETS DE GÉOLOGIE/NOTEBOOKS ON GEOLOGY, AN ELECTRONIC PALEONTOLOGICAL JOURNAL

This is a message from the editors of Carnets de Géologie/Notebooks on Geology to the members of the International Palaeontological Association: We invite you to subscribe to our journal. Subscription is FREE! In return for this expression of interest you will be notified by E-mail when a new article is posted. And your online registration will demonstrate that as a palaeontologist you support the aims and purposes that led to the appearance of our journal. It is dedicated to the rapid publication of rigorously peer-reviewed articles in the fields of palaeontology, stratigraphy and sedimentology. They are open to all without charge and will remain so, for the site is linked to the online archives of the Spanish national research council (Rediris) and to several university servers. Safeguards are in place to insure a permanent record of the content of CdG/NdG in the Bibliothèque nationale of France and in the brick and stone libraries of a number of universities. In addition a CD-ROM version is available from several prominent libraries.

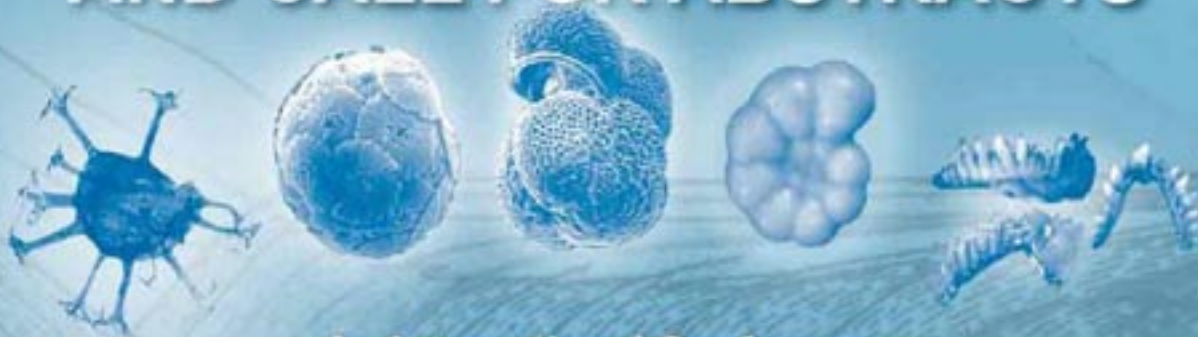
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SECOND CIRCULAR AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



An International Conference **Geologic Problem Solving with Microfossils**

March 6–11, 2005
Rice University, Houston, Texas USA

SPONSORS

- North American Micropaleontology Section of SEPM (host organization)
- Gulf Coast Section SEPM
- SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology)
- The Micropalaeontological Society
- American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists
- International Nannofossil Association
- Cushman Foundation
- Canadian Association of Palynologists
- Pander Society
- International Commission on Stratigraphy
- The Micropaleontology Project (Micropress)
- Geology Department, Rice University

PURPOSE

- Bringing together a diverse array of geoscientists to showcase the problem-solving power of microfossils in a variety of geologic settings.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Geoscientists wanting to learn more about the geologic application of microfossils.
- Professionals in microfossils from industry, academia, museums, and government agencies
- Students

ICEBREAKER (March 6)

FORUM (March 7–9)

- 2.5-day conference
- Case-histories
- Oral and poster presentations
- Invited papers
- Accepted abstracts will be grouped into appropriate themes for the Conference.

PLENARY DINNER (March 8)

- Houston Museum of Natural Science

FIELD TRIP (March 10–11, Sponsored by SEPM)

- Upper Cretaceous of Central Texas

PUBLICATIONS

- Conference program with abstracts
- Post-conference SEPM Special Publication

- Visit the official Conference Website beginning March 1, 2004 at www.sepm.org/microfossils2005.htm
- Call for abstracts: **April 1 – October 14, 2004** via the Website
- Registration begins **September 6, 2004** via the website.

Direct all inquiries by e-mail to Garry Jones (garry.jones@unocal.com)

Microfossil images courtesy of The Natural History Museum (London), Mitch Covington, and Gulf Coast Section SEPM

AGENDA

2004

July 4-9, 11th International Palynological Congress (IPC) in Granada, Spain.

Website www.11ipc.org/

July 31-August 5, Botany 2004, Botanical Society of America Annual Meeting, Snowbird Utah

Website www.botanyconference.org/

August 20-28, The 32nd session of the International Geological Congress. Florence, Italy.

<http://www.32igc.org> or contact Chiara Manetti, Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, Via La Pira, 4 - 50121 Firenze - ITALY, Phone/Fax: +39-055-2382146, E-mail: casaitalia@geo.unifi.it

September 8-10, 2004, International Symposium on Earth System, Istanbul - Turkey

We are very please to welcome you again with this forth edition of the newsletter of International Symposium on Earth System 2004, that will take place in Istanbul, Turkey, on 08 - 10 September 2004 in memory of the laureate Professor Sirri Erinc. He was the founder of modern geography in Turkey and will always be remembered for his contribution to the field of earth processes and their interactions with the society, known today as the Earth System Science. We are delighted to realize his lifelong dream by organizing this international symposium.

As we are enjoying the very first days of spring, we are making good progress in our preparations for the Symposium. The response is overwhelming with the abstracts we have received from many countries. This makes us believe that, we will have a very impressive and comprehensive scientific program within the Symposium.

We would like to remind you that, we are in the last period for the Early Registration Deadline, which is 15 April 2004. Therefore, you still have time to benefit from advantageous early registration fees. Please click www.earthsystem2004.org/forms/register_form.asp for online registration. If you would like to have more detailed information regarding the Symposium, please visit the web site www.earthsystem2004.org.

Please do not hesitate to contact with the Syposium Secretariat for your questions / requests regarding the Syposium. Contact details: Phone: +90 212 299 99 80, Fax : +90 212 299 99 77, E-mail secretari@earthsystem2004.org (for registration, hotel &

tour reservation), scientific@earthsystem2004.org (for scientific issues).

Thank you very much once again for your kind response for International Symposium on Earth System 2004. We all look forward to welcoming you in Istanbul! Best Regards, Prof. Dr. Baris MATER, Head of the Geography Department.

September 26-October 1, The Society for Organic Petrology (TSOP), 21th Annual Meeting, 2004, Sydney, Australia.

Information: Neil Sherwood, CSIRO Petroleum Resources, PO Box 136, North Ryde NSW 1670 Australia; Phone: 61-2-9490-8976; Fax: 61-2-9490-8197; E-mail: Neil.Sherwood@csiro.au. Further details: <http://www.tsop.org/mtgsyd.htm>.

Abstracts due 4/30/04. Oral and poster sessions September 27-30. Topics include coal in sustainable development, methane in high and low rank coals, new techniques in organic petrology and geochemistry, and non-marine source rocks. Short course (Sept. 27) on analysis and significance of mineral matter in coal. Field trips to Joadja torbanite (oil shale) deposits (9/26) and Hunter Valley coals (10/1).

TSOP also offers a \$1000 graduate student RESEARCH GRANT, application deadline, May 1, 2004. See www.tsop.org for details. Organic petrology is the branch of earth sciences that studies the origin, occurrence, structure and geohistory of sedimentary organic matter and coal.

November 7-10, Geological Society of America, Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado, U.S.A. <http://www.geosociety.org>

November 7-10, XI Meeting on Paleobotany and Palynology (XI RPP), sponsored by the Asociación Latinoamericana de Paleobotánica y Palinología, Gramado, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. <http://www.exatec.unisinos.br/rpp2004>