



A.A.S.P. NEWSLETTER

Published Quarterly by the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists Inc.

December 2002
Volume 35, Number 4

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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 (elected 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\$11.00.



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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 March 1, 2003. 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 James B. Riding

Recently I attended a training course on Quaternary Pollen Analysis. This training, I had been requesting for some time and was not disappointed. The lectures and practical work were both fascinating. As a palynologist who trained as a geologist and subsequently worked mainly with fossil dinoflagellates, I have always felt slightly undereducated in matters such as the terrestrial plant suprageneric classification and anthropological factors affecting the Holocene flora. I have been aware that there is something of a cultural divide between Quaternary pollen workers and (shall we say) palaeopalynologists. This has evolved because many Quaternary pollen workers are trained either as geographers or botanists and work mainly on palaeoenvironmental analysis of the last 10,000 years. On the other hand of course, palaeopalynologists are chiefly concerned with stratigraphy and sedimentary basin history throughout the Phanerozoic, often working directly with industry.

This picture I have just painted is black and white and the reality is, I am pleased to say, much greyer and fuzzier; I was merely attempting to describe this dichotomy. Having taken this training course, I can see clearly how this divide has come about. Quaternary pollen workers always relate their pollen (and spores) to the parent plant using a reference collection which is put together from the known parent plants. They do not need the form taxa concept for extinct species where the parent plant is unknown. Researchers on Quaternary pollen also employ statistical methods in analyzing their data and typically mount their residues in silicone oil to allow the manipulation of specimens to aid identifications. Where is all this going you are probably asking, and I apologise for maybe stating the obvious with all this scene setting. My point here is to try to go some way to breaking down this glass wall between Quaternary researchers and palaeopalynologists. I am certain that in some institutions and individuals, it has already gone and indeed may never have existed at all. To those palaeopalynologists who, like me a few weeks

ago, did not know much about Quaternary pollen I would say either do a course on it or read up on it. There are concepts and techniques on both sides of the fence which can be used to great effect on the other side. I think that the numerical/statistical area is one where the palaeopalynologists have taken on board in recent years. Who these days works only with presence/absence data? Perhaps this has been learned subliminally from the Quaternary workers? In the same way, palynologists working on the Holocene should develop an appreciation of how plants have evolved throughout the Phanerozoic. Also if Quaternary workers were familiar with the range of pre-Quaternary palynomorphs, they would be better able to identify reworking. My principal point here is that within our subject, there should be no artificial barriers and that, for example, an appreciation of the *modus operandi* of Quaternary pollen researchers can help the expert on the Cambrian to be a better palynologist. Palynologists should be members of AASP regardless if they specialize on the Holocene or the Hauterivian and we should not give out the impression that the emphasis of the Association is one side of the Pliocene-Pleistocene transition.

The Secretary-Treasurer has recently mailed out membership renewal notices to all members who have not paid dues for 2003. May I ask that you reply to Thomas Demchuk speedily and feel free to pay in advance for future years. We have noticed a steady attrition of members recently and the reversal of this trend is one of the principal aims of the Board. We all know that there are fewer palynologists these days and that a small scientific association such as ourselves cannot possibly affect pan-societal cultural trends or indeed demographics. However, we can try to persuade all working palynologists that AASP membership represents excellent value for the money. If you know of colleagues who are not in AASP and should be, please ask them to join us. I would like to end by wishing all AASP members a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2003. I hope to see you at the next Annual Meeting at St Catherines, Ontario.

James B. Riding
Nottingham, UK

4th December 2002

FROM THE DESK OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

By Dr. Thomas D. Demchuk

Greetings to all AASP members, from the home desk of the Secretary-Treasurer in SW Houston. Many of you by now, have likely received the yearly "pink" sheet which is your reminder that dues are now to be sent for the year 2003 (Note: my apologies to those of you who sent in renewal payments after the pink sheet had been mailed). Please remember that dues are now US\$45 per year, and the air-mail surcharge is US\$11/year worldwide. For your elucidation, the air-mail surcharge only pertains to the mailing of the yearly journal *Palynology*, not the newsletters. On that note, all members are strongly encouraged to accept the newsletter via e-mail, either as an attachment or download from the AASP website. A significant percentage of the AASP membership currently receives the newsletter in this electronic fashion, and all are strongly encouraged to do so. This is having a significant positive impact on the Association's bottom line, given the reduced postage charges incurred. A final reminder to send in your membership renewals as soon as possible to ensure receiving the newsletter in a timely manner.

Congratulations to Jamie Powell and Jim Riding for the success of the recent joint AASP-TMS-NAMS meeting in London. The surroundings were regal, the sessions were most stimulating, and the social activities extremely enlightening and entertaining. One of the best aspects was the weather, which was very accommodating, and at times, overly pleasant. Many thanks also to Alan Lord and his graduate students at University College London. The meeting was a great spectacle of micropaleontological integration, emphasizing the best that all stratigraphic disciplines have to offer. I applaud the efforts of the organizers in bringing these diverse and complimentary paleontological sciences under one roof for a rousing and extremely successful meeting.

I urge all members to take a gander at the "new look" AASP website. Owen Davis has taken over the reins of this adventure and has done a wonderful job in a very short time period. Several new items are on tap for the website, including secure server accommodations for payment of dues and payment for publications. A few details still need to be worked out, but this is on the immediate horizon and will hopefully be up and functional in the near future.

All members should be most interested in the upcoming AASP meeting to be hosted in St. Catharines, Ontario at Brock University in the heart of the Niagara

Peninsula and wine country. Francine McCarthy has put forward an excellent program and schedule of social activities, including visiting several of the Niagara Peninsula's internationally-renowned vineyards. What better way to finish the day of listening to scintillating palynological research, than spend an evening tasting wine!! I can't think of anything better! The first announcement of the St. Catharine's meeting should be in this newsletter, and all members are encouraged to visit the AASP website and see the recent announcements. With the Canadian exchange rate and Northern hospitality, the meeting should be a great success!! Of course, being Canadian, I'm biased.....It will be a great meeting!!

Finally, all members are reminded that being a survivor of the latest energy industry merger, my e-mail has changed slightly, as has my mailing address. My e-mail at the corporate offices has been altered slightly to: Thomas.d.demchuk@conocophillips.com. As well, accordingly my corporate address for the mailing of those membership renewals is:

Dr. Thomas D. Demchuk
ConocoPhillips
Permian 3048
P.O. Box 2197
Houston, Texas 77252-2197 USA

However, I look forward to all of you e-mail correspondence at either my office or home addresses.

Merry Christmas to all, and a very Happy New Year. Talk to y'all again in the beginning of the year.

December 2, 2002

FIELD TRIP REPORT

2002 AASP/TMS/NAMS Post-Conference Field Trip, "The Cretaceous of the Isle of Wight," September 13-15, 2002

By Peter P. McLaughlin (ppmclau@udel.edu)

The conference field trip that followed the 2002 AASP/TMS/NAMS Joint Meeting in London convinced me, for one, that English geoscientists know how to conduct field work in a most civilized fashion. What could be more enjoyable for most geologists than two days rambling along the seaside over classic Cretaceous localities with the benefit of gentle late summer weather, an afternoon tea break, and nearby pubs? That image captures the flavor of the

post-conference field trip "The Cretaceous of the Isle of Wight" organized by Iain Prince of Statoil, Ian Jarvis of Kingston University, and Bruce Tocher of Statoil, and sponsored by Statoil and ChevronTexaco.

The organizers put together a first-rate trip to the wonderful seaside sections of the south coast of the Isle of Wight.. A diverse group of more than 20 participants enjoyed the cheerful guidance of an expert group of trip leaders. Trip leader Iain Prince studied the dinoflagellate biostratigraphy of the Upper Turonian to Lower Campanian section of the Isle of Wight for his Ph.D. thesis at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, and was joined by his Ph.D. supervisor Bruce Tocher as co-leader. Co-leader Ian Jarvis shared with participants his detailed, bed-by-bed knowledge of the Upper Cretaceous section at the trip localities. Haydon Bailey (Network Stratigraphic Consulting) and Martin Pearce (Millenia) also helped shepherd the group along the outcrop and keep everyone oriented, with Haydon providing a regional biostratigraphic perspective and Martin sharing the results of his recent Ph.D. research in correlative Cenomanian to Lower Campanian sections of southern England.

Day 1 was focused on two stops. The morning and early afternoon hours were spent at the Culver Cliff section. To beat the incoming tide, the group headed directly to the top of the section at the east end of the cliffs, and from there worked westward from the steeply dipping Cenomanian-Turonian chalk section to the more gently dipping Aptian-Albian greensand section. The exposures of the Middle Chalk and Lower Chalk provided excellent examples of the expression of sequences and sedimentary cycles in an area dominated by shelfal carbonate sedimentation with generally low tectonic activity. At the end of this stop, part of the group examined the very different strata of the Upper Greensand, Lower Greensand, and upper part of the Wealden. After a pleasant break in town for cream tea, it was back to the outcrops to examine the section spanning the Albian-Cenomanian boundary at St. Catherines Point. In one of the blocks at this locality, the boundary was clearly displayed as an extensively burrowed surface representing the contact between the Upper Greensand and the Glauconitic Marl.

Day 2 was spent at Whitecliff Bay. After negotiating a path through an encampment of armed Confederate soldiers (apparently a re-enactment staged by vacationers at the Whitecliff Bay Holiday Park – or do English "southerners" sympathize with the American South?), the group made its way to the famous exposures of the Upper Cretaceous to Paleogene section in the cliffs and bluffs along the bay. One

part of the group proceeded west along the cliff to a point called "The Nostrils" and worked back up section through the Coniacian to Campanian chalk succession. Changes in the style of rhythmic bedding and development of hardgrounds were pointed out, and changes in the microfossil assemblages (dino-flagellates, foraminifera) were discussed relative to paleoceanography and sea level. The other part of the group focused on the Paleogene section closer to the holiday camp.

The organizers should be credited with doing an excellent job arranging comfortable, affordable accommodations, good food, and cooperative weather. The field guide was clear and well-organized, with comprehensive coverage of data from the sections (sedimentology, palynology, micropaleontology), possible interpretations (sea level, paleoceanography), and the "big picture" of where these sections fit in the Cretaceous world of southern England. Detailed measured sections were provided to interested participants, and good locations for sampling were highlighted by the trip leaders. All of the leaders' efforts and expertise made for an enjoyable, informative trip.



Participants field trip to the Isle of Wight

ROBERT T. CLARKE ELECTED TO HONORARY MEMBERSHIP OF AASP

By David Pocknall, Past President AASP

At the 2002 mid-year board meeting in St Catharines, Canada the board considered, and unanimously passed, the nomination of Robert (Bob) T. Clarke to Honorary Member status. Nobody has better exemplified volunteerism than Bob Clarke. Since the inception of the Association almost 35 years ago, Bob has provided countless hours of his time and his many talents to ensure the growth and continued existence of the Association.

Bob is a founding member of the Association, has served as President, and he is currently Treasurer for the AASP Foundation. He, together with his wife Carol, are always present at scientific meetings where AASP has a presence, promoting the science of palynology and selling AASP publications. Most members will have interacted with Bob in some way; anyone who has published an article in Palynology, written a Contribution Series, contributed to the 3 Volume book, the proceedings of the 9th IPC, or the newsletter, or dealt with the AASP Foundation will have experienced the breadth of Bob's volunteerism and dedication to AASP.

His diligence and painstaking editorial work has made sure the palynological and general scientific community receive publications of the highest quality. He has been previously recognized through receipt of an AASP Distinguished Service Award (in 1978) and an AASP Board of Directors Award (in 1994) and this further endows upon Bob the thanks that he richly deserves from our association. He and his wife Carol have been enormous supporters of AASP over many decades so in effect it is a family honorary membership.

Bob joins William Evitt and Aureal Cross as Honorary Members. Please join me in welcoming Bob to this select group and at the earliest opportunity offer Bob your congratulations.

November 2002

AUSTRALASIAN NEWS

By Pi Suhr Willumsen (piwillumsen@hotmail.com)

I hereby encourage anyone who has palynological news from Australia or New Zealand to contact me or the editor Carlos Jaramillo. As a palynologist it is necessary globally to communicate about our research and thereby share it with the rest of the palynological community. The AASP newsletter provides this forum and it badly needs your news!!

New Zealand News - Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary project

Vivi Vajda (vivi.vajda@geol.lu.se)

Just recently, I received funding for a 4-year project from the Swedish Research Council to follow up the vegetation patterns across several new KTB sections in New Zealand and South America. This will be a continuation of a post-doctoral project, initiated in 2000 where palynologists Dr. Ian Raine and myself

studied the floristic changes spanning the KTB in New Zealand terrestrial and near shore marine sedimentary sections. The results have already clearly indicated that there was a dramatic disruption to the flora at the geochemical marker bed, directly linked to the Chicxulub impact and the following mass extinction event. The details were published by Vajda et al. 2001 (Science, 294: 1700-1702). These results provided the first evidence from the Southern Hemisphere of a mass-kill of the vegetation. In the palynological assemblages this is expressed as a fern-spike immediately following the iridium enriched layer of 70 ppb. The main conclusion is that the consequences of the Chicxulub impact were global and not confined to the Northern Hemisphere and that palynological assemblages provide an excellent tool for pin-pointing the KTB.

Future work will mainly focus on localizing the exact position of the KTB in several southern Hemisphere sections, first by palynology and later by geochemistry. Additional studies will analyse the detailed patterns of vegetation change and extinction rates spanning the boundary by high resolution palynology.

News from Australia

by John Backhouse (jbackhou@iinet.net.au)

The palynological scene in Australia has seen some changes during the last year or so. Robin Helby has left his harbourside residence in Sydney and moved to Adelaide to take up part-time employment with Santos, but he also continues consulting work. There is now a concentration of palynological expertise in South Australia, with Robin, Geoff Wood and Jeff Goodall all at Santos, and Roger Morgan and Nigel Hooker working as consultants in Maitland. Eric Monteil joined Geoscience Australia (formerly AGSO) in Canberra to take some of the load from Clinton Foster. Clinton is currently working on palynological and isotope studies of the continental Permian and the Permo-Triassic boundary problem in NW China, and is also trying to organize an overhaul of the Australian, Mesozoic, dinoflagellate, zonal scheme. Since his arrival last year Eric has been working on the mid Cretaceous of the southern margin of Australia. Geoff Playford retired from the University of Queensland in 2001, and to mark the event the Geoff Playford Symposium on micropalaeontology was held as part of the IPC in Sydney in July 2002. Papers from this symposium will be published as an AAP Memoir.

One of the happier developments in Australia is the commencement of doctoral studies by several students. Natalie Sinclair will be starting a project at the Australian National University in Canberra on the Late

Cretaceous of the Otway Basin. Matt Dixon and Barry Taylor have started work on the Turonian to Santonian and Valanginian to early Aptian respectively of the Carnarvon Basin at the University of Western Australia. Matt and Barry are part of a larger group, which includes myself and various nannofossil and foram investigators, working on the Cretaceous in the Carnarvon Basin. Also at UWA, Frea Itzstein-Davey (history of the Proteaceae), Sarah Grimes (archaeological sites in the Solomon Islands) and Jemina Toia (Cainozoic palynology of Western China) are continuing postgraduate studies.

Your correspondent is now off to the WACA (West Australian Cricket Association) ground to witness a bit of serious sledging* in what locals in Perth believe will be one of the shorter and more one-sided sporting contests of the southern hemisphere summer.

*sledging – see Jim Riding in the December 2000 AASP Newsletter.

News from the School of Botany, University of Melbourne

by Stephen McLoughlin (s.mcloughlin@botany.unimelb.edu.au)

Work continues in the School of Botany, University of Melbourne, on a Series of projects associated with Permian to Paleocene floristic change in Australia and Antarctica. A recent study, largely the results of the PhD research of Nathalie Nagalingum, involved an Australia-wide analysis of the relative diversity and abundance trends for major palynomorph groups through the Cretaceous (Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology, 119: 69-92).

This work particularly focussed on the fluctuating fortunes of various fernfamilies throughout the period, but also revealed that gymnosperm diversity was relatively unaffected on this continent by the rise of angiosperms in the mid-Cretaceous. Andrew Drinnan has also received one-year funding from a University of Melbourne International Collaborative Grant with Rick Lupia (University of Oklahoma) to look at broad-scale trends in spore-pollen abundance and diversity across Australia from the K-T boundary up to the end of the Paleogene. This will be a broad-scale study of all published and unpublished palynology records that will be added to the existing Cretaceous database in order to provide a broad-scale, long-term, "background" indication of vegetation change from the latest Cretaceous to Early Cenozoic.

Much work has also been carried out in this department on fossil megaspores. Stephen McLoughlin,

Andrew Drinnan and Sofie Lindström (University of Lund) continue to work on the macrofossil, mesofossil and palynomorph assemblages from the Amery Group, East Antarctica. These assemblages contain rich lycophyte megaspore suites spanning the Late Permian to Late Triassic. The PhD studies of Eroia Barone-Nugent have also revealed a substantial range of pleuromeian megaspores from the Upper Triassic Leigh Creek Coal Measures of South Australia. Studies on Neocomian to Albian fluvial sequences from southeastern Australian basins have yielded diverse lycophyte megaspore assemblages and dramatic influxes of fern megaspores in the late Aptian and late Albian. The Neocomian megaspore assemblages were recently described in a large monograph [McLoughlin, S., Tosolini, A.-M.P., Nagalingum, N.S. & Drinnan, A.N., 2002, Early Cretaceous (Neocomian) flora and fauna of the lower Strzelecki Group, Gippsland Basin, Victoria. Association of Australasian Palaeontologists Memoir 26]. Descriptions of the Aptian-Albian assemblages and a preliminary biostratigraphic scheme based on their distribution are currently in press (Cretaceous Research). and fauna of the lower Strzelecki Group, Gippsland Basin, Victoria. Association of Australasian Palaeontologists Memoir 26]. Descriptions of the Aptian-Albian assemblages and a preliminary biostratigraphic scheme based on their distribution are currently in press (Cretaceous Research).

NEWS FROM EASTERN EUROPE

By Mihai Popa (mihai@geo.edu.ro)

Eastern Europe had a very hard time after 1989, especially due to economical difficulties that affected strongly the geological research, especially in Paleobotany and Palynology. In spite of all these problems, a handful of researchers struggled to continue their palynological activity. Here it is a list of active palynologists, I tried to make it as complete as possible.

Romania

Ana Ionescu, Tertiary Palynology, Institute for Oil, Bucharest. Dr. Ionescu works mainly dinoflagellates of the Carpathian's foreland.

Ioan Tantau, Quaternary Palynology, University of Cluj, Department of Geology, Cluj-Napoca. Mr. Tantau is a PhD student in Cluj, focusing on the palynology of Pliocene and especially Quaternary deposits of Transylvania.

Sorina Farcas, Quaternary Palynology, Institute of Biology, Cluj-Napoca. Dr. Farcas is studying Quaternary palynological assemblages for paleoenvironmental reconstructions;

Leonard Olaru, Paleozoic and Precambrian Palynol-

ogy, University of Iasi, Department of Geology. Dr. Olaru is a Professor of Palynology at the University of Iasi and he focuses on Devonian palynomorphs from the Carpathians and NE Romania;

Emanuel Demetrescu, Tertiary Palynology, Geological Institute of Romania, Bucharest. Dr. Demetrescu is studying pollen and spores from the Miocene-Pliocene sequences of the Carpathian foreland and also he developed palyno-sedimentological studies for deposits of the same age; *Iustinian Petrescu*, Tertiary Palynology. Dr. Petrescu is a Professor of Palynology in Cluj-Napoca, within the Department of Geology.

Mihai E. Popa, Mesozoic Palynology, University of Bucharest, Department of Geology, Bucharest. Dr. Popa is a Lecturer at the University of Bucharest, he focuses on Mesozoic in situ spores and pollen. He also teaches Palynology and Paleobotany at the University of Bucharest;

Emanuel Antonescu, Paleozoic and Mesozoic Palynology, Geological Institute of Romania, retired. Dr. Antonescu developed Paleozoic and Mesozoic Palynology in Romania and he also supervised numerous studies of his collaborators.

Victor Bacaran, Tertiary Palynology, Ploiesti Museum of Natural History, Ploiesti. Mr. Bacaran is a PhD student working fungal spores from Miocene and Pliocene deposits of the Carpathian foreland;

Gabriela Burghilea, Paleozoic Palynology, University of Bucharest, Department of Geology, Bucharest. Ms. Burghilea is a PhD student, with a thesis dealing with Upper Carboniferous and Lower Permian pollen and spore assemblages from the South Carpathians.

Marin Carciumaru, Tertiary Palynology, Tirgoviste University, Tirgoviste. Dr. Carciumaru is a Professor of Archaeology and he focuses on palynological studies for archeological sites.

Bulgaria

Dimiter Ivanov, Tertiary Palynology, mainly Neogene and Oligocene, Botanical Institute, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS)

Tatiana Domitrova, Carboniferous Palynology, Geological Institute, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS), Sofia

Lyudmila Petrunova, Triassic Palynology, Geological Institute, BAS, Sofia.

Polina Pavlishina, Cretaceous Palynology, Sofia University.

Maria Lazarova, *Luba Filipovitch*, *Elisaveta Bozilova*, *Spasimir Tonkov*, and *Julia Atanasova* Quaternary Palynology, Institute of Botany, BAS, Sofia.

Mariana Filipova – Quaternary Palynology, Varna.

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- Corneliu Horaicu, Paleozoic Palynology, University of Iasi, Department of Geology. Dr. Horaicu works palynomorphs of various Paleozoic ages.
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- NEWS FROM SOUTH AMERICA**
By Mirta Quattrocchio (mquattro@criba.edu.ar)
- In a beautiful city, in the NE (Corrientes Province) of Argentina near the Cataratas falls, the 8th Congress Argentine of Paleontology and Biostratigraphy was held in October 7-10th 2002.
- The following Palynological papers were presented:
- Carboniferous- Permian**
- Césari, S.N., V.S. Perez Loinaze, C.O. Limarino & L. Fauqué. Palynology of the Lower Section of the Volcan Formation (Carboniferous-Lower Permian), San Juan Province. Stratigraphical and paleoambiental implicancy.
- Gutierrez, P.R., S.N. Césari & S. Archangelsky. Palynological revision of Árbol Blanco hole (YPF. SE. AB. X-x-1) (Late Paleozoic), Santiago del Estero Province, Chacabaranense Basin, Argentina.
- Jurassic**
- Martinez, M.A., M.E. Quattrocchio & M.B. Prámparo. Palynofacial analysis of Los Molles Formation, Middle Jurassic, central-west Neuquen Basin
- Cretaceous**
- Guler, M.V. & S. Archangelsky. Dinoflagellate cyst of Kachaike Formation (Lower Cretaceous), San Cruz Province, Argentina.
- Llorens, M. & G. Cladera. Spores with perisporium, taphonomic evidence.
- Quattrocchio, M.E., M.A. Martinez, V.M. García & C.A. Zavala. Tithonian-Hauterivian Palynostratigraphy, central-west Neuquen Basin, Argentina.
- Guerstein, G. R. & G.L. Junciel. New species of *Diconodinium*, dinoflagellate cyst early Maastrichtian-Selandian, Colorado Basin, Argentina
- Cenozoic**
- Guler, M.L. & Guerstein, G. R.. Oligocene –Early Pliocene biostratigraphy of Colorado Basin based on dinoflagellate cyst
- Guerstein, G. R., M.L. Guler & S. Casadío. Biostratigraphy and palaeoenvironmental characteristics of the Centinela Formation (Oligocene/Miocene boundary) Santa Cruz southwest, Argentina.
- Barreda, V. & L. Palazzesi. First palynologic record of the Puerto Madryn Formation, Miocene, Chubut Province, Argentina.
- Caccavari, M.A. & V. Guler. A new species of *Acaciapollenites*, Neogene in the Argentina
- Mautino, L. R. Cactaceae in the San José Formation (Middle Miocene), Tucumán Province, Argentina
- Mautino, L.R. & L.M. Anzótegui. Palynology of San José Formation, Middle Miocene Tucumán Province, (Argentina).
- Mautino, L.R., G.A. Cuadrado & L.M. Anzótegui. Diversity and evolutionary significance of Malvaceae pollen (Middle Miocene) in the San José Formation, Tucumán Province, Argentina.
- Garralla, S. Palynology of El Molle profile, Holocene, Tafí Valley, Tucumán Province, Argentina.
- Prieto, A. R. Palynological analysis of Late Quaternary:

assumptions, limitations, prescriptions.

Prieto, A.R., M.M. Páez, M.V. Manzini, S.M. Stutz, I. Vilanova y M. Tonello. Paleoclimatic exchange in the arid diagonal between 13.000 and 4.000 years B.P. Finally, Dr. Rodolfo Dino, from Brazil, disserted on: "The breaking between South-America and Africa, palynologic evidences".

NEWS FROM INDIA

By Naresh C. Mehrotra (nareshmehrotra@indiatimes.com)

Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany Lucknow celebrated its Founders Day function on November 14, 2002. This year it was a special occasion being celebrated as Centenary of Mrs. Savitri Sahni, the cofounder of this Institute.

Prof. Birbal Sahni married Savitri the daughter of Sri Sunder Das Suri a close friend of his father in 1920. Since that day she stood by her husband throughout sharing his problems, pleasures and tribulations. She was the lady behind his life and work. She shared his dreams and fulfilled them single handed after his demise.

The Palaeobotanical Society was founded on May 19, 1946 and registered as a trust on June 3, 1946. The objective of the society was to promote research in fossil botany and its application to problems of economic geology. At Prof. Sahni's behest the governing body of the society resolved on September 10, 1946 to establish an Institute of Palaeobotany with Prof. Sahni as its first director. The foundation stone of the new building was laid by Sri. Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister of India on April 3, 1949. Unfortunately Prof. Sahni passed away on April 10, 1949 just a week after. To cope with the emergent situation the governing body of the society authorized Mrs. Sahni to discharge the duties of the director of this Institute. In October 1949 the Institute was named after its founder Prof. Birbal Sahni.

As he lay on his death bed, afflicted with coronary thrombosis, his last thoughts were not about himself and his family. His last words addressed to his wife before his getting into eternal sleep were "Nourish this Institute". Leaving her grief behind she called his students aside and made them reassured of their loyalty to the Institute. Imagine the courage, the steadfastness and her own loyalty to the cause. She did not choose her team but had to captain the team that was available.

Mrs. Sahni served the Institute as its president during the early years for nearly 20 years. It was her only child, a dream, a mission and all her attention was to nurse the child in the Institute. The institute reflected and even today reflects her aesthetic sense the interiors, the lay out of the garden and the overall ambience. She often told that in any place of workshop the atmosphere both internal and external are important. She created it. Her desire was to encourage younger generations into this tradition of excellence.

The Institute was transferred to the Dept. of Science and Technology, in 1969 and she continued to serve on its governing body. Her association with the Institute that started in 1946 ended only when she breathed her last in April, 1985.

She continued to inspire his and his band of students and later the scientists and staff of this Institute. They had a mission in life and it has been fulfilled. It is no exaggeration to say that Palaeobotany (in India) in all its ramifications is alive because of Savitri Sahni. It is easy to plant a sapling but to make it grow and bear fruits is not an easy task. This task was hers and she did it commendably. Generations of palaeobotanists, botanists and geologists will remember her for this service.

(Based on excerpts of speech delivered on the occasion by Dr. B.S. Venkatachala, a paleobotanist, former Director of the Institute and close associate of Mrs. Savitri Sahni).

The important current palynological research findings of the BSIP

Marker palynotaxa of Early Cretaceous age are recovered from the Dubrajpur Formation of Brahmini Coalfield.

An undated sedimentary sequence of Eastern Karakoram Block has been dated as Early Callovian on the basis of recovery of marker nannofossil taxa. Existence of mangrove vegetation during Early (16,6800 yrs. BP) and Middle (4280 yrs BP) Holocene was deciphered on the basis of palynological studies of sedimentary profiles of Adyar Estuary, Chennai.

Palynological studies of a sediment profile from the Zub Lake, Antarctica below 6m water column indicates three fold oscillating climate ranging from arid, warm-humid and warm and more humid since 8,000 yrs BP.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

New Dictionary of Paleontology

English - Spanish // Spanish - English.

Over 30,000 entries, 1,122 pages, hardcover, ISBN: 0-9643569-8-8.

Science Dictionary publisher Editorial Castilla La Vieja has just released the Dictionary of Paleontology (English - Spanish // Spanish - English). This is an exhaustive reference work of 1,122 pages and over 30,000 entries, providing in-depth treatment of terminology in vertebrate/invertebrate paleontology, paleobiology, paleobotany, paleoecology, biostratigraphy, oil and coal formation and other related fields. Sample translation sentences abound throughout the book.

More information as well as sample pages can be obtained by visiting the website <http://castilla1492.freeyellow.com/> or by inquiring via e-mail at normandy1@sprynet.com.

New electronic Journal

Virtual Journal of Geobiology

The Virtual Journal of Geobiology <http://earth.elsevier.com/geobiology> is available exclusively on the Web. It is a virtual journal in that it lists articles with a geobiological component recently published in a wide range of Elsevier Science journals. The articles are personally selected by the editor, Professor Lee Kump, on the basis of their potential to highlight interesting and important developments in the area of geobiology.

The purpose of this virtual journal is essentially two-fold. Firstly, it provides users with an expert literature search for geobiology papers across the whole range of Elsevier's journals in Earth and planetary sciences. Secondly, these papers, together with the opinions and ideas available in the viewpoints section, provide users with a solid basis for reflection about the scope of geobiology today and for indicating possible lines for future research.

Access to this site of the Virtual Journal of Geobiology is free. The abstracts of the selected papers are freely available to all users on the ScienceDirect platform. The full text of the papers can be accessed if the user's institute has a ScienceDirect subscription or has registered for ScienceDirect Web Editions. New issues are published monthly.

New Paleontological Software

PAST is a free, easy-to-use data analysis package aimed at paleontology. Inspired by PALSTAT, it includes common statistical, plotting and mod-

elling functions. It can be downloaded from <http://folk.uio.no/ohammer/past/>. It is produced by Ø. Hammer (ohammer@nhm.uio.no) Paleontological Museum, University of Oslo

JOB OPENINGS

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument currently has a paleobotanist position open to applicants from all sources. This is a unique opportunity to develop a research program of Tertiary paleobotany in a classic series of localities spanning 45 ma. Construction of a new paleontological center has just begun and should be completed in two years.

This mountainous area of Oregon is classified as "frontier" (less than 2 hominids/square mile) but what it lacks in culture, it more than makes up for in outcrop. Please check out the Official job announcement:

<http://jsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/summary.asp?OPMControl=IH3165> and follow the links to apply. The salary starts at \$45,285 and steps up to \$58,867. Questions, etc., please contact me directly at the email address below. Open to USA citizens only.

Theodore Fremd

Paleontologist, John Day Fossil Beds
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Washington State University, Department of Anthropology, invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professorship, to begin August 16, 2003. Required: Ph.D. in anthropology or closely related field completed by May 2003 and a paleoecological research focus. Preferred: specialty in paleoecological reconstruction of humanecosystems; demonstrated excellence in research and teaching; ability to teach graduate level course in paleoecology and undergraduate introductory courses in general anthropology. Analytical specialties should include pollen, phytoliths, macrofossils, or stable isotopes as applied to paleobotany or paleoethnobotany. Preference also given to those with paleoecological and archaeological experience in western North America. Experience with GIS desirable. WSU is an EEO/AA educator and employer. Protected group members are encouraged to apply.

Send letter of interest, names of 3-5 references (with current phone numbers and email addresses), and curriculum vitae by November 15 to: Chair, Paleoecology Search, Department of Anthropology, P.O. Box 644910, WSU, Pullman, WA 99164-4910, USA. Or, contact Gary Huckleberry.

Webmaster Wanted

AASP announces the opportunity for a web-savvy palynologist to play an important roll in AASP. At our recent Board Meeting, Paul Strother announced that AASP's web site <http://www.palynology.org> is in need of a new Webmaster. Paul has done a fantastic job, as did Martin Head before him. Now it's time for a new Webmaster. The skills needed include familiarity with HTML and some basic understanding of CGI scripting. The web site is a crucial part of AASP's outreach to the public and the academic community, and will become ever more important as time goes on. During the next year the site will begin accepting Credit Card payments over a secure link for dues and for AASP publications. This is not an elected position, so it would begin immediately, and would not require attendance of board meetings. It's a fantastic opportunity for anyone interested in publicizing our discipline and furthering AASP.

For more information, contact Owen Davis, AASP Managing Editor, palynolo@geo.arizona.edu

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AGENDA

2003

March 29 - April 2, 3rd International Limnogeology Congress, Tucson, Arizona.

The organizing committee at the University of Arizona invites all interested participants to submit proposals for theme sessions and field trips. A first circular, describing the meeting venue and general plans for the Congress will be circulated by mailings and electronically later in 2001. Contacts: Theme session proposals should be sent to Andrew Cohen, general chair of the Congress. Dept. of Geosciences, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721. Tel: 1-520-621-4691. Fax: 1-520-621-2672. E-Mail: acohen@geo.arizona.edu. Field trip proposals should be sent to David Dettman, field trip coordinator for the Congress. E-Mail: dettman@geo.arizona.edu. For further information concerning housing and registration, please contact Noah Lopez. E-Mail: noahl@u.arizona.edu

March 31-April 3 International Symposium on Climate Change (ISCC), Beijing, China

further information Qin Dahe, ISCC@cma.gov.cn

April 7-9, XII Argentinian Symposium of Paleobotany and Palynology, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

There will be a session on the relation of Patagonian and Antarctic fossil floras, another in Quaternary palynology, and a session on Project IGCP-471 "Evolution of western Gondwana during the Late Paleozoic: tectonosedimentary record, paleoclimates and biological changes". For further information consult congress homepage at <http://www.macn.secyt.gov.ar/congreso/Index.htm>

May 2-4, 20th Mid-Continent Paleobotanical Colloquium, Chicago

<http://fm1.fmn.org/aa/Files/yliu/1-circular.html>

May 11-14, 20th AAPG annual meeting, Salt Lake City, Utah.

<http://www.aapg.org/>

June 3-8. Bioevents: their stratigraphic records, patterns and causes, Caravaca de la Cruz, Spain.

We are pleased to invite you to participate in this international conference where it will be discussed our current state of knowledge on bioevents based on the vast amount of data accumulated since the past recent years, especially: Fossil record, stable isotopes, biomarkers, other geochemical and mineralogical markers, Extinction-radiation, innovation and dispersal events, catastrophic events, periodicity of events, selectivity of events (geographical or

environmental), Cosmic, telluric, or biotic causes. Multicausal events.

Conference Participants : 120 euro (member of collaborating organizations 75 euro) - * Students and scholarship recipients : 80 euro (member of collaborating organizations 50 euro) - ** Accompanying guest: 50 euro Student Grant Awards - A number of accommodation grants will be available for Graduate students, and young PhD's (no more than 35 years old) who have contribution(s) accepted for presentation at the meeting. These grants will be offered on a first come first serve basis. - A number of free registration awards will also be available for Undergraduate students majoring in a field of the Earth sciences, and who are in their last year of study. These awards will be offered on a first come first serve basis.

Registration and payment - Deadline for registration: March 10th, 2003 - Deadline for payment: April 10th, 2003 Abstract (as a .rtf file) should be sent by E-mail to: Marcos Lamolda gpplapam@lg.ehu.es Contact email; BIOEVENTOS@telefonica.net, <http://www.bioeventos.n3tix.com>.

July 23-31 XVI Congreso INQUA Reno, USA

http://www.dri.edu/DEES/INQUA2003/inqua_home.htm

October 5-8 Joint AASP/CAP/NAMS meeting

Niagara. A joint meeting of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists, the Canadian Association of Palynologists, and the North American Micropaleontological Section of SEPM will be held in Canada's Niagara Peninsula October 5-8, 2003. The meeting will be held at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, St. Catharines, Ontario, where a large block of moderately priced rooms has been reserved. The hotel is a 5-minute walk from Brock University where we will take advantage of banquet facilities for the Opening Mixer and laboratory facilities if required for workshops. St. Catharines is ~1.5 hour drive from Toronto Airport and less than an hour drive from Buffalo or Hamilton Airports, and ground transportation is available from Toronto or Buffalo Airports.

November 2-5, Geological Society of America, Annual Meeting, Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.

Details: GSA HQ, Box 9140, 3300 Penrose Place, Boulder, Colorado 80301, U.S.A. Tel: (303) 447-2020, X133, E-mail: meetings@geosociety.org

2004

April 14-19, 2004, The 5th International Symposium on Eastern Mediterranean Geology (5ISEMG)

will take place in Thessaloniki, Greece. Its topics cover the entire range of earth sciences, focussing on the broader area of Eastern Mediterranean and its surroundings. Extended abstracts (up to 4 pages) will be published for all accepted presentations (oral or poster). The first circular has been released, and pre-registration has already begun. You can pre-register now by one of the following means: i) download and fill the preregistration form (www.geo.auth.gr/5thISEMG) and send it by email to 5thISEMG@geo.auth.gr or ii) send the filled pre-registration form by fax to +30.231.0998482. For more information contact: Web: <http://www.geo.auth.gr/5thISEMG>, Email: 5thISEMG@geo.auth.gr, Discussion group: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/5_ISEMG

July, 4-9, 2004., 11th International Palynological Congress (IPC) in Granada, Spain.
Website <http://www.ugr.es/local/bioveg>, or contact palacio@pcgr.org.

August 20-28, 2004, the 32nd session of the International Geological Congress. "From the Mediterranean Area Toward a Global Geological Renaissance" Geology, Natural Hazards and Cultural Heritage, in Florence, Italy. See <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

Niagara 2003

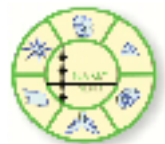
Joint Meeting

**Four Points Sheraton Hotel
St. Catharines, Ontario
Niagara Peninsula, Canada
October 5-8, 2003**

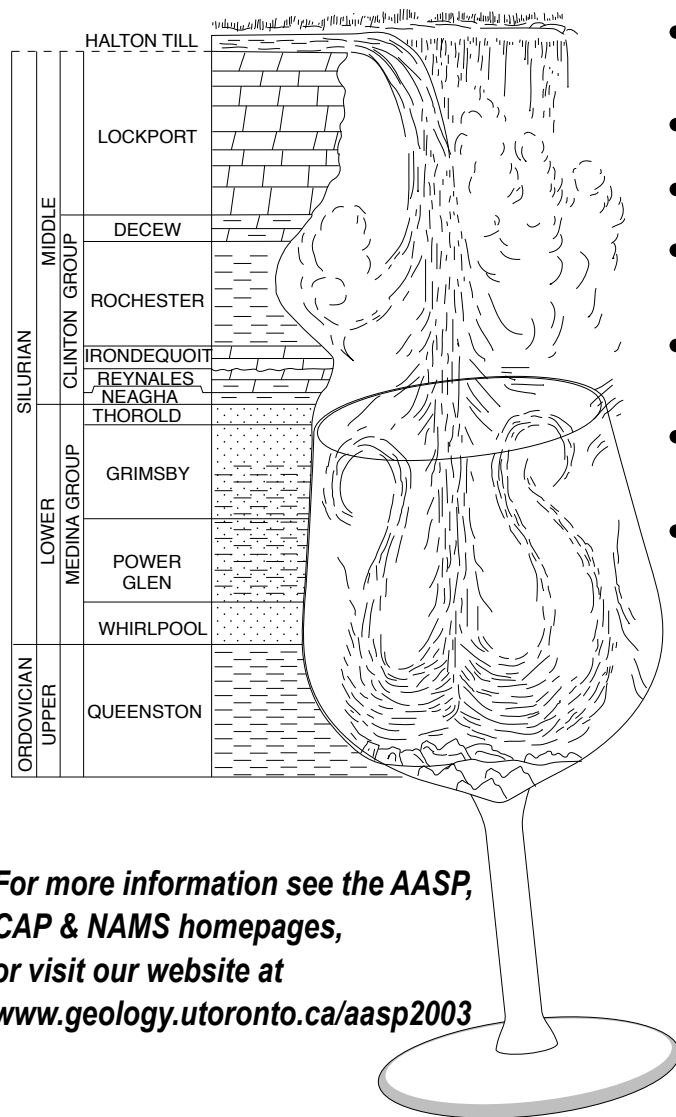


AASP

CAP



NAMS



**For more information see the AASP,
CAP & NAMS homepages,
or visit our website at
www.geology.utoronto.ca/aasp2003**

Proposed Symposia:

- Micropaleontology and Palynology of the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains of North America
- Land-Sea Correlation in the Quaternary/ Cenozoic
- Great Lakes Palynology, Paleoecology & Archeology
- Origins and Evolution of Microfossils: links between evolutionary history and paleoenvironmental changes
- Micropaleontological Applications in Geoarchaeological Studies
- Pragmatic Palynology: Melissopalynology, Forensic Palynology, etc.
- Micropaleontological Applications in Ecology and Paleocology

Proposed Field Trips:

- Crawford Lake: Archaeology & Paleocology
- Geology and Wine
- Niagara Falls: Geology & History
- Botany/Biogeography/Birding, Short Hills Park

Proposed Social Events:

- Theatre Night, Shaw Festival
- Dinner, Winery Restaurant
- Tour of Niagara Falls

Abstract deadline: May 30, 2003

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STRATIGRAPHIC PALYNOLOGISTS
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP**

The American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists is pleased to announce its program of Student Scholarships to support studies in palynology. Currently, two scholarships for \$1500 (US) each may be awarded annually, and a third award of \$1500 may be given through the Lucy Cranwell Fund. Ordinarily, the scholarships will be awarded to beginning graduate students, but advanced undergraduate students may also apply.

Basis of Awards - 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.

To Apply - Part A of this form is to be filled out by the student and Part B by the student's faculty supervisor. The faculty supervisor will send both forms together to the address given at the end of Part B. A total of four pages, including forms A and B will be accepted. Additional material will not be considered. Scholarship applications must be received no later than March, 31 of each year and awards will be announced by May, 3, of each year.

Part A - Application for A.A.S.P. Student Scholarship

Student's name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail address: _____

Three most recent universities or other institutions attended (earliest first). Include the institution that you will attend during the tenure of the scholarship, the degree you will seek, and the anticipated completion date:

Institution	Degree	Begin Date	End Date
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Current Academic Supervisor: _____

Background in palynology: Palynology classes, seminars and short-courses:*

Date	Instructor	Title
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Palynological experience - Research and publications:*

Date	# Samples Counted	Citation or description
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Awards, honors and funding (include institutional support):*

Date	Amount	Agency	Title
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

*Use additional sheets as needed, but a total of only 4 sheets, including forms A and B will be accepted.

(OVER)

Title of proposed investigation:

Summary of the investigation (250 words or less, on an attached sheet); include objectives, why you selected this problem, its significance, and how you plan to approach and carry out the investigation.

I agree that the recommendation I am requesting from my faculty supervisor will be held in confidence by officials of my institution, and I hereby waive any rights I may have to examine it. yes _____ no _____

Applicant's signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Part B - Endorsement by Faculty Supervisor

1. Ranking of the applicant versus other students you have known who are pursuing the same degree:
upper 5% ___ upper 10%___ upper 25%___ upper 50%___ lower 50%___

2. Did the idea for the project originate from student? yes _____ no _____

3. Can you verify the student's statements as to other awards, honors, or financial aid received or applied for?
yes _____ no _____

Comments:

4. Please provide a brief summary (100 words or less on an attached sheet) or your assessment of the applicant's project and his or her potential to attain the objectives. Among other traits, please comment on the student's native intellectual ability, ability to express him (her)self, perseverance, imagination and the probable creativity, and the value of the project.

Faculty supervisor

Name: _____

Position: _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Please return completed forms to:

Fredrick J. Rich
Department of Geology and Geography
P.O. Box 8149 phone 912 681 5361
Georgia Southern University fax 912 681 0196
Statesboro, GA 30460-8149 U.S.A. frich@gasou.edu

A total of only 4 sheets, including forms A and B will be accepted.