



# A.A.S.P. NEWSLETTER

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Published Quarterly by the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists Inc.

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## June 2005 Volume 38, Number 2

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# A.A.S.P.

## American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists Inc.

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

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

### AASP Scientific Medal recipients

Professor William R. Evitt (awarded 1982)  
Professor William G. Chaloner (awarded 1984)  
Dr. Lewis E. Stover (awarded 1988)  
Dr. Graham Lee Williams (awarded 1996)  
Dr. Hans Gocht (awarded 1996)  
Professor Svein B. Manum (awarded 2002)  
Professor Barrie Dale (awarded 2004)  
Dr. David Wall (awarded 2004)

### AASP Honorary Members

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

### AASP Board of Directors Award recipient

Dr. Robert T. Clarke (awarded 1994)

### Teaching medal recipients

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

### AASP Distinguished Service Award recipients

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

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

**AASP Student Scholarships** 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 [www.palynology.org/content/scholar.html](http://www.palynology.org/content/scholar.html). Scholarship applications must be postmarked no later than **March 31**.

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

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



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Carlos Jaramillo, Editor

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The AASP Newsletter is published four times annually. Members are encouraged to submit articles, "letters to the editor", technical notes, meetings reports, information about "members in the news", new websites and information about job openings in the industry. Every effort will be made to publish all information received from our membership. Contributions which include photographs should be submitted a week before the deadline. Deadline for next issues of the newsletter is SEPTEMBER 1, 2005. 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 Martin Head

We are all stakeholders in the geologic time scale, mostly as end users although some AASP members are helping to refine it. The geologic time scale is currently getting a thorough shakeup from end to end. A "Geologic Time Scale 2004" edited by Felix Gradstein and others, and published early in 2005 by Cambridge University Press, already introduces many significant changes. But much work still has to be done. The International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS) under the auspices of the International Union of Geological Societies (IUGS) has been set the task of defining all period, epoch, and stage boundaries for the entire Phanerozoic, so that these boundaries may be ratified (by the IUGS) by the year 2008. This may seem rather academic, until one sees that familiar boundaries are no longer where they once were, or that stage names have now changed! Generally there are sound reasons why boundaries may have to shift, and these are mostly based on new information about boundary stratotypes. But in the case of the Quaternary Period, something more fundamental has happened. It has all but disappeared from sight! According to the "Geologic Time Scale 2004", the Neogene Period now extends to the present day. I shall not trouble you with the details except to say that those who work exclusively on the Quaternary (and there are quite a few in North America and elsewhere around the world) feel somewhat aggrieved by this surprise development. A task force has now been set up, retroactively, by ICS to look into the status of the Quaternary, and decide whether it should be reinstated as a Period (or even Sub-Era) and whether its base should be at 2.6 Ma or 1.8 Ma and coincident with the Plio-Pleistocene boundary. Notwithstanding quibbles about the Quaternary and some other unresolved areas (e.g. the Ediacaran Period now replaces the Vendian at the top of the Proterozoic, to the dissatisfaction of most Russian stratigraphers), the "Geologic Time Scale 2004" is a remarkable achievement in consolidating and rationalizing chronostratigraphic and geochronologic information into a single volume. This time scale will serve us well until

the year 2008 when many new chronostratigraphic boundary definitions will have to be taken into account. Hopefully, palynology will continue to play an influential role in this endeavor. Meanwhile, one can peruse the latest developments on the stratigraphic time scale through the very informative ICS website at: [www.stratigraphy.org/](http://www.stratigraphy.org/)

It is not only stratigraphic boundaries that are moving. Carlos Jaramillo, who has edited the AASP Newsletter since 2002, soon leaves the Colombian Institute of Petroleum to take up a new research position at the Smithsonian Institution. Carlos has kindly agreed to continue editing the AASP Newsletter, and I'm sure you will join me in wishing him every success in his new job.

I too am moving. After almost six delightful years in Cambridge, UK, we are returning to Ontario, where I have accepted a professorship at Brock University in St. Catharines. This is a most exciting development for my family and I and we are all looking forward to returning to Canada in early August. Prior to our move to Cambridge, I spent 14 fruitful years with Geoff Norris and his research group at the University of Toronto, which is just over one-hour's drive from St. Catharines. Brock has a strong Department of Earth Sciences, and a long-established international reputation for palynology owing to the dedicated efforts of Francine McCarthy and her predecessor, Jan Terasmae. Many of you will remember the excellent joint AASP/NAMS/CAP Annual meeting organized by Francine at St. Catharines a few years ago. I hope to build on the Department's research strengths, particularly in Quaternary science, and will add petroleum geology both to the teaching curriculum and research agenda. I look forward to collaborating with many of my North American friends in the future.

Moving onto AASP matters, it is a pleasure to welcome Paul Strother as the new Chair of the AASP Awards Committee. This is an important appointment because AASP takes very seriously its responsibility to support students and recognize achievement in palynology. Paul succeeds Fred Rich who has many years of distinguished AASP service behind him. Paul is supported by Owen Davis, Len Eames and Barb Whitney who are the other members of this committee. Paul is now also the GSA Representative for AASP, and we are very fortunate to have the continuing support of Doug Nichols in GSA-AASP liaison matters.

The AASP executive continues to promote our journal *Palynology*. As I write, I'm told by Allen Press that we should see *Palynology* online with BioOne within a

few weeks. BioOne is an important online cluster of mostly biological (and some paleontological) journals, and our inclusion will enhance *Palynology's* visibility and accessibility beyond that already gained by our membership with GeoScienceWorld.

Although my term as president continues until the business luncheon at the Annual Meeting in St Louis in September, this is my last "President's Page" and an opportunity to thank all the members of the AASP executive, including the Board of Directors, the various AASP committees, and of course the AASP Foundation, for their diligence and hard work. It is difficult to single out individuals for praise because everyone has done an exemplary job. But the following deserve special mention. Thomas Demchuk contributes enormous amounts of time and energy to the smooth running of the association, and expertly manages its finances. Bob Clarke, in addition to his many other editorial tasks, has largely carried the burden of getting *Palynology* online through GeoScienceWorld and BioOne. Vaughn Bryant works tirelessly behind the scenes, whether to mail out publications to members, or organize the production of plaques for award recipients. Owen Davis does not merely keep the AASP website up-to-date, which is a job in itself, but has triumphed over technical and bureaucratic obstacles to establish a secure site for credit card payment, and has provided us with online registration for the annual meeting. Carlos Jaramillo, as Newsletter Editor, and Jim Riding as Managing Editor, carry the weight of AASP's other big portfolios. Last, but certainly not least, Franca Oboh-Ikuenobe and her organizing committee have been working hard to make the Annual Meeting at St Louis a major success. This is a great venue and Franca and friends have put together a first rate program. I look forward to seeing you all in St Louis in September.

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### **38<sup>TH</sup> AASP ANNUAL MEETING, 18-22 SEPTEMBER 2005, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI**

By Francisca Oboh-Ikuenobe

The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the AASP will be held on September 18-22, 2005 at the Raddisson Hotel and Suites Downtown in St. Louis, Missouri. The hotel is located next to the Gateway Arch and Jefferson Expansion Memorial Museum, and is within walking distance of the historic Laclede's Landing, a riverboat casino, Union Station and several tourist facilities. A block of single and multiple-occupancy rooms has been reserved for participants at the meeting (ask for AASP rate). There will be an opening mixer on Sunday evening (September 18) at the hotel at the end

of two pre-meeting field trips, one of which will be a two day field trip to regional Cretaceous clay pits, led by David Dilcher (Florida Museum of Natural History). One post-meeting field trip is also planned.



St Louis Arch

The technical program will include two symposia and general sessions. There will be one symposium on "Palynology and Plant Phylogeny" on Monday with two keynote speakers: Charles Wellman (University of Sheffield) for the early spore record and Michael Zavada (Providence College) for the angiosperm record. The second symposium on "Paleozoic Microphytoplankton (PhytoPal)" will take place on Tuesday. Abstracts for either symposium are encouraged and will be included in the appropriate symposium session. General technical sessions will be interspersed between the symposia. Contributions will be accepted from July 15 to August 15. There will only be one screen available for talks. We will have an overhead available as well as a slide projector and computer projector for PowerPoint. With the exception of keynote addresses, talks will be 20 minutes long (15 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for questions). Information about registration, technical sessions, abstract submission, field trips, social events, and a tour of the Missouri Botanical Gardens can be found on <http://www.palynology.org/meetings.html>. Please direct questions about logistics to Francisca Oboh-Ikuenobe ([ikuenobe@umr.edu](mailto:ikuenobe@umr.edu)), and questions about the technical program to Reed Wicander ([reed.wicander@cmich.edu](mailto:reed.wicander@cmich.edu)) and/or Paul Strother ([strother@bc.edu](mailto:strother@bc.edu)).



## PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR AASP OFFICES

### *President elect*

#### **Francine McCarthy**

Francine is a professor of Earth Sciences at Brock Univ., in St. Catharines, Canada (site of the 2003 AASP Meeting), where she has been teaching since 1991. Her broad palynological interests (and those of her students) range from small lakes to abyssal marine environments, from the Miocene to historic times, and applications for paleoclimatic reconstruction, stratigraphy and sedimentation, sea level and lake level fluctuation, and archeology. She became interested in palynology while taking a Pleistocene Geology course at Dalhousie University, where she received a combined honours degree in geology and biology. She went on to study the Holocene pollen record of Lake Ontario with Jock McAndrews at the University of Toronto, and continues to work on Great Lakes palynology today, together with a group from the Geological Survey of Canada. She went back to Dalhousie University for her PhD work (supervised by Peta Mudie and David Scott) which examined the Quaternary pollen, dinoflagellate cyst, and foraminiferal record of the New Jersey margin. She returned to the New Jersey margin in 1997 as shipboard palynologist on ODP Leg 174A, and subsequently studied those sediments, as well as sediments from the Atlantic Coastal Plain (ODP Leg 174AX), with a number of graduate students. She organized the AASP Meeting in St. Catharines, Ontario, in 2003, has served as Director-at-Large from 2003-2005, and chaired the AASP Ballot Committee in 2004.

Her major research (since sailing on ODP Leg 191 in the summer of 2000) focuses on the palynological and foraminiferal record of the western North Pacific Ocean, where many of her favourite scientific issues are being addressed: paleoproductivity, taphonomy, sedimentation, and global climate change.





### **Carlos Jaramillo**

Here I am, nominated again for President-elect after being defeated in last year's election. Really don't know why I was nominated again, and why I took the challenge! At least this time, I did not hire John Kerry's campaign manager as I did last year.

I just started a new position at the Smithsonian Institution, a newly created Endowment Chair in Tropical Paleobiology at STRI (Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute), Panama. It is an excellent opportunity to do basic science and to bring Paleopalynology to one of the leading scientific institutions in the world. During the past three years, I worked in applied palynology with the Colombian Petroleum Institute-Ecopetrol at Bucaramanga, Colombia. In those 3 years, our biostratigraphic staff grew from two people to more than 35, and from being in one isolated small project to being one of the most popular tools within the company. It seems now that every geologist need biostratigraphy in their project! I really can say that Biostratigraphy and specially Palynology is one of the most cost-effective tools in petroleum industry. It is just a matter of selling it better.

I grew up in Colombia, received a B.S. in Geology at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in 1993, M.S. at the University of Missouri-Rolla in 1995, and a Ph.D. at the University of Florida in 1999. I have been a member of AASP since 1994, served as Director-at-Large between 2001 and 2003, and have been the AASP NL editor since 2002.

My research investigates tropical biodiversity at diverse scales of time and space. I intend to address questions from a paleobiological perspective (mainly using pollen, spores and dinoflagellates). I am also very interested in the biostratigraphy of tropical latitudes during the Tertiary and Cretaceous.



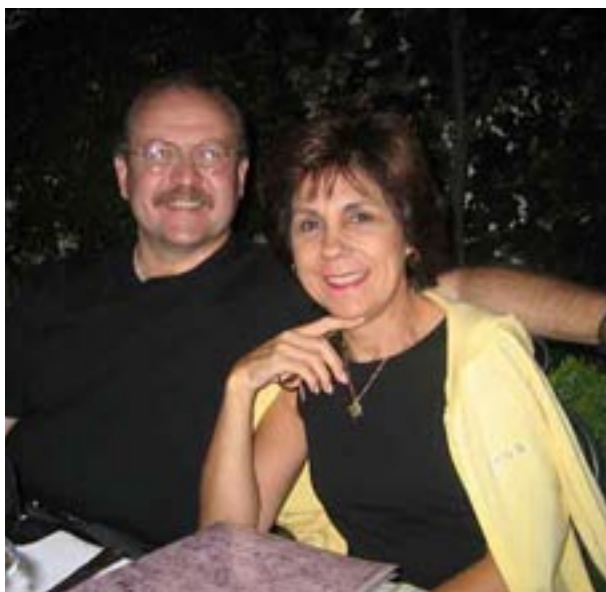
Camilo and Carlos

### **Secretary-Treasurer**

#### **Thomas Demchuk**

Instead of the humorous bios I've submitted over the past several years, I've decided to reflect.....

As a senior undergraduate back in 1982 and summer intern at the Alberta Research Council, I had no idea what palynology was. Dr. Chaitanya Singh was this very proper gentleman who appeared from his office at coffee time, then disappeared to continue looking down his microscope. I gave little thought to what he was actually looking at. One day after expressing interest to several of the ARC staff that I was thinking of doing an M.Sc., Dr. Singh called me into his office and began to explain that he had several projects on palynology which I could do for my graduate work. Not being too proud to accept some potential government backing for this work, I graciously sat and listened to Dr. Singh extol the virtues of pollen, spores and dinoflagellates. At that time, he was completing ARC Bulletin No. 44, "Cenomanian Microfloras, Peace River Area". I was amazed at the patience he showed in picking just the right photo of his dinoflagellates. I was further amazed at how he typed out his text on an old manual typewriter, knowing that once the words were on paper they would not need editing. I was hooked.



Thomas and Marta Demchuk enjoy at the IPC-Granada

Dr. Singh's patience extended to his time mentoring me on pollen and spore morphology. I had a great project looking at the Paleocene of Alberta, and the samples were full of interesting palynoflora. I would spend several hours a day at the University looking down the microscope, being quizzed by Dr. Charles Stelck, and consuming several cups of Java Jive coffee. My most memorable scientific awakening came when I attempted to write up the Systematic Palynol-

ogy section of my thesis. Nobody really cared where all those commas, semi-colons, periods and indents went, did they? Italics? I don't need no stinkin' italics! I wanted my thesis to be unique! I'm sure that stock in red ink rose considerably after Dr. Singh handed me back that part of my thesis. Despite this emotional setback, I completed my thesis, successfully defended it, and moved on to loftier endeavors. For my time as a graduate student at the University of Alberta, and all the time spent at the Alberta Research Council offices, I am deeply indebted to Dr. Singh.

Through my 23 years as a palynologist, student and professional, there are several people who have had significant impact on my career. To name a couple, Len Hills my Ph.D. supervisor at the University of Calgary, and importantly David Pocknall my Cenozoic palynological colleague who was integral in my being hired at Amoco back in 1992. Not only have I learned a lot from David regarding the science, but also as a friend helping me through some difficult personal times.

I cannot help but think that we have passed the hey-day of palynology, especially in industry. I was fortunate to be a part of this collaboration of unique and quirky personalities, but I am fearful that young palynologists (wherever they may be) will not have had the opportunity to learn patience from a masterful mentor such as Dr. Singh, learn the writing skills from an expert editor such as Len Hills, and learn professionalism from a fine person like David Pocknall. Times have changed, no doubt about it.

I am happy to stand as Secretary-Treasurer of AASP for my 8<sup>th</sup> year. Until the membership gets tired of me, I am more than charmed to be part of AASP and continue on with these duties. I look forward to seeing all of you in St. Louis for what should be a memorable Annual Meeting.

### ***Managing Editor***

#### **James B. Riding**

James B. Riding is a palynologist/stratigrapher with the British Geological Survey based in Nottingham, England. He has over 25 years experience in Mesozoic-Cenozoic palynology. In the 1980s he worked mainly on the Mesozoic palynology of onshore and offshore UK, principally the North Sea. His current interests have diversified to include the palynology of Europe, Australasia, Antarctica, West Africa, the Americas, Russia and the Middle East, paleoenvironmental palynology, floral provinces, the morphology, systematics and taxonomy of dinoflagellate cysts and palynological preparation techniques. Jim studied

geology at the University of Leicester, before pursuing a long standing interest in palynology by studying the famous MSc course at the University of Sheffield. Jim left Sheffield for BGS, where he received a PhD from the University of Sheffield in 1986 for a thesis on the Jurassic dinoflagellate cyst floras of northern and eastern England. The British Antarctic Survey have used Jim as a consultant palynologist and he visited the Antarctic Peninsula for a fieldwork tour during the Austral Summer of 1989. He recently undertook a years secondment to Geoscience Australia in Canberra, Australia, where he worked on the taxonomy of Australian Jurassic dinoflagellate cysts with Robin Helby and Clinton Foster. The work emanating from this was published in 2001 as Memoir 24 of the Association of Australasian Palaeontologists. Jim was awarded a DSc by the University of Leicester in early 2003. He served as President of AASP in 2003 and became Managing Editor in 2004.



Jim in a Tübingen fieldtrip

### ***Directors-at-Large***

#### **Sophie Warny**

Sophie Warny is the Education Director of the Museum of Natural Science (MNS) and she serves as principal advisor for the development of multidisciplinary outreach activities associated to externally-funded research performed in the College of Basic Science at Louisiana State University. She is a geologist by training and received a Ph.D. in science from the Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium) in 1999 with the highest distinction for her palynological work on the Messinian Salinity Crisis. Her doctoral research was conducted under the direction of Dr. Jean-Pierre Suc. In conjunction with her education activities, she holds an adjunct professor position in the Department of Geology and Geophysics where she maintains

an active research program on palynology/climate change through externally funded grants with Dr. John Wrenn at Cenex (LSU). She currently studies palynomorphs from Neogene sections in the Ross Sea and the Antarctic Peninsula. She published several peer-reviewed scientific papers and abstracts.



Her main education focus is the transfer of active research programs in natural science into diverse outreach components and their dissemination to the public and to the K-16 education community. Since her appointment as Education Director in 2002, she has coordinated many large-scale outreach projects, including the “Coastal Roots” project that won a national award (EPA – youth education program, second place winner). She also co-organized major education events: Museums Day (a campus-wide one-day event with ~4,000 visitors yearly), Ocean Commotion (a state-wide one-day education event with ~2,000 K-8 students and teachers yearly), Special Saturdays (with ~25 children and their families monthly), and numerous smaller scale education programs in Louisiana schools and libraries.

One of her first tasks at the MNS was the development of an education website and her latest endeavor was the funding, design and implementation of a 42-foot long interactive permanent exhibit “*Experience Antarctica*”. This exhibit was designed as an outreach component for her NSF-funded Antarctic research. She is also the author of a published children book on Natural Science. Thanks to these education programs, the MNS was recently selected as one of the new partners for the National Science Teachers Association “*Building a Presence*” program. Warny was also invited to be a member of the Science Advisory Committee for the development of a new education program “*Life Changes*” at the New York Hall of Science. She works both nationally and internationally and is fluent in French and English.

## Stan Stancliffe

Stan presently works at Imperial Oil in Calgary, Canada, as a member of the Northern Geoscience Team with responsibilities for a number of fields including Norman Wells and Rainbow. He also provides biostratigraphic guidance and co-ordination for other company projects across Canada, and mentoring for new hires. Prior to this, he was the biostratigraphy part of the geoscience research and production teams developing the large Cold Lake bitumen field.



This is a long way from leaving England to join Canadian petroleum exploration in the early 80's. After the industry downturn in 1983 he returned to university taking an evening course in micropaleontology from Prof Len Hills: it is his fault that Stan thinks palynology is fun. The University of Calgary masters program was full but the province provided a scholarship to Hull University in the UK to study micropalaeontology and palynology. From there Stan came back to Canada in 1984 to study at the University of Saskatchewan with Professor Bill Sarjeant. Over the next 6 years Stan's life included Upper Jurassic marine palynomorphs, collecting samples in the High Arctic, working summers in Calgary, and eating wieners and beans washed down with large quantities of home made barley pop. After his Ph.D. graduation in 1990, Stan was awarded a Post Doc with Prof. Kazumi Matsuoka in Nagasaki, Japan to study the Tertiary palynomorphs of the Sea of Japan along with acritarch taxonomy. He returned to North America in 1992 and was an intern at the Amoco Research Center, Tulsa, prior to returning to the U. of S. as a researcher and sessional lecturer at the Saskatchewan Indian Federated



College. His second post doc started in 1994 with Imperial and he has now been with the company for 10 years.

Stan has helped develop and champions a 4 month internship program with a local high school which allows grade 12 students to work at Imperial and learn to be a junior geotechnologist. He also gives a number of 'rocks and dinosaurs' presentations to kindergarten students every year (which is a much tougher audience than management). In his spare time Stan trains for triathlons which involves cycling in the mountains, running on the prairies and swimming in local Canada goose-polluted lakes.

As an industrial geoscientist and a palynologist I would like to focus on continuing to make palynology and paleontology an important part of every geologist's toolkit. With the graying of the exploration industry, the need to sell palynology in both large and small corporations has never been higher and I am keen to bring a Calgary perspective to the AASP solution.

#### **Thomas D. Davies**

Tom Davies is a Geological Advisor at ExxonMobil Exploration Company, Houston, Texas with 25 years of coal and petroleum exploration experience. He worked as a coal scientist at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico from 1979-80 and a coal and organic petrologist at Exxon Production Research Company in Houston from 1980-83. Tom began his career in palynology as an exploration palynologist and organic petrologist at Exxon Production Research in 1983, and has worked for Exxon on various exploration and production assignments in Houston and in Bordeaux, France to the present. He is a member of the American Assoc. of Petroleum Geologist, North American Micropaleontology Section, SEPM, and the American Assoc. of Stratigraphic Palynologists. He has been a member of AASP since the late 1970's and has served on the ballot committee, as judge for the Best Student Paper awards, as Director-At-Large and is currently seeking a position for Director-at-Large.

Tom holds a B.S. degree from Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania and received a Ph.D. from The Pennsylvania State University for his thesis on peat formation in Florida Bay. At Penn State, he worked under the direction of Bill Spackman, and was introduced to and encouraged to use palynology by Al Traverse.

At Exxon, Tom worked closely with Lew Stover and provided Paleogene and Upper Cretaceous palynologic data as part of the exploration team that developed sequence stratigraphy and the Exxon cycle



chart. He has worldwide palynology experience, and frequently works on Paleogene and Cretaceous marine and nonmarine palynology, palynofacies and source rock analysis. More recently, he has conducted studies on calibrating Lower Cretaceous Tethyan dinoflagellates to the global cycle chart. Tom enjoys jogging, fishing, boating, and gardening, is a member of the Galveston Island Sea Isle Planters Bunch, and collects and refinishes early American furniture and clocks.

#### **Martin Farley**

Martin Farley is Assistant Professor of Geology at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke (UNCP) and was just elected chair of the reinstated Department of Geology and Geography, where he has taught nearly every course in the geology curriculum in the last 4 years.

Farley received a B.S. in geosciences at Penn State, M.A. in geology at Indiana University with Dave Dilcher, and returned to Penn State for his Ph.D with Alfred Traverse in 1987. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the Smithsonian with Scott Wing. Subsequently he worked for Exxon for 10 years, first in research and then in exploration, before reaching UNCP in 2001.

Farley joined AASP in 1980 or 1981 and was previously a Director-at-Large from 1992-1994. He was on the organizing committees for the IPC in Houston in 1996 and for this year's research conference at Rice University, "Geologic problem-solving with microfossils," sponsored by multiple societies including AASP. He is currently in his sixth year as Treasurer

of the North American Micropaleontological Section (NAMS) of SEPM.

Farley has worked on palynology of Cretaceous-Recent sediments from all over the world with applications in biostratigraphy, sequence stratigraphy, paleoecology, and paleoenvironmental analysis. Among these, it would be fair to say that his major interest has been the relation between palynomorphs and depositional environments, especially in nonmarine settings. While at Exxon, he was a major participant in the industry-academic project that resulted in the SEPM publication on the "Sequence Stratigraphy of European Basins." He is currently working on the Holocene and near-Holocene of coastal North Carolina in collaboration with geologists at East Carolina University. He may even get a wet lab suitable for palynology at UNCP, although construction progress can only be timed with a calendar.



Farley gave a keynote talk on forging a path for biostratigraphy (in the oil industry sense of practically all paleontology) at the London joint meeting of AASP-NAMS-TMS in 2002. A major theme of that talk, which he still strongly believes, is that infiltration of palynology into broader venues is critical to increase appreciation of its utility in solving geologic and biologic problems.

## **UCL/NHM MICROPALAEONTOLOGY MSC COURSE – A NEW POSTGRADUATE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY**

By Susanne Feist-Burkhardt

A micropalaeontology course has been run very successfully at University College London for 45 years, training many of the leading industrial and academical micropalaeontologists and attracting consistent NERC support, currently five places per year. However, to reflect the increasing range of skills required by micropalaeontologists, and to benefit from the strong collaboration between UCL and the Natural History Museum, this course has been comprehensively revised for 2005, many new lecturers involved, and it will now be jointly run between UCL and the NHM.

The new course is arranged in five components, devised to provide comprehensive and challenging training. All parts of the course include extensive practical work. In addition, transferable skills are developed through a series of individual projects, assignments and presentations.

### *Part A Introduction and background fundamentals*

Introduction to the techniques and methodology of micropalaeontology and field collecting. Training in fundamental aspects of oceanography, limnology and eukaryote biology necessary to understand micropalaeontology.

### *Part B The main microfossil groups*

This key part of the course consists of a series of two-week modules dealing with the biology, evolutionary history, stratigraphic application and taxonomy of the main microfossil group. The modules are taught by experts in the field with in most cases guest lectures and provide a unique training opportunity. Practical work, using outstanding material, forms about half the course content. Places on the individual module are available for, e.g. PhD students or industrial micropalaeontologists.

### *Part C Application of micropalaeontology in geology and natural environment research*

This part of the course provides training in how micropalaeontology can be used in modern geology. It starts with a field course (to the Sorbas Basin, S. Spain in 2005) and continues with modules on the biostratigraphic, geochronological and palaeoceanographic application of microfossils, including biotic and geochemical proxies derived from microfossils.

### *Part D Work experience*

A one or two week work experience placement in an

industrial or research laboratory to provide hands-on experience. This part also compliments transferable skills training, developed through the course.

#### *Part E Research project*

The final five months of the course are spent on individual research projects. Research projects are offered by a wide range of micropalaeontologists working at UCL and the NHM and by outside collaborators, and students will have the opportunity to be based in the NHM during projects. The projects are practical-based, typically using previously barely studied material to address real biostratigraphic, palaeobiological or palaeoenvironmental problems. All projects are written-up to an absolute deadline, and many projects have subsequently led to publications.

With the relaunch, the traditional strengths of this course have been developed into a thoroughly modern course, providing first-rate training and a challenging experience. We hope you will bring the course to the attention of potentially interested students.

Paul Bown (UCL), Susanne Feist-Burkhardt (NHM), Mike Kaminski (UCL), Jeremy Young (NHM)

Application, timetable and lecturer information is available on the UCL website  
[www.es.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/micropal/UCL-NHM\\_MSc.html](http://www.es.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/micropal/UCL-NHM_MSc.html)

Application enquiries should be sent to  
[micropal-msc@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:micropal-msc@ucl.ac.uk)

*NB Both University College London and The Natural History Museum are non-profit organisations*



University College London

## **DINODATA CLOSES**

By Rex Harland

Having attained the venerable age of sixty and enjoying the advantages of maturity, including the many pleasures of being a grandfather, I wish to inform my many friends and colleagues that I will be ceasing to trade as a palynological consultant under my business name of DinoData Services as from the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005. However, this does not mean I will be leaving the world of dinoflagellate research but rather I will be pursuing some of my research interests without the necessity and encumbrance of running a business. I will also be available for some limited consulting work on an ad hoc basis and will be more than happy to maintain my palynological connections both in the UK and elsewhere. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues for their friendship and kindness in the past and I am looking forward to many more productive years. Dinoflagellates and their cysts continue to fascinate me and I cannot imagine not wanting to be a part of the family that is the 'dinoflagellate research community'.

It is also my intention to remain in Bingham for the foreseeable future where friends and colleagues will find a ready welcome, good beer down the road at the local public houses, and an overnight stop if you are ever passing. You can contact me at [rex.harland@ntlworld.com](mailto:rex.harland@ntlworld.com) or on ++44 (0)1949 875287 or at 50 Long Acre, Bingham, Nottingham NG13 8AH, UK.

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## **NEWS FROM INDIA**

By Naresh C. Mehrotra, new director of Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany ([nareshmehrotra@indiatimes.com](mailto:nareshmehrotra@indiatimes.com))

The last three months have seen extensive activities concerning my new assignment as Director, Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow. The Institute primarily focuses on basic research in Palaeobotany (including Palynology) and allied disciplines under five thrust area programmes: (i) Pre-cambrian biotic events; (ii) Gondwana floristics, palaeoclimate and palaeoecology; (3) Biopetrology of coals and its relevance to Coal Bed Methane; (4) Palaeobiology of Phanerozoic basins and its bearing on Hydrocarbon potential; and (5) Quaternary vegetation, eustatic sea level change, global climate change and anthropogenic impact.

It is envisaged now to give special thrust to researches related to Fossil Fuel exploration (Oil & Coal) and Palaeoclimate with emphasis on Quaternary and to

develop 'Industrial Palynology Lab' at BSIP.

I personally feel that there is a need to explore frontier areas of mutual interest with Scientists/Institutions to develop international cooperation in our major thrust research programmes. Suggestions/proposals from fellow colleagues are welcome for the same. The Institute will celebrate its Diamond Jubilee Year during 2005-2006. It is proposed to hold a National Workshop in November 2005 and an International Conference during November 2006, details of which would be notified at a later date.

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## NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

By Eric Monteil ([eric.monteil@ga.gov.au](mailto:eric.monteil@ga.gov.au))

The dinocyst zonation used throughout the greater North West Shelf of Australia, known as the HMP 1987 (Helby, Morgan & Partridge, 1987) in Australia, or the yellow book in Europe, was updated and released last year as a double-sided poster (Helby, Morgan & Partridge, 2004). To facilitate the diffusion of this updated biozonation to a larger audience, this document is now accessible online.

The publication is in two parts:

1. Updated Jurassic – Early Cretaceous Dinocyst Zonation, North West Shelf, Australia – Part 1 [PDF\_1MB]
2. Updated Jurassic – Early Cretaceous Dinocyst Zonation, North West Shelf, Australia – Part 2 [PDF\_1MB]

PDF files can be downloaded from the Geoscience Australia website: [http://www.ga.gov.au/oceans/projects/hmp\\_2005.jsp](http://www.ga.gov.au/oceans/projects/hmp_2005.jsp) This update is an initiative of the Virtual Centre of Economic Micropalaeontology and Palynology (VCEMP) in collaboration with biostratigraphers from Santos Ltd and Woodside Energy Ltd, principal Australian consultants and Geoscience Australia.

The main chart provides a comparison between (1) the original scheme of Helby et al. (1987), (2) the subzone alphanumeric codes developed mainly in the Timor Sea area by Robin Helby and published in outline form in the Association of Australasian Palaeontologist Memoir 24 (fig.2 in Foster, 2001), (3) the subzone and events based scheme developed mainly in the Carnarvon Basin by Morgan Palaeo Associates (Morgan, Hooker & Ingram, 2002), and (4) the final Updated Agreed Scheme. The four schemes are plotted against the Australia Phanerozoic Timescale developed by Geoscience Australia (Young & Laurie, 1996), with the age assignments of the zones follow-

ing the latest review of the international correlation of the dinocyst zonation based on other criteria (Backhouse, 2003). The other charts provide expanded versions of intervals that could not be adequately illustrated on the main chart.

This updated Jurassic – Early Cretaceous dinocyst zonation for the North West Shelf of Australia is currently being calibrated to GTS 2004 (Gradstein, Ogg and Smith, 2004) by Alan Partridge (Biostrata Pty Ltd) for Geoscience Australia.

## References

Backhouse, J., 2003. Age determinations of Jurassic and Early Cretaceous (up to Cenomanian) microplankton zones based on non-palynological criteria. Unpublished report for Geoscience Australia.

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Helby, R., Morgan, R. & Partridge, A.D., 1987. A palynological zonation of the Australian Mesozoic. Memoir Association Australasian Palaeontologists 4, p.1-94.

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Morgan, R., Hooker, N. & Ingram, B., 2002. Towards higher palynological resolution in the Australian Mesozoic. Unpublished Report.

Young, G.R. & Laurie, G.C., editors, 1996. An Australian Phanerozoic Timescale. Oxford University Press, Melbourne, p.1-279.

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### **2005 MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS**

By Thomas D. Demchuk

The listing below are those AASP member who have NOT yet paid their dues for the year 2005. If your name appears below, please pay your membership in the near future using one of the following methods: send a check or money order to the Secretary-Treasurer (US funds), send your credit card payment to the Secretary-Treasurer, or you may log onto the AASP secure server and pay your membership online ([www.palynology.org/member.html](http://www.palynology.org/member.html)). You may pay your membership up to 3 years in advance. Dues are US\$45 per year, and includes quarterly newsletters, reduced registration to the Annual Meeting, and the annual journal *Palynology*.

My sincerest apologies to those of you who have recently paid your membership but name appears

below. Additionally, if your name appears below in error, please contact the Secretary-Treasurer.

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## **GONDWANA GEOLOGY AND PALAEONTOLOGY**

By Roseline Weiss

I would like to inform you also about a book appeared in the Geological Institute, University of Cologne, Germany: *Contributions to Geology and Palaeontology of Gondwana* - In Honour of Helmut Wopfner: I-X, 530 pp.; 190 figs., 8 in colour; 39 tabs.; 29 photographic plates, 2 in colour; A4 - format. Edited by Roseline H. Weiss. ISBN 3-934027-07-5. Price per copy: EUR 64 plus postage and handling charges.

Fifty-three geoscientists from 14 countries, specialised in different fields of geology and interested in the geological evolution of Gondwana, have contributed to this book. Their main objectives are the reconstruction of the assembly, evolution and dispersal history of this supercontinent and the inter-regional stratigraphical correlation of Gondwana sequences preserved in basins dispersed throughout the south-

ern continents. The volume contains 32 papers (29 English, 2 French, and 1 German) on the geology and palaeontology of Australia, Africa, Antarctica, South America, South Asia, and South Europe.

Details you could find in the review of the book written from Mr. John Utting (voting member of the Subcommission on Permian Stratigraphy), which was published in the October 2004 AAPG Bulletin.

If you are interested to obtain this publication, please contact: Dr. Roseline H. WEISS, Universität zu Köln, Institut für Geologie und Mineralogie Zùlpicher Str. 49a, D-50674 Köln, Fax +49 2173 960473, E-mail: [aro.cologne@t-online.de](mailto:aro.cologne@t-online.de)

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### SEARCHABLE TROPICAL POLLEN DATABASE

By William D. Gosling ([gosling@FIT.EDU](mailto:gosling@FIT.EDU))

The Neotropical Paleoecology Research Group is pleased to announce the launch of its searchable pollen database on the web.

The purpose of this database is to assist in the identification of Neotropical pollen and can be quizzed according to family or genus, or as a multiple access key. The database contains photographs of >1000 taxa most commonly found in fossil pollen spectra. This data base is searchable in a read-only format without any software requirements. However, if you wish to edit or modify the database in any way then FileMaker 5 or higher is required.

It should be noted that this database is an ongoing project and it is by no means a complete guide to Neotropical pollen. In addition, there are undoubtedly small glitches and typing errors within the program and database. We would encourage people to inform us of these when they are encountered.

To register to download the pollen database please follow links from our web page, <http://www.fit.edu/biology/bushlab/index.html>



Neotropical Paleoecology Research Group at FIT

### EVOLVING EARTH GRANTS

Deadline: March 1, annual awards

Grants of up to \$3000 are awarded, and past support has been received for paleobotanical projects. The deadline for applications is March 1 every year. See the details on website: [evolvingearth.org/evolvingearthgrants/grantsmain.htm](http://evolvingearth.org/evolvingearthgrants/grantsmain.htm). This program provides grants to support college student research in the earth sciences. The emphasis will be on research topics that relate to the mission and priorities of the foundation. A total of ten grants per year are available, for amounts of up to \$3000 per grant. Undergraduate students, graduate students, and post-doctoral researchers at accredited U.S. colleges and universities or research institutions are eligible to apply for grants.

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### CORRECTED COVER FOR AASP CONTRIBUTIONS SERIES 42

There was an error on the front cover of AASP Contributions Series 42 (a word was misspelled).

Anyone who has ordered CS-42 may copy the page that is at the back of the NL and insert it in the cover of the 3-ring binder

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### AGENDA

#### 2005

**September 11-14, 2005, The Society for Organic Petrology (TSOP), 22th Annual Meeting, Louisville, Kentucky USA.**

<http://igs.indiana.edu/tsop2005>. Abstracts due 4/30/05. Oral and poster sessions September 12-13.

Conference themes include CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration, coal utilization, coalbed methane, coal petrography, organic geochemistry. Special technical session on dispersed organic matter. Workshop (Sept. 11) on CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration. Field trips to Falls of the Ohio (Sept. 11) and a mine (Sept. 14).

**September 18-22, 2005, 38th AASP Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri, USA**

Details at <http://www.palynology.org/meetings.html>

## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORMAT

### Sample Abstract for AASP 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri, September 18-21, 2005

#### BIOSTRATIGRAPHIC SIGNIFICANCE OF A MIOPORE ASSEMBLAGE FROM THE MIDDLE DEVONIAN ULUSUBASITE FORMATION, NORTHWEST CHINA

Zhu, Huaicheng<sup>1</sup> & Wicander, Reed<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 39 East Beijing Road, Nanjing 210008, China

<sup>2</sup>Department of Geology, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Michigan 48859, USA

Please follow these simple rules in submitting your abstract for the upcoming AASP meeting.

Your complete abstract must fit on one page with one inch (2.5 cm) margins from each side and top and bottom, single spaced, and left-hand justified. Use 12-point font only in either Times or Times New Roman, and no bold or italics except for genera and species. Do not indent the first paragraph, but subsequent paragraphs should be indented. Please use the above format for title of presentation, names of authors, and affiliations.

Submit your abstract via an Email attachment and state "AASP Abstract" in the subject line so as to ensure I will open the email. Use Microsoft Word or other similar, common word-processing software. If time-consuming reformatting is required because the above rules were not followed, it is possible your abstract will be rejected from the technical program.

When submitting your abstract, please answer the questions below so that we can properly place you in the correct session and your presentation can go as smoothly as possible because the right equipment will be available. Only one screen will be available for oral presentations.

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(Please indicate with a check mark ☒ or "x")

Oral presentation: ☐ If yes: Overhead ☐ 35 mm slides ☐ PowerPoint ☐

Poster presentation: ☐ (eligible for the AASP Best Poster Award)

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Session (Please indicate with a check mark ☒ or "x")

General Technical: ☐ Palynology and Plant Phylogeny: ☐

Paleozoic Microphytoplankton (phytoPal): ☐

#### Abstract submission: July 15 - August 15, 2005

Submit abstracts via Email to: reed.wicander@cmich.edu or in hard copy (with disk) to: Reed Wicander, Department of Geology, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859 U.S.A.





# NEW AASP FOUNDATION PUBLICATION

## The Lentin and Williams Index of Fossil Dinoflagellates 2004 Edition

by

Robert A. Fensome and Graham L. Williams

### ABSTRACT

In this Index are listed all dinoflagellate cyst taxa at and below the generic rank known to the authors as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004. The Index includes a total number of 10,746 entries (9582 in the main index and the rest in the two appendices). In terms of current ("correct" sensu ICBN) names for fossil dinoflagellate taxa as recorded in this edition of the Index, there are 627 genera, 4070 species and 426 infraspecific taxa. Validly published and legitimate names are listed, as well as those that are effectively published, but are not valid or are illegitimate. Information on synonymies, nomenclatural types, nomenclatural status, history, and geologic age is also provided. Proposals include 2 new names (*Pseudoceratium australiense*, *Sentusidinium? millepedii*), 12 new combinations (*Batiacasphaera biornata* subsp. *conspicula*, *Bohaidina reticulata*, *Calciodinellum albatrosianum* var. *spinulosum*, *Charlesdownia pengchiahsuensis*, *Charlesdownia taiwaniana*, *Distatodinium pusillum*, *Distatodinium tuberculatum*, *Meiourogoniaulax bathonica*, *Pernambugia tuberosa* forma *elongata*, *Pernambugia tuberosa* forma *variospinosa*, *Pithonella brezovica* and *Pyxidiniopsis jiaboi*) and one newly validated name (*Spiniferites alaskensis*). Taxa at some time included in non-dinoflagellate or extant dinoflagellate genera are listed in two appendices. Appendix A lists all non-dinoflagellate genera that at some time have included species or infraspecific taxa now or previously considered dinoflagellates; it also includes genera listed in the main text of previous editions of the Index but not (now) considered dinoflagellates. Appendix B includes extant dinoflagellate genera based on motile types to which cyst taxa have been assigned.

909 pages

8 1/2 x 11 format, 3-ring "D-binder"  
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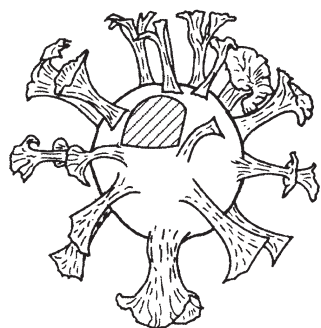
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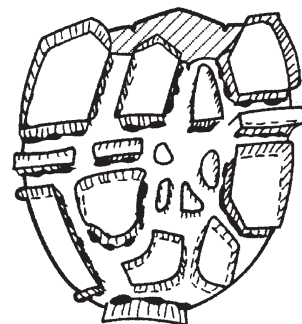
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# THE LENTIN AND WILLIAMS INDEX OF FOSSIL DINOFLAGELLATES 2004 EDITION

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