



A.A.S.P. NEWSLETTER

Published Quarterly by the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists Inc.

June 2006
Volume 39, 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)
Dr. Robin Helby (awarded 2005)

AASP Honorary Members

Professor Dr. Alfred Eisenack (elected 1975)
Dr. William S. Hoffmeister (elected 1975)
Professor Leonard R. Wilson (elected 1975)
Professor Knut Faegri (elected 1977)
Professor Charles Downie (elected 1982)
Professor William R. Evitt (elected 1989)
Professor Lucy M. Cranwell (elected 1989)
Dr. Tamara F. Vozzhennikova (elected 1990)
Professor Aureal T. Cross (elected 1991)
Dr. Robert T. Clarke (awarded 2002)
Prof. Vaughn Bryant (awarded 2005)
Prof. Alfred Traverse (awarded 2005)

AASP Board of Directors Award recipient

Dr. Robert T. Clarke (awarded 1994)

Teaching medal recipients

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

AASP Distinguished Service Award recipients

Dr. Robert T. Clarke (awarded 1978)
Dr. Norman J. Norton (awarded 1978)
Dr. Jack D. Burgess (awarded 1982)
Dr. Richard W. Hedlund (awarded 1982)
Dr. John A. Clendening (awarded 1987)
Dr. Kenneth M. Piel (awarded 1990)
Dr. Gordon D. Wood (awarded 1993)
Dr. Jan Jansonius (awarded 1995)
Dr. D. Colin McGregor (awarded 1995)
Professor John H. Wrenn (awarded 1998)
Professor Vaughn M. Bryant (awarded 1999)
Dr. Donald W. Engelhardt (awarded 2000)
Dr. David T. Pocknall (awarded 2005)
Dr. David K. Goodman (awarded 2005)
Prof. Owen K. Davis (awarded 2005)

AASP Student Scholarships are awarded annually to support studies in palynology. These comprise two scholarships each for **\$1500**, and a third award of **\$1500** may be given as The Cranwell Award. Ordinarily, the scholarships will be offered to beginning graduate students, but advanced undergraduates may also apply. The qualification of the student, the originality and imagination evident in the proposed project, and the likelihood of significant contribution to the science of palynology are factors that will be weighed in the selection of award winners. Previous winners of this award are eligible only if they are pursuing a different degree than the one they were pursuing when they received the previous award. AASP Scholarships are available to all students of palynology in all countries and these students need not be members of AASP. Application forms are available from the Chairman of the AASP Awards Committee (Paul Strother: strother@bc.edu), or can be downloaded from our website at <http://www.palynology.org/content/scholar.html>. Scholarship applications must be postmarked no later than **March 31**. **Awards** at each Annual Meeting: Best Student Paper Award, and Best Poster Award.

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

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



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June 2006
ISSN 0732-6041

Volume 39, Number 2
Carlos Jaramillo, Editor

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AASP BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

Reed Wicander, reed.wicander@cmich.edu

AASP WEBMASTER

Owen Davis, webmaster@palynology.org, website: <http://www.palynology.org>

AASP NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Carlos Jaramillo, jaramilloc@si.edu, CTPA, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, P.O. Box 0843 - 03092 Balboa, Ancón, Panama, Republic of Panamá.

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. All information should be sent by email. If possible, please illustrate your contribution with art, line drawings, eye-catching logos, black & white photos, colour photos, etc. We **DO** look forward to contributions from our membership.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Robert Cushman

It is time to start planning to attend the upcoming 2006 AASP Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. If you haven't heard, our annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting on 22-25 October 2006. AASP is convening several topical sessions, along with the usual social events and business meetings during that week. Please make it a priority to attend and interact with professional colleagues in other areas of geology and paleontology. The topical sessions are described in detail later in this newsletter. Additional details for abstract submission and other events will be posted on the AASP website (www.palynology.org) as they become available.

The recent AASP Board of Directors mid-year meeting convened in Philadelphia on 22 April 2006. One of the outcomes of that meeting was a recommendation from the AASP Board to amend the bylaws to include the Webmaster as a voting member of the Board. The proposed changes to the bylaws are included later in this newsletter. In compliance with the current bylaws, a ballot will be sent out with the January 2007 newsletter for your vote to approve or deny the proposed amendment. The Board supports this amendment because of the increased responsibility and sensitivity of the information managed by the AASP Webmaster.

As you start planning for the upcoming year, please take time to vote for your colleagues who have agreed to give of their time and energy to serve AASP as an officer or director-at-large. A brief biography and photograph of each candidate is included later in this newsletter. AASP would not be the successful society it is today without the sacrifice and dedicated leadership of those who have served.

Lastly, I am very pleased to announce that we are making progress in our plans for membership development. Sarah de la Rue has agreed to chair an ad-hoc committee for AASP to solicit ideas and imple-

ment change in the way AASP attracts new members and better serves its current membership. Please read Sarah's article regarding the committee's ideas for the future. The committee's task is critical to the long-term success of AASP. Take the opportunity to provide them with your feedback and support.

Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you in Philadelphia

Bob Cushman
Loma Linda, CA

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

The 2006 annual meeting of AASP will be held in Philadelphia on October 22-25. We will be meeting with the Geological Society of America which means that all on the registration, housing and abstracts will be handled by GSA through their website, www.geosociety.org. Additional information about deadlines, and the GSA meeting in general, can be found at <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2006/index.htm>.

Perhaps the most important aspect of this is that the **abstract deadline of JULY 11**, is immutable. AASP is sponsoring (or co-sponsoring) four topical sessions and we encourage members to specify one of these sessions when submitting abstracts.

We are planning two social events along with both incoming and outgoing board meetings. These activities will take place at one of the official GSA host hotels for the conference (most likely the Marriott), except for the AASP icebreaker which will be scheduled at the nearby, Independence Pub (Sunday 10, 7-11). The outgoing board meeting will be held Sunday afternoon from 12 to 5. There will be an AASP icebreaker immediately following the GSA opening reception Sunday evening. On Tuesday evening, we are planning a joint reception with the Cushman Foundation and NAMS. On Wednesday we will hold the AASP business luncheon, followed by the incoming board meeting. The business luncheon will be a ticketed event, so members will need to sign up for this with their GSA registration. The cost will be \$43 for regular members, but the society will subsidize student tickets which will lower their cost to \$20. The time and place for all of these events should be listed

in the official program. We will include a schedule of the AASP specific events in the fall newsletter, after the program is finalized.

The deadline for abstract submission is midnight, Pacific Time, July 11, 2006. Abstracts will be submitted through GSA; submission instructions will be available in April. **JULY 11 IS A FIRM DEADLINE** - unlike the typical annual AASP meetings, the GSA organizers will not be so forgiving of late abstracts.

AASP will also hold at least one social event in Philadelphia, possibly co-hosted with other micropaleontological societies. GSA is securing housing in a number of hotels near the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Center City, Philadelphia. More information will be included in forthcoming AASP newsletters.

The AASP-sponsored topical sessions are:

1. Topical Session 127. Scales of Instability in Tropical Environments

This session deals with the geological evidence for the changeability and dynamism of tropical environments, for a variety of timescales, periodicities, intensities, during all geological periods up to and including the present day.
(Convener: Chris Hunt, c.hunt@qub.ac.uk).

2. "Ice House" / "Hothouse" – An analysis of Late Paleozoic floras and their response to global climate change. Cosponsored by the Coal Geology Division of GSA, The Paleontological Society, and SEPM.

The Earth has experienced only two major intervals of globally cold climate since the establishment of vascular land plants in the Silurian and Devonian Periods. The earliest of these occurred during the Carboniferous and Early Permian and was by far the longest and most complex, lasting more than 50 million years. The second, and one in which we currently live, is the Neogene/Quaternary during which there have been several periods of colder climate (glacials) alternating with warmer intervals (interglacials), only the last of which has been studied ecologically in great detail.

The composition and dynamics of terrestrial vegetation during the Permian-Carboniferous ice age have received considerably less attention than those of the Neogene/Quaternary, and thus have played less of a role in our understanding of the long-term vegetational response to climate change. Permian-Carboniferous patterns suggest that there may be short intervals of large-scale biotic turnover embedded within longer

time intervals of smaller-scale turnover. This pattern is very similar to what is seen in the Quaternary. Our proposed session hopes to explore this topic with both invited and volunteered papers from an international audience (Poland, Czech Republic, Ukraine, China, Brazil, France, Germany).

(Co-conveners: Cortland Eble, Kentucky Geological Survey, Thomas Demchuk, ConocoPhillips, Inc., Hermann Pfefferkorn, University of Pennsylvania)

3. Topical Session 21. Holocene sequences of environmental disasters: The terrestrial and marine palynological record

Natural disasters have occurred throughout recorded time and before. The geologic record of fires, droughts, earthquakes, tsunami and hurricanes has improved in the last decade through improved dating techniques and close-interval sampling. This topical session will include earthquakes, storms, fires, pest and pathogen outbreaks (including humans!). The emphasis will be on high-resolution well-dated records that might be used to calculate recurrence intervals of these events. It also could include comparisons of the consequences of two catastrophes, such as Neolithic impact vs. 20th century human impact.

(Convener: Owen Davis, palynolo@geo.arizona.edu).

4. Topical Session 108: Stratigraphic Palynology: Applications to Geologic Problems

This session is intended to highlight recent applications of palynological data to solving problems in stratigraphy, basin analysis, and other geological problems. The intention of this session is to showcase applied palynology in geological settings, so we welcome a broad range of applied studies and research.

(Co-conveners: Doug Nichols and Bob Cushman, Jr.)



PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR AASP OFFICES

President elect **Francine McCarthy**

She is a professor of Earth Sciences at Brock University, in St. Catharines, Canada, 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 focus over the last few years has been on using microfossils to reconstruct Pliocene to Recent aridification, and its impact on terrestrial biomes and on marine and lacustrine environments.



Michael S. Zavada

Born and raised in Bridgeport, Connecticut. I received my B.S. and M.S. degree in Botany / Palynology from Arizona State University under the tutelage of Jim Canright. I received a B.A. in Slavic Languages, and a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Connecticut, Storrs with Bill Crepet. I spent one year as a Fulbright Scholar in Skopje, Macedonia at the Geologic Institute, and the Center for Foreign Languages. My post-doctoral work was at Indiana University, Bloomington with David Dilcher and at Ohio State University, Columbus with Tom Taylor.



I have served on the faculties of The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, University of Louisiana-Lafayette, I was a Professor and Chairman of the Department of Biology at Providence College, Providence, RI, and in June of 2006 assumed chairmanship of the Department of Biological Sciences at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City. I am excited about the development of the Miocene, Gray Fossil Museum and the Center of Excellence in Paleontology at ETSU, an interdisciplinary program under the supervision of Steve Wallace of the Department of Geology. My field research has taken me throughout North America, South America, and Africa, including Madagascar. I have received over \$1.5 million dollars in grants including grants from the National Science Foundation, National Institute of Health, NASA, American Philosophical Society, and National Geographic Society and private foundations. I have published 70 technical papers.

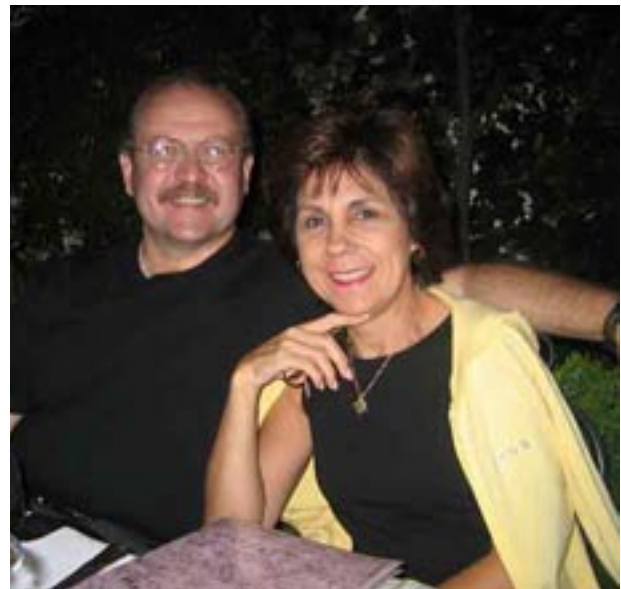
My research currently focuses on the origin and evolution of flowering plants, particularly the role that paleopalynology has played in elucidating the origin and diversification of angiosperms, and functional aspect of the pollen wall. I became a member of AASP and attended my first AASP meeting as an

undergraduate in Anaheim CA, October 1973, and gave my first professional paper at the 1976 meeting in Houston, Texas. I have been a member of AASP for more than 30 years. In addition to my academic interests, I played baseball at Arizona State University, participate in a variety of sports, and outdoor activities, I enjoy travel, and I am an instrument rated private pilot. I believe the challenge of the AASP and the field of palynology is serving a diverse community of scientists that touch every aspect of our lives, and interface with the pure and applied sciences in so many diverse ways - food, fuel, environment, health, culture and art.

Secretary-Treasurer Thomas Demchuk

Continuing to reflect.....

My time at the University of Calgary was an awakening to departmental politics. Even though Calgary was in the heart of the Canadian oil industry, the Department of Geology and Geophysics had a very strong group of hard-rock researchers. Despite being minutes away from world-class outcrops as analogs to subsurface exploration, only a few more minutes away were world-class examples of varied metamorphic and igneous terranes. I remember several late night fieldtrips looking at more "green rocks" by headlight and wondering why I was being forced to understand garnet isograds and P-T-t diagrams since I was a micropaleontologist. It's amazing that I still recall what a garnet isograd is.



Thomas and Marta Demchuk enjoy at the IPC-Granada

The southeast corner office in the Earth Science building became known as Micropaleo Corner. Myself along with Sharon MacLeod, Koldo Nunez-Betelu, and Andrew MacRae shared the huge office, all of us being supervised by Len Hills. Koldo and Andrew were working on dinoflagellates and Sharon was doing paleobotany and macrofossils. I was working on the pollen and spore of the Paleocene coals in the central plains, but also spending time across the street at the Geological Survey of Canada doing organic petrography under the wonderful guidance of the late Alex Cameron. In Micropaleo Corner we had our own fridge where we would store various lunch items and “snacks”, and we shared an array of technology items including having our own networked printer. We were the envy of the graduate student population.

My time in Micropaleo Corner was interspersed by significant periods of time drinking coffee over in MacEwan Hall on campus. In my corner bunker, I could hear Len’s footsteps coming down the hallway, and his “knock-knock” as he entered our office. He never physically knocked on the door but instead preferred to announce his presence. Before he could show his head around my bookshelf I had shut down the MacGolf I had been playing and had opened a chapter of my dissertation. In short time, we had all picked up our mugs and were headed over for another cup of caffeine that would keep us going through the long days. The coffee area in Mac Hall was Len’s second office: he seldom spent time in his own departmental office. Those of you familiar with Len know that his formal office was rather unkempt although he could find any paper and/or publication in the piles that decorated his lair. He preferred to meet with students and others in the Gallagher Library, the departmental conference room or over a copy of coffee. He was never too difficult to track down if he was on campus.

Len was never a strict taskmaster, but there is little doubt that he was an excellent supervisor. His list of graduate students, many still working as palynologists and several as managers in downtown Calgary is proof of that fact. He was disturbed by the fact that I wished to spend my summers working downtown for the oil companies. He wanted me to spend my time pounding out chapters of my dissertation, but I had other ideas. With the oil industry just around the corner I chose my summers wearing a tie, making a few bucks, and hitting all the nouveau pubs along 8th Avenue. Perhaps I could have finished my dissertation quicker, and I’m sure Len would have liked that but he never really got that upset. I only remember a couple of occasions where Len got really mad, usu-

ally over departmental politics: at those moments it was best to leave him alone, but those times were very few. I’ll always think of Len as being one of the most warm hearted and generous people around, having time for any and all on campus, editing chapters for graduate students that were not even his and advising students from other Departments. He loved teaching his classes and he did them very well, never fully receiving recognition for his efforts. All-in-all, the four-and-a-half years in Micropaleo Corner at the University of Calgary were magnificent. I can thank Sharon, Koldo, Andrew, and especially Len for that great time.

I am happy to be candidate for AASP Secretary-Treasurer for my 9th year. I have not tired of my duties and look forward to serving the AASP membership for at least another year. I am very excited about our Annual Meeting in conjunction with GSA in Philadelphia later this year, and I’m hoping to see a lot of you there.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Thomas D. Demchuk
Candidate (again, still) for Secretary-Treasurer

Managing Editor
James B. Riding



Jim in a Tübingen fieldtrip

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 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.

Directors-at-Large
Joyce Lucas-Clark



Joyce Lucas-Clark received a B.A. in English, minor Geology (1969) and an M.A. in Geology at the University of California at Santa Barbara (1981). She earned a Ph.D. at Stanford University under William R. Evitt (1986). She joined AASP while working at a summer job in palynology for Mobil in 1977. Later she also held a summer position in palynology at Chevron Overseas Petroleum. During her Ph.D. program she started a consulting business, Clark

Geological Services, consulting in palynology and organic petrography, and later asbestos analysis. In palynology she is mostly interested in Cretaceous and Tertiary dinoflagellates and has a fairly long list of publications in that area. Presently she teaches at the California State University at Hayward, and part time at the City College of San Francisco. She has served twice as a Director at Large for the AASP board, and has attended board meetings fairly regularly.

Sarah R. de la Rue



Sarah R. de la Rue has been a member of AASP since 1997 and attended her first AASP meeting in Ensenada, 1998, where she felt warmly welcomed and thoroughly enjoyed the mix of American and European scientists. In 2000, she received her M.S. degree in Paleogene palynology from the University of Missouri-Rolla, then continued her interest in microfossils and palynology while working as a research associate at the Center for Excellence in Palynology (CENEX), Louisiana State University (LSU). There she maintained the many donated collections and developed processing techniques for phytolith and diatom recovery.

She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. at LSU. Her research interests include paleoecology, paleoceanography, and Paleogene and mid-Cretaceous Western Interior palynology, in addition to her Ph.D. studies that focus on carbon cycling dynamics during the Late Devonian Frasnian-Famennian Kellwasser extinction events. This research investigates quantitative phytoplankton assemblage characteristics and their relation to transgressive-regressive cycles and

the distribution and concentration of organic matter, trace metals and clay species during times of black shale formation.

Sarah's decision to Chair the newly formed AASP ad-hoc committee on membership reflects her deep interests in palynology as a vital research tool, as does her position on the Student Advisory Committee, recently formed by The Society for Organic Petrology (TSOP). She believes that integration with other research areas such as geochemistry, organic petrology, sequence stratigraphy, and extant phytoplankton studies will enhance palynology's visibility and importance, and increase the job marketability of students studying palynology.

Vera Pospelova



Vera Pospelova is an Assistant Professor in the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences (SEOS) at the University of Victoria. Her research is multidisciplinary and encompasses sedimentary geology, environmental science, biology, and oceanography. Broad interests and versatility in Vera's work have been a result of her vast research experience.

Vera was introduced to palynology in 1988 and since then it became her passion. She received her Honours B.Sc in Geology from the Novosibirsk University. For several years she worked as a junior scientist with Dr. Ilyna at the Laboratory of Palynology, Mesozoic Division, Joint Institute of Geology Geophysics and Mineralogy (Novosibirsk, Russian Federation), which is one of the leading scientific institutions in Russia. Her work was primarily focused on the studies of pollen, spores, and dinoflagellate cysts for develop-

ment of the high-resolution Jurassic stratigraphy in Siberia and Russian Arctic. This research included a few projects related to Oil and Gas exploration and required multiple field work in Russian Arctic. Vera has published several scientific papers on Mesozoic palynology and stratigraphy, and received multiple awards for the best work as a young researcher. At the same time she wanted to focus on environmental issues, including human impact on marine environments and climate change. During her Ph.D. work at McGill University with Dr. Chmura, Vera applied her skills as a palynologist for the needs of environmental studies. She conducted studies on dinoflagellate cysts in relation to pollution and eutrophication in North American coastal waters. Her postdoctoral work at the University of Victoria and EPA USA (Atlantic Division) continued the development of biological indicators for water quality conditions in coastal waters. At the same time, Dr. Pospelova diversified her research into reconstruction of climate and marine productivity in the Late Quaternary in the northeastern Pacific by working on palynological records from several ODP cores. In the fall of 2005, Vera started an Assistant Professorship position at the University of Victoria, and has devoted her time to pursue a wide range of research topics from Mesozoic palynology to climatic and environmental reconstructions in the Late Quaternary.

Guy Harrington



I am a Lecturer in Palaeobiology at the University of Birmingham (UK) and have been a member of the AASP since 1995. I gained my initial exposure to pollen and spores as an undergraduate at Keele University that was followed by a Masters at the University of

Cambridge in 1995. My original work centered on Holocene vegetation reconstructions from Hungary. But I followed this work with a Ph.D. from the University of Sheffield in 1999 that considered the palynological and floristic changes across the Palaeocene–Eocene boundary from North America. My research has also led me to dinoflagellate cysts too, most notably as a research fellow at Sheffield and University College Cork. My two years in Ireland were followed by an 18 month fellowship at the Smithsonian Institution. I believe that palynomorphs make extremely versatile fossils and I am an advocate of reaching out and using them to answer a spectrum of geological and ecological questions. I am enthusiastic to serve the AASP and hope to encourage and nurture future generations of scientists that share our passion for palynomorphs!

Steve Lowe



Steve Lowe is a biostratigrapher at BP Exploration, Sunbury-on-Thames, UK. He has 25 years experience of applying biostratigraphy to petroleum exploration & development across the globe & throughout the stratigraphic column (an archetypal Jack of all trades & master of none!). Steve originally started his palynological research in the UK Lateglacial (14,000 – 10,000 yrs bp), obtaining a PhD from QMC, University of London. On joining BP, life necessarily became a downward stratigraphic journey – in his apprentice years he lived & worked in China (Guangzhou), followed by assignments in Australasia/Papua New Guinea & Vietnam. Not only were these years a wonderful learning experience in applied palynology, but Steve felt hugely privileged to have worked with people of different cultural, ethnic, national, religious

& socio-economic backgrounds. Throughout the 90s, Steve led various biostratigraphic & multidisciplinary teams in BP & developed a particularly keen interest in high resolution biostratigraphic applications to petroleum reservoir description & modelling (perhaps Steve still yearned for the core & fine scale sampling of his formative Quaternary years?). Steve continues to work on a diverse stratigraphic range of production projects in Azerbaijan, Angola, Alaska & West Siberia & finds the constant learning & intellectual challenge as stimulating as ever! So much to do ... so little time?

In recent years, Steve has been a regular contributor to the AASP annual meetings with numerous poster displays & very much appreciates the unique environment & stimulus which these meetings provide to our subject field. Steve enjoys the outdoor life, particularly fly-fishing, messing about in boats & is a keen gardener.

PROPOSAL FOR ADDING WEBMASTER TO AASP BOARD (BYLAW CHANGE)

By Board of Directors

RATIONALE

The webmaster governs the primary means by which members and non-members routinely interact with the Association. The duties of the webmaster have become equally time-consuming and more technically demanding than those of the other members of the editorial board.

In addition to the “media” aspects the webmaster discharges, the position necessarily includes access to AASP membership information and financial information. It also includes management of sensitive information, including passwords and procedures governing operation of AASP website, and notably the secure site by which financial transactions are conducted electronically.

These responsibilities are different in kind, and have come to be equal in importance, to those of the Managing Editor. The duties of and performance of the Webmaster have become so central to the routine functioning of the Association that that position should be an elected one, and the Webmaster should serve on the board, with voting privileges.

PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE BY-LAWS

Changes are in red font, additions in brackets and deletions in ~~strikeout~~.

4.02 The number of Directors shall be *nine*. ~~[ten]~~ Each Director shall hold office until his or her successor shall have been elected and until the next annual meeting of the members. The newly constituted Board of Directors shall take office at the end of the annual business meeting provided for in Article 3.01.

5.01 The officers of the corporation shall be a President, President-Elect, Past-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Managing Editor, ~~[Webmaster]~~ and four (4) Directors-at-Large, all *nine (9)* ~~[ten (10)]~~ of whom shall be members of and constitute the Board of Directors.

5.02 The officers of the corporation shall be appointed annually by the Board of Directors after the annual election of the Board of Directors, and after the newly constituted Board of Directors shall have taken office at the end of the annual business meeting. Further, the Board of Directors shall appoint officers to each office of the corporation as determined by the vote of the membership. Such vote by the membership shall be held in conjunction with the annual election of the Board of Directors. Except as stated in the Article 5.03, each officer shall hold office until his or her successor shall have been duly elected. The President, President-Elect, Past-President, and the Directors-at-Large shall not succeed themselves. The Secretary-Treasurer, ~~and~~ Managing Editor ~~[and Webmaster]~~ may succeed themselves in office.

~~[Webmaster~~

~~5.10 The Webmaster shall be responsible for managing the AASP website and routinely distribute news and technical information among the membership through electronic media, including the Newsletter, Journal, and other publications, facilitate collection of annual dues and other online payments, and provide similar electronic services as the Board of Directors may from time to time direct.]~~

3.04 Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of any regularly scheduled meeting of members shall be delivered, either personally[,] ~~or~~ by mail, ~~[or electronically]~~ to each member, not less than ten (10) days before the date of such meeting, by or at the direction of the President, or the Secretary-Treasurer, or the officers or persons calling the meeting. In case of a special meeting, or when required by statute or these by-laws, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called shall be stated in the notice. If mailed, the notice of a meeting shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the mail and addressed to the member at his or her address as it appears on the record of the corporation, with postage thereon

prepaid. ~~[If sent electronically, it shall be deemed to be delivered when confirmation of the message being sent is noted on the sending device.]~~

4.05 Notice of any special meeting of the Board of Directors shall be given at least ten (10) days previously thereto by written notice delivered personally or sent by mail or ~~telegram [electronically]~~ to each Director at his/her address as shown by the record of the corporation. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the mail so addressed with postage thereon prepaid. ~~If notice be given by telegram, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when the telegram is delivered to the telegraph company.~~ ~~[If sent electronically, it shall be deemed to be delivered when confirmation of the message being sent is noted on the sending device.]~~ Any Director may waive notice of any meeting. The attendance of a Director at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except where a Director attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened. Neither the business to be transacted at, nor the purpose of, any regular or special meeting of the Board need be specified in the notice or waiver of notice of such meeting unless specifically required by law or by these by-laws.

7.01 The Nominating Committee shall propose no more than two (2) candidates for each Board membership. The Nominating Committee shall submit to the Secretary-Treasurer by February 15 of each year a list of nominees, together with a statement that all submitted nominees will accept the positions upon election. Not later than May 1, the names of candidates for the Board as submitted by the Nominating Committee shall be mailed ~~[or sent electronically]~~ to the membership. This communication may quote Article 7.02. (These dates assume a fall Annual Meeting. Deadlines stated in this Article may be altered as need be to meet Annual Meeting dates).

7.04 Directors or officers are to be elected as specified by the by-laws. Such election may be continued by mail ~~[or electronically]~~ in such manner as the Board of Directors shall determine.

14.01 Amendments to these by-laws may be proposed by the (1) Board of Directors or, (2) submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer by petition and signed by at least ten (10) members in good standing. The Board of Directors shall review each proposed amendment for clarity of meaning and to insure compatibility with other parts of the by-laws. Proposed amendments, if approved by the Board of Directors, and with the

approval of the petitioners, shall (1) be submitted to the members together with a mail [or electronic] ballot which shall state a closing date for ballots to be received by the Ballot Committee, such date to be not less than forty-five (45) days after ballots are mailed or, (2) the amendment(s) may be voted who have executed proxies in writing or by their duly authorized attorneys-in-fact as prescribed in Article 3.07 of these by-laws, and in either case shall be passed by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members voting. "Members" as used in this Article refers to members in good standing as defined in Article 2.08 of these by-laws.

NEWS FROM ARGENTINA

By Mirta Quattrocchio (mquattro@criba.edu.ar)

The "XIII Simposio Argentino de Paleobotánica y Palinología" was held in Bahía Blanca city (Argentina), 22 to 25 May 2006. One hundred and thirty seven papers were presented in disciplines related with Paleobotany and Palynology (Paleopalynology and Actuopalynology). A field trip to Sierras Australes took place. It was a mixture of botany and geology/paleontology. During the Symposium the "Asociación Latinoamericana de Paleobotánica and Palinología" had its official meeting. This Symposium constitutes an important event where mostly Latin-American specialists meet and discuss and exchange research ideas.



NEWS FROM INDIA

By Naresh C. Mehrotra (director@bsip.res.in)

Participation of fellow palaeobotanists / palynologists is requested in the International Conference on "Changing Scenario in Palaeobotany and Allied Subjects" to be held during Nov. 15-17, 2006 at the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany (BSIP), Lucknow, India. The Conference would mark the culmi-

nation of Diamond Jubilee Year programmes of the BSIP. The Conference is proposed to emphasize the applied aspects of palaeobotany, palynology and related subjects in palaeoclimate and hydrocarbon exploration research. Pre and post- Conference Field Excursions are also proposed. Details of the Conference are available on the Institute's Website (<http://www.bsip.res.in>). Date of submission of abstract / abstracts has been extended to 31st July, 2006. Registration fee for foreign participants is US\$ 500..

DW2006

The 2006 international workshop on dinoflagellates and their cysts: their ecology and databases for palaeoenvironmental reconstructions will take place 30 August - 1 September 2006 in Copenhagen, Denmark, immediately before the 12th International Conference on Harmful Algae, 4-8 September 2006.

The host is the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS). GEUS is located in downtown Copenhagen in Geocenter Copenhagen .

Important dates

31 July 2006: Registration deadline

16 August 2006: Final date for receipt of abstracts

Please find further information on the workshop on dinoflagellate 2006 by visiting the following website:

<http://www.geus.dk/departments/quaternary-marine-geol/research-themes/dw2006-uk.htm>

Niels E. Poulsen

GEUS (<http://www.geus.dk>)

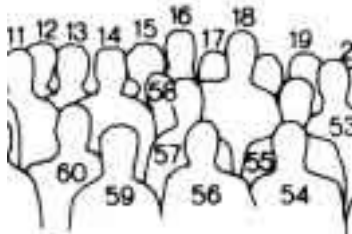
Tel. : +45 3814 2366

E-mail : nep@geus.dk

Workshop on dinoflagellates and their cysts: their ecology and databases for palaeoenvironmental reconstructions.
30. Aug. - 1. Sept. 2006



IN MEMORIAM: RALPH ORLANSKY
1926-2006



First AASP Annual Meeting, Baton Rouge, 1968. Ralph is number 58 (Photo by Al Traverse)

Long-time AASP member Ralph Orlansky passed away on Friday, January 13, 2006 in Newark, Delaware, after a brief illness. Ralph was involved in palynological research in the early part of his career and renewed his palynological interests in recent years after a long career as a college educator.

Ralph was born in 1926 and raised in Brooklyn, New York. At the age of 18, he was sent to fight in Europe in World War II, serving as Private First Class in the 254th Infantry, 63rd Division from 1944 to 1945. He was seriously wounded in France shortly after D-Day and spent several months in the hospital recovering.

Ralph attended college after the war and had his first experience in micropaleontological research at the Missouri School of Mines, where he received his master's degree in geology in 1950. His thesis project was entitled "A stratigraphic study of fusilinid Foraminifera in the Cherokee Group (Pennsylvanian) of western Missouri and Kansas." Following his master's studies, he went to work in the oil industry for a geophysical service company in Texas from 1951 to 1963 and was involved in the earliest years of seismic reflection data processing, including manual seismic processing and the use of swing-arm machines to migrate reflection data.

Ralph returned to graduate school to work on a doctorate in geology at the University of Utah, which brought him into the field of palynology. Ralph's doctoral research provided important documentation of the Cretaceous palynomorphs of the western interior

of North America. He completed his dissertation in 1967, which was entitled "Palynology of the Upper Cretaceous Straight Cliffs Sandstone, Garfield County, Utah." This work was subsequently published as a Utah Geological Survey Bulletin in 1971.

After completing his Ph.D., Ralph accepted a job at East Texas State University where he taught earth science from 1967 to 1969. Ralph was an early member of AASP and participated in the first annual meeting of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists, which was held at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in October, 1968.

In 1969, Ralph moved back east to teach at the then-recently opened Essex County College in Newark, New Jersey. He taught earth science at Essex for 18 years, retiring in 1987. Following retirement, he moved from Brooklyn, New York to Newark, Delaware. He returned to palynological research as a volunteer scientist and adjunct research associate at the Delaware Geological Survey (DGS), University of Delaware, where he worked more than 13 years, from 1992 until his passing. Ralph's palynological research at the DGS included projects in both modern and stratigraphic palynology. He assembled a reference collection of modern pollen from herbaria, botanical gardens, and local parks. In the last few years of his work, he collaborated with colleagues and students in documenting this collection in a searchable photographic database, developing a solid working knowledge of Microsoft Access in the process. Ralph also conducted several projects in stratigraphic palynology, processing and documenting the palynomorphs in samples from cored sections through the Cretaceous and Tertiary in Clayton, New Jersey, and Dover, Delaware. His most recent efforts on the Dover well focused on documenting the stratigraphic palynology by creating a searchable photographic database.

Ralph's careful, thoughtful approach to his work and quiet, humble, considerate manner were greatly appreciated by his colleagues at the DGS. He cared greatly about the environment, education, and bettering society and was committed to organizations dedicated to these causes. He is sincerely missed. Ralph is survived by his wife, Claire, a daughter, Ruth Ann, and a son, Daniel.

PAPERS AND ARTICLES BY RALPH ORLANSKY
McLaughlin, P.P. and Orlansky, R., 2002. Do-it-yourself searchable photographic palynology databases; a quick and easy approach using Microsoft Access. Abstracts of the proceedings of the Thirty-fourth annual meeting of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists. Palynology, vol. 26, pp. 270-271.

Orlansky, R., 1997. Fossil Palynomorph Display. First State Geology Newsletter, vol. 15, no. 2.

Orlansky, R., 1971. Palynology of the Upper Cretaceous Straight Cliffs sandstone, Garfield County, Utah. Bulletin, Utah Geological and Mineral Survey, vol. 89, 57 pp.

Orlansky, R., 1969. Significance of palynomorphs as sedimentation indicators in Cretaceous Straight Cliffs sandstone, Utah. The American Association of Petroleum Geologists Bulletin, vol. 53, no. 3, pp. 734-735.

Orlansky, R., 1969. Palynology of the Upper Cretaceous Straight Cliffs sandstone, south-central Utah (abs.). Special Paper - Geological Society of America, 407 pp.

Orlansky, R., 1968. Method for making slides of fine-grained unconsolidated sediment and ooze. Journal of Sedimentary Research, v. 38, no. 4, p. 1378

Orlansky, R., 1967. Palynology of the Upper Cretaceous Straight Cliffs Sandstone, Garfield County, Utah. Unpubl. Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Geology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, 199 pp.

Orlansky, R., 1951. A stratigraphic study of fusulinid Foraminifera in the Cherokee Group (Pennsylvanian) of western Missouri and Kansas. Unpubl. M.S. thesis, Department of Geology and Geophysics, University of Missouri, Rolla, MO, 88 pp.

Submitted by Peter P. McLaughlin, Jr.,
May, 2005

AASP AD-HOC MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Sarah de la Rue, Chair (vsdelarue@geol.lsu.edu)

Greetings! As Bob Cushman mentioned in his opening letter, an ad-hoc membership committee was recently formed at the request of the AASP Board of Directors. This decision was made in response to a presentation given by Thomas Demchuk at the 2005 St. Louis annual meeting. Thomas discussed the history of AASP, including the society's purpose, name and declining membership. Thomas' news was not heartening and instilled much concern amongst the members present. Membership has, in fact, been steadily dropping. In October, 1999, membership totaled 771 and has since declined further: 594 to 508 members for the calendar year September 2004-2005.

The committee currently consists of the chair (Sarah de la Rue - please see my bio in the Director-at-Large election section of this newsletter) and two other members: Jen O'Keefe (Morehead-State, KY) and Gerald Waanders (Consulting Palynologist, En-

cinitas, CA). Our primary goal is to determine how to better serve our current members and to recruit potential new members. However, a question larger than mere membership retention is that of the future of AASP and palynology as a research field. The committee feels that palynology is a very active field and worthy of promoting – this can be done by increasing AASP's visibility with the aid of our members who have enjoyed the benefits of AASP and who have remained in the field regardless (or in spite of?) the problems encountered in the past 15 years (e.g., closing of universities/departments, oil company mergers, etc.). To this end, the committee asks that you seriously consider contributing your experience, thoughts and concerns about the future status of AASP and, of course, palynology, by responding to any future emailings you may receive from us. These may be in the form of questionnaires and/or appeals of assistance.

The committee welcomes your input! Your insight, thoughts, suggestions, complaints, etc. are of primary importance and interest to us. We want to know what you think of AASP and how you think membership can be improved. We encourage you to consider your role in palynology. Please send any communications to sdelarue@geol.lsu.edu. Thank you!

PALYNOLOGIST LOOKING FOR REPRINTS

By Jan Du Chene

I have a Nigerian colleague and long time friend (30 years) looking desperately for Cretaceous and Cenozoic (including Pleistocene and Recent) dinocyst reprints. It is highly recommended to not send anything by normal mail in Nigeria. Use special courier only (DHL, FEDEX, etc.). To avoid useless additional cost, I propose to concentrate the reprints at my Bordeaux address (sent by normal mail), and I will forward them in a unique FEDEX package to Nigeria.

The references of my Nigerian friend are:

Professor O.S. Adegoke
MOSUNMOLU LIMITED

The Oceanview Place
Alpha Beach Road
Lekki Peninsula
P.O. Box 8066 Lagos
Lagos State, Nigeria

Tel: 234-1-444 5594/95, 899 0299, 899 0909

E-mail: mos@linkserve.com.ng

My own address:

Roger JAN DU CHENE

81 rue Soubiras
33200 BORDEAUX (France)

I also proposed to Prof. Adegoke to buy directly or through me, most of the important dinocyst books published by AASP.

VAUGHN BRYANT RECEIVES 2007 FRYXELL AWARD

By Bob Cushman

It is great to see one of our AASP colleagues win the prestigious Fryxell award. We all know Vaughn is well deserving and we are honored to have him represent the interests of palynology in the archaeological community.

This is one of the most prestigious awards in archaeology. Only one other palynologist (Peter Mehringer) has ever won it.

More information in <https://ecommerce.saa.org/saa/staticcontent/staticpages/adminDir/awardDisplay.cfm?award=A-FRYX>

AGENDA

2006

July 13-17, Urbino Dinoflagellate Course

http://www.bio.uu.nl/~palaeo/Congressen/Dino2006/Intro_Dino2006.htm

July 19-Aug 2 Urbino Paleoclimatology Course

<http://www.uniorb.it/ussp>

September 7-12, European Paleobotanical Palynological Conference, Prague

<http://www.conference.cz/eppc2006/>

September 15-22, TSOP Annual Meeting, Beijing, China

<http://www.cumtb.edu.cn/frameset/tsop/index.htm>

September 18-21, 15 APLE Symposium, Benalmadena, Spain

<http://www.15aple.uma.es>

October 22-25, AASP 39th Annual Meeting, Philadelphia

<http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2006/>