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# A.A.S.P. NEWSLETTER

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Published Quarterly by the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists Inc.

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## September 2006 Volume 39, Number 3

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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)  
Professor Svein B. Manum (awarded 2002)  
Professor Barrie Dale (awarded 2004)  
Dr. David Wall (awarded 2004)  
Dr. Robin Helby (awarded 2005)

### 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)  
Prof. Vaughn Bryant (awarded 2005)  
Prof. Alfred Traverse (awarded 2005)

### 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)  
Dr. David T. Pocknall (awarded 2005)  
Dr. David K. Goodman (awarded 2005)  
Prof. Owen K. Davis (awarded 2005)

**AASP Student Scholarships** are awarded annually to support studies in palynology. These comprise two scholarships each for **\$1500**, and a third award of **\$1500** may be given as The Cranwell Award. Ordinarily, the scholarships will be offered to beginning graduate students, but advanced undergraduates may also apply. 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 the 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 these students need not be members of AASP. Application forms are available from the Chairman of the AASP Awards Committee (Paul Strother: [strother@bc.edu](mailto:strother@bc.edu)), or can be downloaded from our website at <http://www.palynology.org/content/scholar.html>. Scholarship applications must be postmarked no later than **March 31**. **Awards** at each Annual Meeting: Best Student Paper Award, and Best Poster Award.

**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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Volume 39, Number 3  
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 DECEMBER 1. 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 Robert Cushman

The 2006 AASP Annual Meeting is almost upon us. We are meeting with the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on 22-25 October 2006. AASP is sponsoring two palynology sessions during the meeting. Thomas Demchuk is convening a session, co-sponsored with the Coal Division of GSA, and entitled, Ice House/Hot House – An Analysis of Late Paleozoic Floras and their Response to Global Climate Change on Tuesday morning at 8 a.m. in the Convention Center, Room 113-A. Doug Nichols and I are convening a session entitled, Stratigraphic Palynology – Applications to Geologic Problems on Monday morning at 8 a.m. in the Convention Center, Room 112-B. Please come and support your colleagues in palynology at these sessions. AASP will also be holding the normal board meetings and business luncheon at the Philadelphia meeting. The outgoing AASP board will meet Sunday afternoon at noon in the Marriott Hotel, Room 302. The incoming AASP board will meet Wednesday afternoon at 3 p.m. in the Marriott Hotel, Room 303/304. The AASP business luncheon will be meeting in the Marriott Hotel on Wednesday at noon in the Marriott Grand Ballroom, Salon A. It promises to be a great meeting and I look forward to seeing each of you there.

I want to congratulate the newly elected officers who will have the opportunity to serve during this coming year. Carlos Jaramillo will be the incoming President and Francine McCarthy was elected as the incoming President-Elect. Joyce Lucas-Clarke and Sarah de la Rue were elected as Directors-at-Large. Jim Riding will continue as Editor of Palynology and Thomas Demchuk will continue as Secretary/Treasurer. Finally, the amendment to make the Awards Committee a permanent standing committee of AASP also passed.

On a personal note, as my two sons are off to college, I am returning to high school. My wife and I recently moved to Placerville in northern California where I

am teaching high school science and history. It is both fun and challenging to get the students excited about science. Hopefully, some future scientists will result from my efforts.

As my term as President subsides, I want to thank all of you for your support of AASP. The dedicated service of the AASP officers and the support of the membership at large make AASP what it is today. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as President of AASP this past year. I am continually amazed at the time and hard work given freely by those who volunteer their efforts to make AASP successful. I know the society will be in good hands under Carlos' leadership. I wish all of you the best and I hope to see you in Philadelphia.

Bob Cushman  
Placerville, CA

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**UPDATE 2006 AASP ANNUAL MEETING, PHILADELPHIA, OCTOBER 22-25 (JOINTLY WITH GSA)**



Dear AASP Members:

All of you are invited to attend the AASP Annual Meeting to be held in conjunction with GSA in Philadelphia. Almost all the AASP sponsored activities have been finalized, and all information regarding this meeting can be investigated through the AASP website at <http://www.palynology.org/meetings.html>

All the appropriate links to the two AASP sponsored technical sessions and the AASP sponsored social functions are given at this website including times, locations and maps. Additionally, information is provided regarding the two Board of Directors meetings to be held on the Sunday and Wednesday of the meeting.

Two AASP sponsored technical sessions will be held:

**Stratigraphic Palynology:** Answers to Geological Problems will be convened by Doug Nichols and

Robert Cushman, Jr. The session is scheduled for Monday, October 23, 8:00AM-10:30AM, Convention Center Rm 112-B. The link to the abstracts is at [http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2006AM/finalprogram/session\\_17893.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2006AM/finalprogram/session_17893.htm)

**Ice House” / “Hothouse” – An Analysis of Late Paleozoic Floras and Their Response to Global Climate Change** will be convened by Thomas Demchuk and host of others, and will be held Tuesday, October 24 from 8:00AM-Noon, Convention Center Rm 113-A. The link to abstracts is at [http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2006AM/finalprogram/session\\_18081.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2006AM/finalprogram/session_18081.htm)

The AASP Business Luncheon will be held on the Wednesday beginning at Noon in the Marriott Hotel, Grand Ballroom Salon A. Please note that this Luncheon is a separate ticketed event and must be purchased as an additional item on your registration form.

Come and visit the AASP booth in the Exhibits Hall, at booth 1231. Pick up your AASP trinkets and chat with other members who have also stopped by. The Exhibits Hall will open with the general Icebreaker at 5:30PM on the Sunday evening. Immediately following this general Icebreaker, all AASP members are invited to an AASP-only Icebreaker which will be held at the nearby Independence Pub. Munchies will be provided by AASP, so please show up and meet your fellow AASP members.

On the Tuesday evening, AASP will be co-sponsoring a larger function, in co-operation with the Cushman Foundation, North American Micropaleontological Section of SEPM, and Chronos. The details for this function have not been finalized so check the AASP website periodically with updates on all activities.

All student members are asked to please notify myself ([tdemchuk@swbell.net](mailto:tdemchuk@swbell.net)) and Paul Strother ([Strother@bc.edu](mailto:Strother@bc.edu)) if you are giving an oral presentation at the meeting. It is imperative you let us know your presentation time and location so you can be considered for the L.R. Wilson Student Paper Award.

Also, all other AASP members that are giving oral and poster presentations are asked to contact myself ([tdemchuk@swbell.net](mailto:tdemchuk@swbell.net)) so we can make a comprehensive listing of palynology-related presentations taking place at the meeting. We would like the opportunity to advertise your presentation at the AASP booth. Please let me know if you are giving a presentation.

All general meeting information can be found at the GSA website <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2006/index.htm>

We look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming meeting in Philadelphia.

Regards,

Thomas Demchuk  
Peter McLaughlin  
And a Host of Others

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### MANAGING EDITOR'S REPORT

Palynology Volume 29 was published on time, i.e. during November 2005. This volume contained seven research articles; there were no annual meeting abstracts, or a group photograph from the 2004 annual meeting, because this was the Grenada IPC. This year's issue (volume 30) is looking in excellent shape. At the time of writing, we have nine articles in various stages of production; these are listed below.

I am happy to report that the rate of manuscript submissions is presently relatively high. There are currently nine manuscripts either back with authors following review, out with referees or with me for the post-review assessment. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to all the many reviewers who have assessed manuscripts for me. You know who you are, and please be assured that your sterling efforts are greatly appreciated.

I am intending to call a short, informal meeting of the Editorial Board sometime during the 2006 annual meeting in Philadelphia in order to discuss future strategy. Martin Head has recently kindly agreed to join the Editorial Board; we may decide to expand the Editorial Board further. If you are interested in potentially joining the Editorial Board, please get in touch with me. I also intend to update the 'Instructions for Authors' as soon as possible. For example, I wish to make some changes in order to formally allow authors to submit manuscripts electronically.

Jim Riding  
Managing Editor  
September 2006

### LISTING OF MANUSCRIPTS CURRENTLY INTENDED FOR PUBLICATION IN PALYNOLOGY VOLUME 30 (2006)

1 Palynostratigraphy of the Dubrajpur Formation (Early Triassic to Early Cretaceous) of the Rajmahal Basin, India. By Archana Tripathi and Atanu Ray.

2 *Kretzschmaria deusta* and the north west European Mid-Holocene *Ulmus* decline at Moel y Gerddi, North Wales, U.K. By Jim Innes, Jeff Blackford and Frank Chambers.

3 *Pteroretis Felix* & *Burbridge emend*: reinterpretation of the structure of an enigmatic Carboniferous miospore. By Duncan McLean, Bernard Owens, Jirí Bek and Marzena Oliwkiewicz-Miklasinska.

4 Middle Eocene terrestrial palynomorphs from the Dolime Minerals and Gulf Hammock Quarries, Florida. By David M. Jarzen and David L. Dilcher.

5 Collecting pollen and spore samples from herbaria. By David M. Jarzen and Susan A. Jarzen.

6 Further testing of a non-acid palynological preparation procedure. By James B. Riding and Jane E. Kyffin-Hughes.

7 Palynological analysis of the NBP03-01A transect in Northern Basin, western Ross Sea, Antarctica: a Late Pliocene record. By Sophie Warny, John H. Wrenn, Philip J. Bart and Rosemary Askin.

8 Small Peridinioid Dinoflagellates from the Paleocene of South Carolina, U.S.A. By Joyce Lucas-Clarke.

9 Albian dinocyst biostratigraphy of the lower Gearle Siltstone, Southern Carnarvon Basin, Western Australia. By John Backhouse.



## **PALYNOLOGY AND PALEOBOTANY PRESENTATIONS AT GSA, 2006**

Compiled by Sarah de la Rue ([sdelarue@geol.lsu.edu](mailto:sdelarue@geol.lsu.edu))

### **AASP Members**

#### **Sunday:**

*Oboh-Ikuenobe, Franca Benison, Kathleen*

8:00AM-12:00PM Exh. Hall C Poster # 131 (student) Varied and unusual sediments and diagenetic features in shallow cores from modern acid saline lakes in Western Australia and Victoria

*Ruckwied, Katrin Gotz, Annette* 8:00AM-12:00PM Exh. Hall C Poster # 89 Sedimentary features and palynofacies of the Traissic/Jurassic boundary interval

*Wrenn, John Tedford, Rebecca* 8:00AM-12:00PM Exh. Hall C Poster # 133 (student) Phytolith analysis and sediment characteristics of Catahoula Lake, Louisiana: Preliminary results

*Eble, Cortland Mardon, Sarah* 1:45 PM 110-AB Oral Determination of coalbed methane potential and gas adsorption capacity in Western Kentucky coals

*Eble, Cortland Greb, Stephen* 2:00 PM 110-AB Oral The environmental impacts of mining, processing, and using coal

*McLaughlin, Peter Browning, James* 2:00 PM 111-AB Oral The effects of eustasy, subsidence, and sediment supply on Miocene sequences, U.S. Mid-Atlantic margin

*McLaughlin, Peter Sugarman, Peter* 3:45 PM 111-AB Oral Hydrostratigraphy of the New Jersey Coastal Plain: Sequences and facies predict continuity of aquifers and confining units

*Cross, Aureal Taggart, Ralph* 3:55 PM 104-B Oral Global greenhouse to icehouse and back again: The origin and future of the Boreal Forest Biome

*McLaughlin, Peter Miller, Kenneth* 4:45 PM 111-AB Oral Tectonic and sediment supply effects on eustatically controlled sequences of the Mid Atlantic region

#### **Monday:**

*McLaughlin, Peter Eichler, Patricia* 8:00 AM-12:00PM Exh. Hall C Poster # 88

Relationship of D18O and D13C of foraminiferal tests to bottom-water salinity in an Atlantic coastal lagoon, Delaware, USA

*Feist-Burkhardt, Susanne Ruckwied, Katrin*

8:30 AM 112-B Oral Dinoflagellate cysts from the Upper Cretaceous of the Vocontian Basin (SE France) highlighted with CLSM: Base for a biostratigraphical zonation

*Clayton, Geoff Heal, Sarah* 8:45 AM 112-B Oral Palynological correlation of Mississippian stage boundaries

*Eble, Cortland Heal, Sarah* 8:45 AM 112-B Oral Palynological correlation of Mississippian stage boundaries

*Nichols, Doug Flores, Romeo* 9:00 AM 112-B Oral Coal palynology: Clues to depositional environments controlling quality and chemistry of minable coals in the Powder River Basin

*Elsik, William Varricchio, David* 1:30-5:30pm Exh. Hall C Poster # 126 Soot and pollen from Manson impact-related strata (Upper Cretaceous) of Iowa and South Dakota

*Melo, J.H.G. Caputo, M.V.* 1:40 PM 110-AB Oral Late Devonian and Early Carboniferous glaciations in South America

*Oboh-Ikuenobe, Franca Story, Stacy* 3:00 PM 113-C Oral (student) Acid hypersaline lakes in southern Western Australia: Preliminary palynological interpretations

*McLaughlin, Peter Miller, Kenneth* 4:45 PM 108-B Oral Continental dynamics meets ocean drilling at the Jersey shore

#### **Tuesday:**

*Traverse, Alfred Stree, Maurice* 9:20 AM 204-A Oral Miospore stratigraphy, the tool to link Late Devonian continental macrofauna, macroflora and events to the standard conodont zonation

*Marshall, John E.A. Astin, Timothy* 10:40 AM 204-A Oral The age and environment of the Late Devonian East Greenland tetrapods

*Jaramillo, Carlos Bayona, German* 11:05 AM 108-A Oral Constraining Pre-Middle Miocene Andean deformation based on foreland basin geometry and geodynamic modeling: A case from the Northern Andes

*White, Timothy Morath, Philip* 2:05 PM  
112-A Oral High-resolution chemostratigraphic correlations of Mid-Cretaceous strata deposited from the eastern margin to the foredeep of the Western Interior Basin, northwestern Iowa to northeastern Wyoming

*Harrington, Guy, Jaramillo, Carlos* 3:00 PM  
107-AB Oral North American paratropical floral extinction in the Late Paleocene-Early Eocene

*McLaughlin, Peter Moskalski, Susanne* 4:15 PM  
108-A Oral Palynologic determination of historical paleoecological variation in marshes on the St. Jones River, Delaware, USA

### Wednesday:

*Gastaldo, Robert Cantor, Bradford* 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Exh. Hall C Poster # 32  
Intra- and interspecific variation in stomatal proxies for *Quercus* and *Nyssa* in the subtropical southeastern USA

*Jaramillo, Carlos Carvajal-Ortiz, Humberto*  
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM Exh. Hall C Poster # 2  
Carbon isotopic composition of plant-derived organic matter from a tropical sedimentary sequence as a recorder of Late Cretaceous-Early Paleogene changes in the carbon cycle

*Strother, Paul Michaud, John* 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Exh. Hall C Poster # 63 Studies on the Devonian/Carboniferous phytoplankton decline

*White, Timothy Poulsen, Christopher* 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Exh. Hall C Poster # 57 (student)  
GCM simulation of the D18O content of Middle Cretaceous continental precipitation and comparison with paleosol siderite D18O

*Dilcher, David Ibrahim, Mohamed* 8:15 AM  
112-A Oral Palynology and paleoenvironment of the Upper Cretaceous rocks from Abu Gharadig oil field, North Western Desert, Egypt

*Jaramillo, Carlos Ferreira da Silva, Silane Aparecida* 8:45 AM  
112-A Oral A quantitative biostratigraphy for the Miocene of tropical South America

*Wrenn, John Febo, Lawrence* 1:45 PM  
107-AB Oral (student) The biotic response to climate change and episodic volcanic events during the Late Pleistocene to Recent in the Northern Pandora Trough, Gulf of Papua, Papua New Guinea

## Non AASP Paleobotany & Palynology

### Sunday:

*Gotz, Annette* 8am-12pm Exh. Hall C  
Poster # 89 Sedimentary features and palynofacies of the Triassic/Jurassic boundary interval

*Xiao, Shuhai* 8:20 AM 105-AB Oral  
Proterozoic evolution of photosynthetic eukaryotes: A primer for Proterozoic evolution of ocean and atmospheric redox state

*Wang, Yue* 8:35 AM 205-C Oral  
Abruptness of the marine End-Permian extinction event in South China evident in larger data sets with increased resolving power

*Winslow, F.D. III* 10:45 AM 205-C Oral  
Extra-basinal source for the TR-J boundary clay layer in the Newark Basin

*Pierson, Justin* 1:30-5:30pm Exh. Hall C  
Poster # 84 Sequence stratigraphy and palynology of the Albian-Cenomanian Dakota Formation, eastern Utah

*Fike, David* 2:35 PM 105-AB Oral  
Multi-stage Ediacaran ocean oxidation and its impact on evolutionary radiation

### Monday:

*Leroy, S.A.G.* 10:50 AM 109-AB Oral  
Quasi-annual-resolution palynological analyses of earthquake events in Lake Sapanca (North Anatolian Fault, Turkey) over the last decades, and implication for the last 2000 years

*Boyce, C. Kevin* 11:30 AM 107-AB Oral  
The role of size for the potential physiology of early *Cooksonia*-like vascular plant relatives

*Palamarczuk, Susanna* 1:30-5:30pm Exh. Hall C  
Poster # 121 Bajada de Jaguel, Neuquen Province, Argentina: Complete or incomplete K/PLG boundary section?

*Nurse, Andrea* 2:00 PM 113-A Oral  
Geologic and paleoecologic evidence of ice-mass advance in northern Maine during the Younger Dryas cold reversal

*Marsh, Pamela Ellen* 4:25 PM 113-B  
Oral Pollen fingerprinting in modern salt marsh environments in South Carolina: The search for analytical standards

**Tuesday:**

*Schiffbauer, James* 8:00 AM 104-B Oral Can organic-walled microfossils survive high metamorphic heating? Characterization of experimentally-heated acritarchs using Raman spectroscopy

*Beerbower, Richard* 8:15 AM 204-A Oral The early development of continental ecosystems revisited

*Li, Zhen* 8:15 AM 112-B Oral Palynological record and human impact during the past 15,000 years, Song Hong Delta area, Vietnam

*Griffing, David* 8:30 AM 204-A Oral Paleoenvironments of Early Devonian land plants, Gaspe, Quebec: Research inspired by J.R. Beerbower

*Kotasowa, Anna* 8:30 AM 113-A Oral Floristic turn-over and stability in the Namurian (Serpukhovian-Lower Bashkirian) of the Upper Silesian Coal Basin (Poland) as an indicator of paleoclimatic change in the Mid-Carboniferous tropics

*Scheckler, Stephen* 8:45 AM 204-A Oral Devonian forest expansion increased land-based trophic capacity and food web connections

*McFadden, K.A.* 9:00 AM 107-AB Oral Doushantuo-Pertatataka acritarchs in Ediacaran successions of South China: Preservational bias or ecological control?

*Wang, Qi* 9:05 AM 204-A Oral Comparative studies on the Late Devonian floras from China and USA

*Knight, Terrell* 9:15 AM 104-B Oral Biotic composition and taphonomy of an Upper Cretaceous Konservat-Lagerstätte (Ingersoll Shale, Eutaw Formation, Eastern Alabama)

*Patterson, R. Timothy* 9:40 AM 204-C Oral Celestial forcing as a possible driver of cyclic Holocene climate and marine productivity in the NE Pacific

*Berner, Robert* 10:15 AM 105-AB Oral Plants, H<sub>2</sub>S, CO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub> and the Permo-Triassic extinction

*Tekbali, Ali* 10:15 AM 112-B Oral Palynological analysis of some core samples from the northeastern edge of Sirt Basin, Libya

*McRoberts, Christopher* 11:30 AM 105-AB Oral Linking terrestrial and marine extinctions: Disaster species and the End-Triassic extinction

*Barclay, Richard* 11:45 AM 105-AB Oral Ecological change across the Cenomanian-Turonian boundary

*Dimichele, William* 1:45 PM 107-AB Oral Spatial patterns in the final forest of a drowned peat mire, Springfield Coal (Middle Pennsylvanian), Illinois Basin

*Richter, Suzanna* 1:45 PM 108-A Oral Interpreting oxygen isotope ratios in fossil wood cellulose

*Habib, Daniel* 1:50 PM 105-AB Oral *Manumiella seelandica* at the Cretaceous/Paleogene (K/PG) boundary in the Bass River section, southern New Jersey

*Palenik, Skip* 1:50 PM 113-C Oral Developing forensic investigative leads through the microscopical examination of trace evidence

*Johnson, Kirk* 2:00 PM 107-AB Oral Paleobotany of an extraordinary pond deposit from the Middle Hell Creek Formation (Upper Maastrichtian; Upper Cretaceous) of Harding County, northwestern South Dakota

*Hanczaryk, Paul* 2:05 PM 105-AB Oral Stratigraphy of a Campanian fossil angiosperm floral assemblage from the New Jersey Coastal Plain

*Miller, Ian* 2:30 PM 107-AB Oral An exceptionally preserved Paleocene flora from the Middle Park Formation, Colorado: Implications for the Laramide paleotopography of the Central Rocky Mountain Region

*Ellis, Beth* 2:45 PM 107-AB Oral The Paleocene enigma: High diversity floras along the Rocky Mountain Front Range

*Bottrell, Maureen* 2:55 PM 113-C Oral The forensic disconnect: Research vs Real world

*Nordt, Lee* 3:20 PM 112-A Oral Late Quaternary evolution of North American grasslands inferred from stable carbon isotopes of buried soil organic matter

*Zhang, Chunfu* 3:40 PM 112-A Oral C<sub>4</sub> expansion in Inner Mongolia during the Latest

Miocene and Early Pliocene

*Roemmel, Janet* 5:15 PM 113-C Oral  
Comparison of environmental and forensic geology

*Wilcox, William* 5:15 PM 110-AB Oral  
Depositional age and sequence stratigraphy of the Jurassic Curtis, Summerville, and Stump Formations, Utah and Colorado

**Wednesday:**

*Shemkovitz, Audra* 8:00AM-12:00PM Exh. Hall C  
Poster # 118 Lithostratigraphic comparison between the Cape Fear Formation and an unnamed non-marine unit of the southeastern Atlantic Coastal Plain

*Fricke, Henry* 8:45 AM 204-B Oral Episodic aridity in Wyoming during the Early Eocene: Multiple-proxy records and possible orbital forcing

*Raymond, Anne* 11:00 AM 107-AB Oral The fate of wood in marine siliciclastic environments: A comparison of petroleum seep and non-seep environments

*Finkel, Zoe* 11:15 AM 105-AB Oral Climatically-driven macroevolutionary trajectories in the size of marine phytoplankton

*Keller, Gerta* 11:45 AM 105-AB Oral K/T mass extinction and the Lilliput effect: Consequences of impacts, volcanism and climate change

*Danehy, Daniel* 1:30-5:30PM Exh. Hall C Poster # 72 An Early Eocene leaf flora from the Red Hot Truck Stop locality (Meridian, Mississippi) and its biogeographic and paleoenvironmental significance



*Gnetaceaepollenites diversus*  
lower Cretaceous, Colombia

**REQUEST FOR LATEST PUBLICATIONS**

Sarah R. de la Rue, Chair  
AASP Ad-hoc Membership Committee

One of the jobs my committee was tasked with this past April was increasing the visibility of our fellow palynological workers, and the field of Palynology in general. In order to show the activity and progressiveness of our AASP members, we would like to introduce a new section in the upcoming AASP December newsletter, entitled "Recent AASP-Member Publications". We are requesting that you send us a list of your 2006 publication(s) to [sdelarue@geol.lsu.edu](mailto:sdelarue@geol.lsu.edu).

Please consider that non-AASP members may be reading our newsletters! Thanks for your help! Cheers!

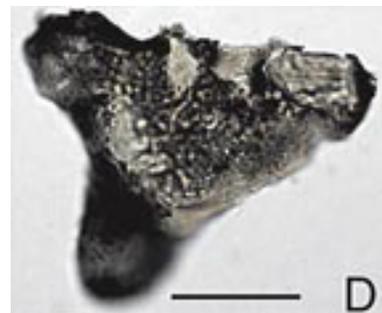
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**NEWS FROM BRAZIL**

By Mitsuru Arai ([mitsuru.arai@gmail.com](mailto:mitsuru.arai@gmail.com))

The Boletim de Geociencias da Petrobras (Petrobras' Bulletin of Geoscience) volume 14, n. 1 is now available on-line on the page: <http://www2.petrobras.com.br/tecnologia/ing/index.htm>

Among 16 papers presented inside, there is an interesting report on Santonian (Late Cretaceous) fire which was recognized by palynological analyses.



*Anacolosidites* burned

If you want go directly to this paper, access: [http://www2.petrobras.com.br/tecnologia/port/boletim\\_geociencias/v14\\_n1\\_nov\\_2005\\_mai\\_2006/pdf/Arai\\_et\\_al.pdf](http://www2.petrobras.com.br/tecnologia/port/boletim_geociencias/v14_n1_nov_2005_mai_2006/pdf/Arai_et_al.pdf)

The main text is written in portuguese, but abstract and figure captions are in English

## TWO AASP MEMBERS HONORED BY GAC

Two AASP members have recently been honored by the Geological Association of Canada (GAC).

Graham L. Williams, winner of the AASP Medal for Scientific Excellence in 1996, is the 2006 winner of the Geological Association of Canada J. Willis Ambrose Medal. See: <http://www.gac.ca/MEDALS/jwillis.html> Graham was also the 1996 recipient of GAC's Neale Medal.



J. Willis Ambrose Medal

Anne de Vernal is the 2006 winner of the Michael J. Keen Medal of the GAC for her significant contributions to marine geoscience. See: <http://www.gac.ca/MEDALS/keen.html>

Congratulations to Graham and Anne on these very important recognitions of their work.

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## BOOK REVIEW: "A GRAIN OF TRUTH: HOW POLLEN BROUGHT A MURDERER TO JUSTICE"

*A Grain of Truth: How Pollen Brought a Murderer to Justice.* Lynne Milne. Reed New Holland (New Holland Publishers [Australia] Pty Ltd., 175 pp., illus., biblio, glossary, ISBN: 1-877069-02-7. (\$27.95 AU) (hardback) 2005.

*A Grain of Truth* is an exceptional book written by an exceptional writer. The book is exceptional because it is the first and only novel-length mystery story that uses pollen evidence as the central focus of a mystery plot and explains difficult aspects about pollen and palynology in terms that any reader can easily grasp and understand. The writer is exceptional because she is a palynologist with all the essential credentials but she is also a gifted writer able to write for a mystery-reading audience in a manner that keeps the excitement level flowing while paying close attention to small but critical details.

The central plot of the book focuses on a brutal murder of a single mother living in Gympie, just north of Brisbane, Australia. The woman had her faults, but she was a loving mother of two small children who didn't deserve to be murdered. The woman's body was moved from her apartment and dumped in bushes at a park where tourists found her the next day. There were no clues at the crime scene that linked the murder to an assailant. However, in the victim's car police found several wattle (*Acacia*) flowers. Because the police thought the flowers or its pollen might help them solve the case, they asked for professional help. I believe that it was an exceptionally perceptive assumption on the part of the local Australian police since I doubt police in the U.S. would have made such an assumption.

After many twists and turns in the plot, the police find several suspects and use a search warrant to collect some clean clothes that had been thoroughly washed very recently. The rest of the book reveals how traces of pollen from the crime scene, from the victim's car, and from the washed clothing led to the arrest and conviction of the murderer. Cleverly woven into the overall story are other examples of how pollen has been used in the past to find and convict criminals. The author also explains why pollen makes such useful forensic evidence and names countries where this type of forensic tool is becoming standard procedure and other places, such as the U. S., where it remains unknown or under utilized.

Some of the initial criticisms about this book focused on it not being a good "textbook" about how to do forensic palynology. I don't think that is a valid criticism because the book was never intended to be a textbook on the subject. Instead, the book is a highly personal account of a person who had no formal training in either botany or forensics and who was asked to help solve a murder case. Put yourself in the author's shoes and ask yourself what you would have done? At the time, she was a geology doctoral student frantically trying to finish her dissertation on paleopalynology. She had two small children to care for and was trying to juggle her research and writing around working several part-time jobs. She also was worried about trying to fill her multi roles as a mother, student, wife, and worker. Finally, what if you knew a lot about fossil pollen and spores from the Mesozoic and earliest Cenozoic periods but hadn't studied much about Quaternary or modern pollen? All of those concerns raced through the author's mind as she wavered between agreeing to help the police and turning them down so she could finish her dissertation on schedule. She also knew that if she agreed to help, she would still have to keep her part-time jobs

because the police had only a very small budget to spend on the case. In the end, she says, it was her sense of responsibility in wanting to help catch the murderer and the potential of a new challenge that tipped the scale.

None of us who currently work in the area of forensic palynology studied a special curriculum in some accredited university that led to a degree in this field. No university in the world offers such a degree. All of us who do this type of work are self-taught and all of us have made our share of mistakes along the way. Today each of us can look back on those mistakes with embarrassment, but each one taught us an important lesson and helped us not make those mistakes again. For most, those mistakes remain buried in our memory. Some of them might be mentioned once in some police report, yet most remain as secrets known only to us; not so for Lynne Milne. All of her apprehensions, all of her inadvertent mistakes, all of her accidental bungling, and all of her emotional highs and lows during the learning process are written down in black and white for the entire world to read. Few scientists would be so brave as to reveal their flaws and thus cast doubt on their scientific training and ability. Most of our egos would never allow such an exposure!

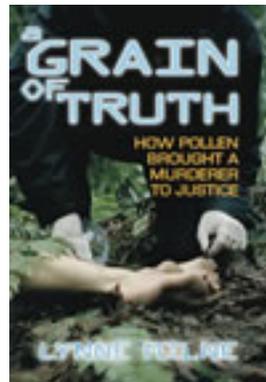
So why read the book? If you are a palynologist, I doubt that reading this book will expand your currently knowledge of palynology very much. However, I admit that I did learn a few new and interesting facts, such as Australia, the home of the world's greatest selection of Myrtaceae plants, actually has more species of wattles than it does gums (Eucalyptus)! What if you are a graduate student just learning palynology, or what if you are a professional palynologist considering a career change to become a forensic specialist, if so, then read this book. It is a wonderful guide through a few of the pitfalls, the emotional burden that forensic work carries, and some of the many problems a person will encounter along the path toward this new career. Certainly, it doesn't detail all of the problems and challenges, but it does cover some of them.

If you know of someone in the law enforcement business, you might want to suggest he or she read this book because it is both a good mystery novel and it also focuses on some of the many ways that pollen could help solve important crimes. For those types of individuals, this book is ideal because it explains in very simple terms the basic concepts about pollination, pollen dispersal, pollen sinking speeds, pollen morphology, and the differences between light microscopy and scanning electron microscopy. What amazed me was how effective the author was

at explaining each of these concepts without using any of the standard scientific terms and jargon so familiar to us in the field of palynology. For example, she never used the word "exine." In her discussions about the structure of pollen, its ornamentation differences, how and why pollen remains preserved for millions of years, or about its cytoplasm and surface lipids she talks only about the "outer shell" or the "wall around pollen grains."

Forensic palynology became a reality in 1959 when a forensic specialist, Wilhelm Klaus, working with the Vienna (Austria) police found a Miocene-age hickory pollen grain in the mud on the shoes of a murder suspect. That "grain of truth" led to the arrest and confession of the murderer. In the half century since the Vienna murder case forensic palynology has languished and been almost totally ignored by law enforcement agents throughout the world. Only during the past decade has some progress been made in the acceptance and use of forensic pollen evidence. Nevertheless, this forensic technique remains unknown and/or underused in most countries. Perhaps a good mystery novel illustrating the importance of pollen evidence might help the use of pollen evidence gain more exposure and secure its place as an important forensic technique.

Reviewed by  
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## **NEW MEMBERS AND ADDRESS UPDATES**

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## **AASP NL EDITOR CHANGE**

Starting the Newsletter December issue (39-4), Sophie Warnie ([swarny@lsu.edu](mailto:swarny@lsu.edu)) will be the new AASP Newsletter editor. She will serve as editor during one full year. I am stepping down because I will become the AASP president, and it did not seem a good idea to be also the NL editor.

Good luck to Sophie

Carlos Jaramillo

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## **AGENDA**

### **2006**

**October 22-25, AASP 39th Annual Meeting, Philadelphia**  
<http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2006/>

**October 26, Linnean Society Palynology Specialist Group. Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London.** The meeting is open to all and is free but there will be a cash charge on the day of £1 per serving for tea and coffee. Please complete the slip below and return to Carol Furness (address below) by 13 OCTOBER or send an email to [c.furness@kew.org](mailto:c.furness@kew.org) if you wish to attend.

### **2007**

**July 10-13, First International Palaeobiogeography Symposium, Paris, University Pierre et Marie Curie**  
More info, contact Monique Troy, [palstrat@ccr.jussieu.fr](mailto:palstrat@ccr.jussieu.fr)

**September 8-12, 40th AASP Annual Meeting, Panama City, Panama. Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute**  
More info, contact Carlos Jaramillo, [jaramilloc@si.edu](mailto:jaramilloc@si.edu)