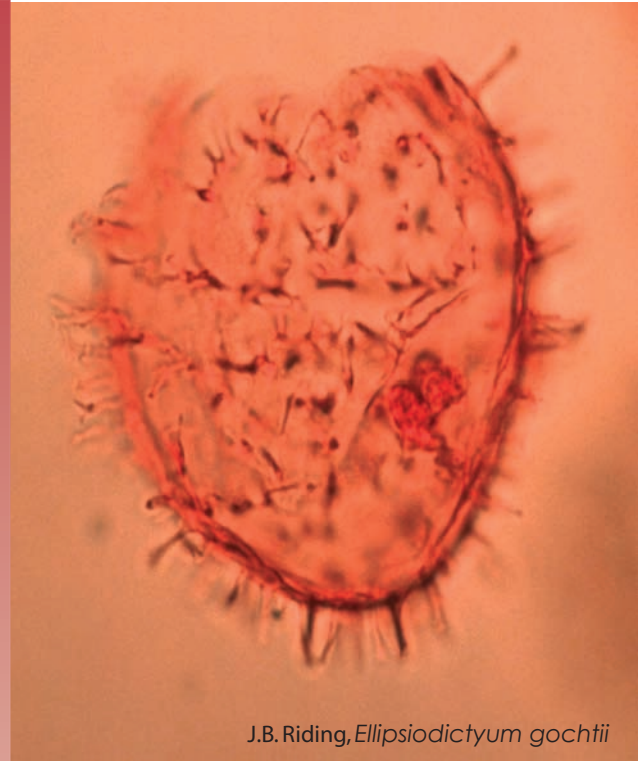


# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STRATIGRAPHIC PALYNOLOGISTS



J.B. Riding, *Ellipsiodictyum gochtii*

## NEWSLETTER



**March 2007**  
**Volume 40, Number 1**



# A.A.S.P. NEWSLETTER

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Published Quarterly by the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists Inc.

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March 2007  
Volume 40, Number 1

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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)  
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Dr. David Wall (awarded 2004)  
Dr. Robin Helby (awarded 2005)  
Dr. Satish K. Srivastava (awarded 2006)

### AASP Honorary Members

Professor Dr. Alfred Eisenack (elected 1975)  
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Professor Leonard R. Wilson (elected 1975)  
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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 Aural T. Cross (awarded 1999)  
Professor Alfred Traverse (awarded 2001)  
Professor Bill Evitt (awarded 2006)

### AASP Distinguished Service Award recipients

Dr. Robert T. Clarke (awarded 1978)  
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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)



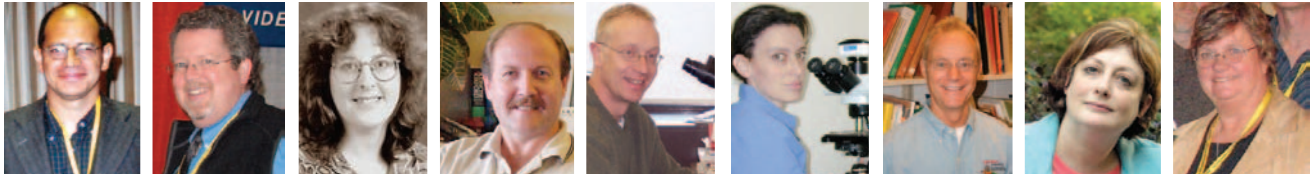
# A.A.S.P. NEWSLETTER

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Sophie Warny, Editor

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## AASP NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Sophie Warny, [swarny@lsu.edu](mailto:swarny@lsu.edu), Museum of Natural Science, Louisiana State University, 119 Foster Hall, Baton Rouge, 70803, Louisiana, USA.

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 **MAY 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 Carlos Jaramillo

As you all know, Prof. John Wrenn passed away recently. He was very close to AASP for many years, leading CENEX, and in a number of committees and directory positions. AASP is putting together a special issue of Palynology in honor of his memory. This volume will be edited by Martin Head and Francine McCarthy, and we hope it will be out this year. Martin and Francine are working really hard to have it ready on time. There are already commitments for 21 manuscripts. I would appreciate it if you could give Martin and Francine all the help you can, with fast manuscript submission and review. This is going to be a community effort that really shows how much we appreciated John and how much we are going to miss him. The deadline for manuscript submission is March 31, and submission should be made to Martin Head at [mjhead@brocku.ca](mailto:mjhead@brocku.ca).

I hope you have enjoyed the new look of the newsletter. Sophie has done a fantastic job. Now, it is more colorful, amicable to read, and has a look of a modern magazine. I hope Sophie will remain in her position for a few years, because she raised the bar too high, and her replacement will face a big challenge. Please, help her with news, palyno-related histories, book reviews, or any other item you may want to share with the palynological community.

This year, we have two important meetings, the XVII INQUA (International Union for Quaternary Research) conference in Australia in late July, an event that is organized each four years, and always has a strong Quaternary palynology presence. And our 40th AASP Annual Meeting, that is going to be held in Panama City, in mid September. If you are a Quaternary palynologist, I hope you consider attending both. It would be a fantastic and rare opportunity to compare and contrast two different types of tropical rainforest, the Australian and the Neotropical. But if you only have funds to attend one, please consider attending the Panama meeting!

The meeting in Panama is going well; we already have sponsorships by Chevron, Exxon, and ConocoPhillips. We will be able to offer grants for students to attend the meeting. There are already two symposia, one on pollen morphology and phylogeny organized by David Jarzen, and the other on Cenozoic tropical vegetation dynamics organized by Vladimir Torres. We also have field trips to Barro Colorado Island, the holy ground for a tropical biologist, the Panama locks, and the canopy crane where you can reach the top of the trees in the rainforest. Also, Panama offers several tourist attractions, both in the Pacific and the Caribbean, where you will want to spend a few more days having fun on the beach. We are also thinking in offering a free workshop on analytical techniques for palynological analysis, using the freeshare, open-source "R for Statistical Analysis" program. We will learn how to perform several statistical analysis (e.g. rarefaction, species accumulation curves, multivariate analysis like PCA, MDS, DCA, clusters, and basic statistical tests). If you are interesting in attending such a workshop, please, drop me a line at [aasp07@si.edu](mailto:aasp07@si.edu). You will need to bring your own laptop. We will do the workshop with a minimum of 10 people.

Lastly, several people have asked us for teaching collections of pollen/spores, dinoflagellates, fungi, and acritarcha to use in their paleontology or micropaleontology classes. Many professors would like to offer basic introductions to Palynology, but lack the necessary teaching material. And, buying a slide collection of dinoflagellates is not an easy task, even amazon.com does not sell that! We would like to put together basic teaching collections, but it is a task that takes time and effort. If you are willing to help in such a project, please contact me. I think it would be a great help to promote palynology at universities. That, on the long run, would be beneficial to our profession, attracting new students and increasing the awareness of how useful palynology can be in many different fields.

Hope to see you in Panama!

Bests

Carlos

## MANAGING EDITOR'S REPORT...

Volume 30 of our journal *Palynology* was published during December 2006. It comprises ten research articles, and the proceedings of the 38th AASP Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri from September 18th-22nd 2005. The latter includes the abstracts of talks presented at this meeting, the group photograph, and write ups of six AASP awards presented at this meeting. I would like to record my thanks to Production Editor Bob Clarke for his input to this volume.

Following a blank year (2005) for issues of our Contributions Series, also published in December 2006 was: *Atlas of Pollen-Vegetation-Climate Relationships for the United States and Canada*. This is AASP Foundation Contributions Series Number 43 (293 pages; 11 text-figures; 264 pages of vegetation maps and pollen plots). The authors are J. W. Williams and 13 others. The cover price is \$48. Thanks are due here to Bob Clarke as always, and to Judi Lentini the editor of the Contributions Series.

## ... AND, PUBLISHING IN PALYNOLOGY

These messages are from the Managing Editor of the AASP journal *Palynology*

*Palynology* publishes high-standard scientific research of interest on all aspects of organic microfossils (i.e., palynomorphs: spores, pollen, dinoflagellate cysts, acritarchs, fungal spores, chitinozoans, etc.). We encourage submissions not only in the traditional areas of stratigraphic biostratigraphy and paleoecology/paleoenvironments, but also those utilizing palynomorphs together with the collateral disciplines of sequence stratigraphy, geochemistry, geoarchaeology, organic petrology, etc. Short notes on preparation methods, taxonomy, storage problems, etc., are welcomed as well. If increased numbers of high quality submissions are received, AASP (a volunteer-based non-profit society) would consider publishing two issues per year.

*Palynology* is a premiere, peer-reviewed journal for the palynological sciences published annually by the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists (AASP). It is listed in the Thomson Scientific's Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) abstracting service, and is available through Geoscience World (GSW), BioOne, and JSTOR. Visit our web site for further information about other AASP publications ([www.palynology.org](http://www.palynology.org)).

I am currently seeking high-quality manuscripts for the 2007 issue of *Palynology*, and would like to remind AASP members that space is still available in this volume. Suitable manuscripts could therefore potentially be published in 2007. *Palynology* is a high quality journal, with a reader-friendly, two-column format. Plates and diagrams are reproduced at the highest standard. If you have a suitable manuscript available now, or you are anticipating submitting within the next few months, please contact me soon in order that your paper can be considered for publication in 2007.

James B. Riding  
Managing Editor - AASP  
British Geological Survey  
Kingsley Dunham Centre  
Keyworth  
Nottingham NG12 5GG  
U.K.

Tel: +44 (0)115 9363447  
Fax: +44 (0)115 9363200  
Email: [jbri@bgs.ac.uk](mailto:jbri@bgs.ac.uk)  
or:  
[editor@palynology.org](mailto:editor@palynology.org)

## News item from Central America!

The new website of the latinoamerican association of paleobotany and palynology is:

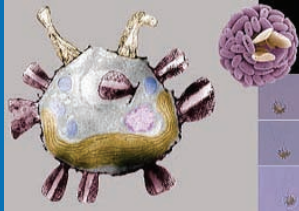
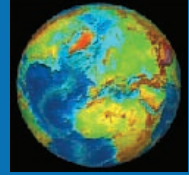
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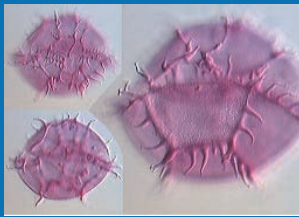
## MSc in Micropalaeontology

Jointly run by:  
Department of Earth Sciences, University College London  
Palaeontology Department, The Natural History Museum

### *Unique training in a critical specialisation*



**Subject:** Micropalaeontology is the study of microfossils, such as foraminifera, coccoliths and plant pollen. It is a core discipline within modern academic and industrial geology since it provides the prime basis for biostratigraphic dating of drill-core samples, and a wide range of proxy data for palaeoceanography and climate change research.



**Course Structure:** A 6-month taught course provides intensive tuition in the major microfossil groups and their application in modern geology, this includes a 1 week fieldtrip (this year to Languedoc, SW France). There is then a 2 week work placement and 4.5-month research project. **Tuition is by world authorities, including many guest lecturers.**



**Research Project:** The projects are practical-based, typically using previously unstudied material to address real biostratigraphic, palaeobiological or palaeoenvironmental problems. Projects are written-up to a rigorous deadline, and many subsequently lead to publications.



**Natural History Museum Link:** The course is run jointly with the NHM, providing a very strong teaching base and access to the outstanding facilities in the NHM. The taught course is based at UCL, with many opportunities to visit the museum. Projects are based at both UCL and the NHM.

**Entrance qualifications:** Minimum of a second class degree or equivalent in a relevant subject.

**Funding available:** The course is currently supported by 3 NERC Masters' Training Grants and a Curry Fund scholarship.

**How to apply:** See [www.es.ucl.ac.uk/graduate\\_teach.htm](http://www.es.ucl.ac.uk/graduate_teach.htm) for application procedures (and fees); contact the course director, Dr Paul Bown ([micropal@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:micropal@ucl.ac.uk)) for details, or visit the course website.

[www.es.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/micropal/UCL-NHM\\_MSc.html](http://www.es.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/micropal/UCL-NHM_MSc.html)

**About us: UCL** is one of the top UK research universities: named "Sunday Times University of the Year" for 2004. The Department of Earth Sciences was rated level 5 in the last Research Assessment Exercise and has been graded "Excellent" for its teaching.

**The NHM** is an international leader in the scientific study of the natural world with ca. 400 scientific staff, unrivalled collections, first-rate facilities and outstanding libraries.



# NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA



Australian Government  
Geoscience Australia



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06-1082

## Australian Mesozoic and Cenozoic Palynology Zonations Updated to the 2004 Geologic Time Scale

*Eric Monteil, Coordinator*

© Commonwealth of Australia (Geoscience Australia) 2006

By Eric Monteil  
eric.monteil@bigpond.com

A CD-ROM presenting the update to the 2004 Geological Time Scale of the Australian Mesozoic and Cenozoic Palynology Zonations has recently been released by Geoscience Australia at the Perth International AAPG Conference in November 2006.

A free copy of this CD is now available from sales@ga.gov.au or john.laurie@ga.gov.au

Monteil, E. (coordinator) 2006. Australian Mesozoic and Cenozoic Palynology Zonations – updated to the 2004 Geologic Time Scale. Geoscience Australia, Record 2006/23 (GeoCat # 64962); ISBN 1 921 236 05 1; ISSN 1448-2177.

The CD-ROM presents the results of the correlation to the ICS 2004 Geologic Time Scale of the Australian Mesozoic and Cenozoic Palynology Zonations undertaken by Alan D. Partridge (Biostrata Pty. Ltd.) for Geoscience Australia and the Virtual Centre of Economic Micropalaeontology & Palynology (VCEMP).

This study provides an update of the million year numbers assigned to Australian palynological zone boundaries to the latest Geologic Time Scale 2004, authored by Gradstein et al. (2004), over the geological time interval Jurassic to Recent. Results are presented in a set of four charts which were drafted by Alan Partridge to help clarify the relationships of the palynological zones to the new time scale and to assist in scaling the zones and subzones. The charts comprise:

- **Chart 1. Jurassic – Early Cretaceous dinocyst zonations NWS Australia: 1st update of HMP 2004.**
- **Chart 2. Jurassic – Early Cretaceous spore-pollen and dinocyst zonations for Australia.**
- **Chart 3. Late Cretaceous palynology zonations for Australia.**
- **Chart 4. Late Cretaceous — Cenozoic palynology zonations Gippsland Basin**

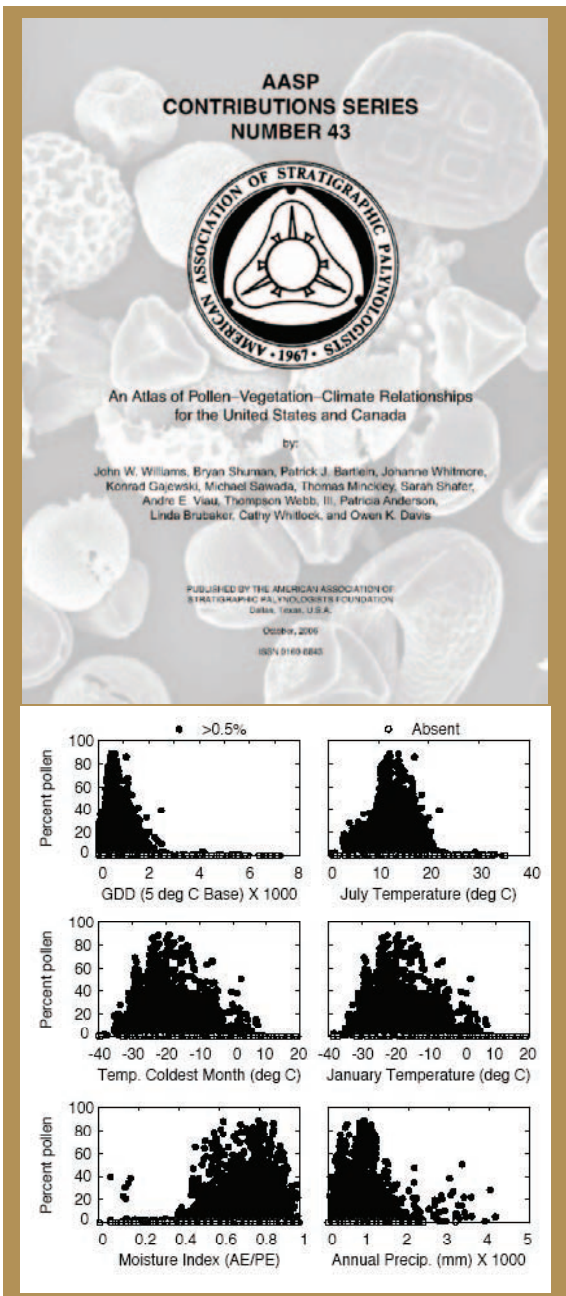
The aims in publishing this work in electronic format on this CD-ROM are threefold. The first is to provide the Australian and International geoscience community with a standard, a chrono-biostratigraphic framework with which to calibrate geological studies. The second is to facilitate its distribution and implementation through digital formats (pdf , eps, jpeg) compatible with most current graphic packages. The third is to initiate discussion to further improve the resolution of the Australian Time Scale.



# NORTH AMERICAN POLLEN ATLAS

News submitted to AASP by Martin Head and Jack Williams.

We are glad to announce the publication of the North American Pollen Atlas, which provides a comprehensive series of visualizations of modern pollen-climate and pollen-vegetation relationships, based on a network of over 4500 surface pollen samples. The intent of the Atlas is to aid paleoclimatic and paleoecological interpretations of fossil pollen diagrams. The atlas is priced at \$48 and may be ordered from the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists (<https://payment.palynology.org/#Contribution> and scroll to bottom of 'Contribution' list). All income supports the AASP. On-line PDFs of all Atlas pages may be viewed and downloaded at the NOAA Paleoclimatology website (<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/pubs/williams2006/williams2006.html>)



## ABSTRACT

This atlas displays the distribution of modern pollen abundances in North America, both geographically and relative to various climatic, bioclimatic, and vegetational variables. It is intended to aid analyses of modern pollen-environment relationships as well as the climatic and ecological interpretations of fossil pollen diagrams. The atlas is based upon a recent compilation of pollen samples from surface sediments and polsters that includes 4549 samples, 134 pollen types, and independent climatic and vegetational attributes for all locations. Atlas pages are presented for 106 pollen types, representing all of the major and many minor pollen types found in North America. Ten pollen types are split into eastern and western regional groups, using the corresponding species range maps as a guide. The pages are designed to show in detail the distribution of pollen abundances with respect to key climatic and vegetational variables; each set includes a map of modern pollen abundances plus a series of visualizations of pollen-climate and pollen-vegetation relationships. The relationship between pollen abundances and indices of fractional broadleaf and needleleaf areal cover is consistent with the ecological associations of the plant taxon, and biomes can be distinguished by the characteristic frequencies of various pollen abundances, although abundances for individual taxa may vary widely within a given biome. Pollen-abundance distributions with respect to environmental gradients are usually characterized by an upper-limit unimodal distribution, except where the representation of multiple species by a single pollen morphological type results in multimodal distributions. Consequently, high pollen abundances are usually more climatically informative than low pollen abundances. Although individual pollen types are rarely diagnostic of a particular climatic regime or vegetation type, assemblage-level information about the abundances of many pollen types provides a strong basis for paleoenvironmental inference.

# An Order of *Palynology* to go, *Please!*

By D.M. Jarzen

Have you ever wondered what it takes or who is behind getting that copy of *Palynology* to your office or home? Well, perhaps you haven't stared out your window and pondered, "Where does this publication come from?" but for those whose interest has been piqued, read on.

James Riding (British Geological Survey) is our Managing Editor, and, with his Editorial Board, is responsible for getting your manuscripts reviewed, back to you, the author, and edited to comply with the published format of *Palynology*. Jim follows a long line of Editors, assuming his post in 2004. The process of editing each issue of *Palynology*, although often done without much note on our part, may require a number of emails and phone calls to authors and reviewers to complete the process. Even with the "instructions to authors" published at the end of each issue of *Palynology*, many authors continue to "style" and "format" their papers in ways that require minor-to-major reformatting by Jim. Each manuscript slated for publication in *Palynology* must pass through a rigorous review process. Finding the right reviewers for each paper and getting the reviews completed within a reasonable timeframe takes some doing and often requires a fair bit of urging and prodding from Jim. With a range of 7 to 10 papers appearing in each annual volume of *Palynology*, Jim's work takes its fair share of time and concern. Jim sends completed, reviewed, and edited manuscripts electronically and in hard copy to Bob Clarke in Irving, Texas. The process of getting *Palynology* to you has now been set in motion!



Bob Clarke (see pictures on the left) has been preparing and getting the finished manuscripts to our printers for 30 years. Since 1992 he has also taken on the desktop publishing of each volume. Jim sends the approved electronic manuscripts, both text and graphics, to Bob who formats each article, inserts the graphics, and produces the finished pages that make our journal the excellent and readable publication it has been for the past 30 years. One of the things I really enjoy is receiving that padded envelope from Bob. Surely it must be because the latest issue of *Palynology* has arrived at last! This is true, but there is another less obvious reason for my joy. Bob has always posted *Palynology* using real, postage stamps! The parcel containing *Palynology* 30 (2006), provided me with \$2.07 in uncanceled US stamps. One stamp is particularly nice, the 37-cent Wild Turkey issue. Thanks, Bob!



Getting the several hundred copies of our journal packaged, addressed, stamped and ready to make the trip to the Post Office, has at times involved many people. In the early days, Bob convinced his family that working in the garage until the late hours of the night, packing, and licking stamps, and getting paper cuts was far more enjoyable than playing baseball or watching TV or talking to your friends on the phone. Yes, Bob employed child labor (his kids ... and others) and once even set up a work station at the Junior High gymnasium after school and got 8 to 10 Seventh and Eighth graders to pack all the books in one 5-hour period of time! Getting *Palynology* to you takes bold moves!

Once the latest issue of Palynology is ready for mailing, Clarke packages and ships copies to all paid up members. The costs to AASP for the mailings within the U.S., and the shipping to overseas destinations is, as you might expect, costly! Excess copies go to Vaughn Bryant at Texas A&M University, who for the past 16 years has handled the mailings of all AASP publications including Palynology, the Contribution Series, books, CD disks, posters and other miscellaneous materials. Vaughn, while on a recent trip to the Dallas area, drove to Bob and Carol's home to pick up a portion of the remaining boxes of the just distributed 2006 AASP publications (see photo below).



Vaughn recently purchased a new station wagon, which he said he bought (using the excuse) only to fulfill his need to “complete his AASP tasks!” Once loaded, he drags the many boxes of AASP publications back to Texas A&M University, where he showed me his office and nearby closet spaces full of AASP publications, announcements, CDs, posters, neckband-style name badge holders and other miscellaneous items ready to send. Included among this assortment of journals and papers, are padded baggies, boxes, bubble-packing materials, and adhesive tapes needed to properly package items for shipment. On one shelf are all the many custom forms, some of which have to be filled out in quadruplet, M-bag tags, and the large canvas-like M-bags required for sending any item over 4 pounds anywhere in the world outside the U.S. But all of that is only

a fraction of what really exists. The AASP Foundation rents a large “storage shed” near the campus where all the many boxes of past AASP publications are neatly stored on row after row of shelving!

Reprints of journal articles used to be sent to authors upon request and when purchased. Today, however, each author is given 25 free reprints (a bargain), and a high-quality PDF file for her or his use in producing electronic or additional hard copies of their offprints. This new policy has reduced, somewhat, the burden and postage once provided by AASP.

All this work is done strictly on a volunteer basis. Many AASP members have volunteered for various activities within AASP, and each can verify that too often, little recognition is received for their many hours of dedication to our society. Admittedly, recognition is not why these three volunteers, and others in AASP, have given their time to perform these many tasks. Instead, the AASP volunteers see a need to help the organization grow and develop, so that future generations of palynologists may enjoy the publications, the meetings, and the lifelong friendships that go with the job. Unfortunately, for many volunteers the “reward” for their work is criticism rather than accolades. For example, when Palynology is published, those who have papers in the latest issue turn first to their articles. Each scans, then looks it over, and for some they find a typo, a missed reference, an incorrect caption, or some other error that somehow eluded all the careful editing and printing. Some of us get upset, bothered or even irate by this oversight, error, or omission. Regrettably, mistakes do happen and yet, the percent of errors found in Palynology must be very small indeed. The work of the AASP editorial board and of the Foundation in getting our journal and other publications through the editing, printing, and distribution process runs like a smooth-running machine indeed. We as members of AASP should thank these volunteers, and in particular Jim, Bob and Vaughn, for their dedication and concerned efforts.

I asked Jim, Bob and Vaughn “What is the most rewarding part of doing your job?” All three answered nearly the same. They all agreed that completing the job and getting the issues of Palynology and other publications sent to members in a timely manner is a rewarding part in itself. And where would our society be without these three workers, and all the other AASP volunteers past and present who have kept AASP viable?

So, when the next issue of Palynology arrives, or when some other publication that you ordered finds its way to your address, think briefly of the work that went into getting that item to you. Remember also that an “order of Palynology to go” is more than just what appears in the table of contents.

## NEW ONLINE SEARCHABLE PICTORIAL DATABASE



**Mike Stephenson**

**British Geological Survey, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5GG, UK**

A new online searchable pictorial database have been created, based on the 'Bernard Owens Collection' of single grain mount palynological slides which are curated at the British Geological Survey (BGS). This is part of the BGS 'Taxonomy Online' project.

**The database is available at: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/taxonomy/spores/home.html>**

The aim of 'Taxonomy Online' is to use the internet as a forum to illustrate fossil specimens held in the collections of the BGS, and to outline their taxonomic and biostratigraphical importance. As such, these web-based publications supplement but do not replace traditional hardcopy palaeontological publications but allow easy access to illustrations of specimens, descriptions, and to information about stratigraphic distribution.

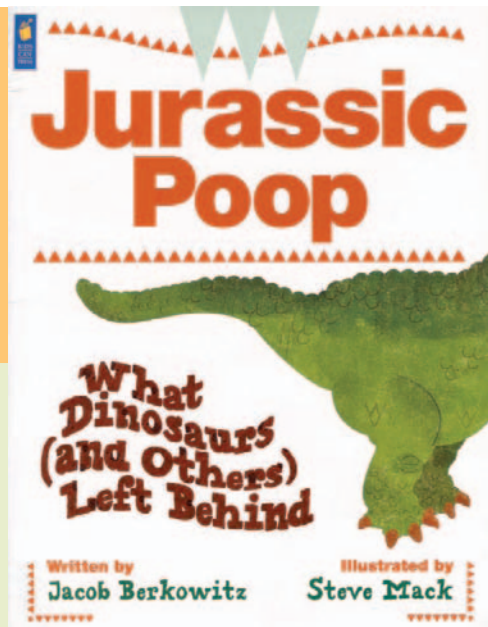
For convenience, data are presented as web-based packages so that amateur, student and professional palaeontologists will have easy access to the information. However, web sites do not have publication status and for this reason a formal publication is produced in .pdf format in the Research Report series of the British Geological Survey. They are available as a free download from the website. These reports have been assigned ISBN numbers and are deposited with the copyright libraries. It is to the Research Report that bibliographical reference should be made in formal taxonomic research.

### **The collection**

The collection of single grain mount slides which is partly illustrated in the database, is one of the most important collections of single grain Late Palaeozoic palynomorphs in the world with over 145 taxa represented by many specimens (up to 25 specimens per taxon), showing a wide range of preservation and natural variation. The specimens were collected from localities worldwide but are most closely associated with the UK and north-west Europe. Many of the taxa illustrated and described are integral to the biozonation of the Carboniferous of north-west Europe published by Clayton et al. (1977) and to earlier regional biozonations of smaller stratigraphical intervals within the UK (Smith and Butterworth, 1967; Neves et al., 1972, 1973; Owens and Burgess, 1965; Owens et al., 1977).

Each single grain mount slide is associated with a unique BGS collections number prefixed with MPK. All slides are held in the BGS Palaeontology Collections at Keyworth, Nottingham. For information on the collection and on slide loans please contact Dr Mike Howe, Chief Curator, BGS, Keyworth, [mhowe@bgs.ac.uk](mailto:mhowe@bgs.ac.uk).

In short this initiative is an attempt to broaden access to BGS' collections and I hope, if you have time, you will look at the work and comment on it. We would like to include new information on the taxa illustrated in future versions of the database.



## **Jurassic Poop: What Dinosaurs (and Others) Left Behind.**

**by Jacob Berkowitz and illustrated by Steve Mack.**

©2006. Kids Can Press, 29 Birch Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, CANADA M4V 1E2. 40 pages. \$6.95 US/\$7.95 CDN. (paperback). ISBN 13: 978-1-55337-867-9 / ISBN 10: 1-55337-867-9.

Yes, as the title says, this is a book about poop. Not only dinosaur poop, but all manner of poop. And why am I reviewing a book recommended for ages 8 to 12 in our newsletter? Because it will certainly appeal to our members with children around the recommended age, and because Lesson #5 (p. 36) has a nice little story about the relationship between insects and flower pollen and a beautiful SEM of an 84 million-year-old microscopic

beetle coprolite that is full of pollen grains. All scatological kidding aside, this book is a very good overview about what we know about coprolites and what they can tell us about the past.

*Jurassic Poop* is divided into five chapters, and each chapter title is a clever, even to this older reader, reference to poop. Three of these titles are: "A Message from a Bottom," "Who Dung It?" and "Toilet Tales."

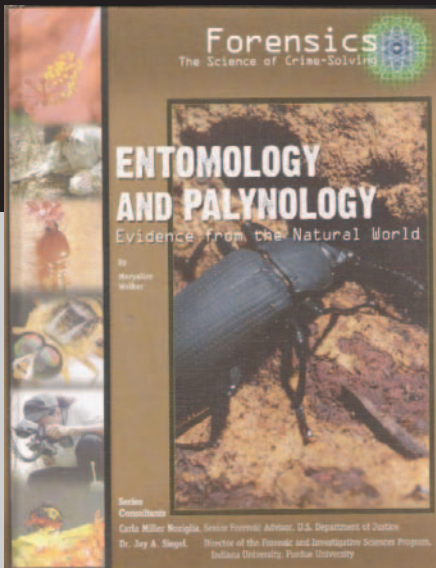
The book starts out with the story of a tyrannosaurid feeling an urge, raising his tail slightly, and delivering a turd larger than two loaves of bread into the water. A brief discussion on what happens to the turd follows, along with appropriate drawings. The story ends when "75 million years later, near Onefour, Alberta, . . . a sharp-eyed dinosaur hunter makes one whopper of a paleo poop-and-scoop." Turning the page, the reader is treated to a photo of one of only two tyrannosaurid coprolites ever found, with explanations as to what is in the coprolite, and a definition of the word coprolite.

Although written in language appropriate for 8 to 12 year-olds, this book is filled with many coprofacts and interesting tidbits about coprolites. Included are discussions about coprolite look-alikes and how to tell what is or isn't a coprolite, how to become a coprolite, and why the world is a dangerous place for coprolites-in-training. There even is a section on how to make your own coprolite with coprodough you make yourself. Five "Doo-doo detectives" are highlighted throughout the book, from the world's first paleo-poop scooper, the Reverend William Buckland, to Karen Chin (dinosaur coprolite expert), who is "the only one in the world whose full-time window on the past is fossil doo-doo."

Besides the topics mentioned above, this book also has a number of interesting sections devoted to coprolites in caves, ancient menus revealed, i.e., what people were eating in the past based on coprolites, "unpooped poop," i.e., coprolites which are found in mummified bodies, coprolite calendars, America's first beetle invasion, and the future of fossil feces. Lastly, there are three quizzes scattered throughout the book, titled "You Be the Poop Detective, Solve the Case of Who Dung It, and Are You an Outhouse Detective?"

This book was obviously written and illustrated to appeal to kids with its clever titles and stories, but don't let the fact that it is a children's book keep you away from it. Its list of research reviewers includes our own Vaughn M. Bryant, Jr., as well as Glenna Dean, and Karen Chin, to name a few. The book is packed with useful information for readers of all ages, and is an excellent resource for educators at all levels who want to add a bit of spice to their lectures on a topic we all can relate to. With a price of \$6.95 US, you can't go wrong with this book, whether you buy it for yourself or your children.

**Reviewed by Reed Wicander, Department of Geology, Central Michigan University  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859**



*Entomology and Palynology: Evidence from the Natural World.* Maryalice Walker. Mason Crest Publishers, Philadelphia. 112 pp., illus., glossary, index, ISBN: 1-4222-0032-9. (\$22.95) (hardback) 2006.

# Book Review

by Vaughn M. Bryant, Texas A&M University

Mason Crest Publishers is producing a new series of books on forensic science, which are written mostly for children at the junior or senior high school level. There are currently 12 books in the forensic science series ranging in topics from psychological profiling, to fingerprint and DNA analysis, and their latest edition on entomology and palynology. As stated in the introduction, this series was prompted by the recent demand for more information on forensics, the rapidly growing interest fanned by TV (CSI and the Forensic Files on TV, high-profile court cases, & forensic evidence used to catch terrorists), and the role forensics plays in the apprehension and conviction of criminals.

The book is well-written with little use of technical jargon, nicely illustrated, simple to understand, and covers the topics of forensic entomology and palynology with a very broad “brush” leaving out many details, which one would expect to find in a journal article or professional book on these subjects.

It is obvious from reading the book that the author is interested in and is more versed on the field of entomology than palynology. Three-fourth of her book is devoted to discussions of entomology and only one-fourth of the book is reserved for forensic palynology. In addition, it is obvious that she obtained about 95% of all her information about forensic palynology from articles published in our *Proceedings of the IX International Palynological Congress: Houston, Texas, USA, 1996*, from articles in our journal *Palynology*, from articles in the *AASP Contribution Series # 33*, and from articles printed in the *AASP Newsletter*. The only major forensic source she missed was the recent book by Lynne Milne (*A Grain of Truth*). For those of us who have written these original articles, we can see our “fingerprints” and almost direct quotes from our articles scattered liberally throughout her discussions of palynology.

For those of you who are curious about how forensic entomologists use insects (mainly types of flies and maggots) to determine the time of death, whether or not the victim had been using prescription or illegal drugs (i.e. maggots grow much faster if feeding on a victim who used cocaine), and sometime even where the crime occurred, even if the body has been moved (i.e. urban flies and maggots are often different from those living in rural areas), then this book would provide a brief and easy-to-read overview. The book also provides a brief historical look at the development of forensic entomology from its apparent beginning in A.D. 1235 in China, when a farm worker was convicted of a murder because flies were attracted to the fresh blood on his sickle used to kill his victim.

The book is a quick read and will provide you with the basics of how and why both forensic entomology and forensic palynology are effective tools in the search for and apprehension of criminals. If you are a palynologist, I doubt that reading this book will expand your currently knowledge of palynology very much. However, if you study pollen and spores but have no previous knowledge about how pollen and forensics are becoming effective tools in criminal investigations, then you might enjoy the section on palynology. I think it is a great book for children who might want to know more about forensics and might encourage some of them to consider forensics or even palynology as a future career. My major complaint about the book is that throughout the entire section on forensic palynology she makes no mention of the names of the individuals (Mildenhall, Graham, Jarzen, Wiltshire, Bryant, Jones, Horrocks, etc.) who had written the works that she uses to discuss the subject. I also found it amazing that in the book’s section listed as, “Further Reading,” there is not a single reference to any article, chapter, book, or web site pertaining to forensic palynology!

# Thank you!

To the AASP Membership  
From the Desk of the Secretary-Treasurer

AASP and the Board of Directors would like to thank the following members who have recently donated to the AASP Scholarship Fund:

**Edward Cushing**  
**Anne de Vernal**  
**Lucy Edwards**  
**Simon Goring**  
**Carlos Jaramillo**  
**Stephen Lowe**  
**Stephen Manchester**  
**Doug Nichols**  
**Suhr Willumsen**

Funds from the AASP Scholarship Fund go to serve students of palynology in numerous ways including the yearly AASP student scholarships and grants to offset travel to attend AASP sponsored conferences.

Thank you again to those of you who have donated.

Thomas D. Demchuk  
AASP Secretary-Treasurer

## AN IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP REMINDER



Please consider renewing your membership if it is expired, and talk to your colleagues and friends about the advantages of becoming an AASP members. It is a great way to stay in touch with the world of palynology and help us keep supporting students through scholarships.

Thank you for supporting AASP!

To renew, contact Thomas Demchuk at:  
Thomas.D.Demchuk@conocophillips.com  
or online at: <http://www.palynology.org/content/memapp.html>

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

## Recent AASP-Member Publications

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

The following list of recent AASP member publications is rather a nice contribution to the field of palynology – Well Done!! Please continue sending me citations of your published or *in press* articles and other publications including books, etc., for inclusion in our new section of the AASP newsletter! If you would like to be contacted be sure to include your email address.

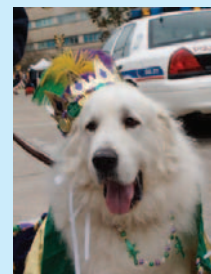
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Best wishes to everyone on a great New Year !

Sarah (and "Timber", her 160lb. Great Pyrenees who participated in the 2006 Krewe of Mutts, Mardi Gras, Baton Rouge, LA!)





# A HONEY OF A DEAL

by Vaughn M. Bryant

In January of this year I was invited to present a keynote address to the annual meeting of the American Beekeepers Federation. Their request was for me to discuss techniques using pollen to verify the geographical origin and floral nectar sources of domestic U.S. honey. This has been a topic that I have been researching since the mid 1970s when I was first asked by the U.S. Office of the Inspector General to help them verify honey purchased under the USDA Farm Subsidy Program. Since that time I have examined more than 1,000 domestic honey samples for the U.S. Government, import and exporters, producers, and individual beekeepers.

Under the past and current subsidy program, the U.S. Government agrees to purchase domestic honey at a set market price per pound. This is done to encourage U.S. beekeepers to continue raising bees (essential for crop fertilization) and yet be able to plan for the future sale of their honey knowing the minimal price they can expect to obtain. During most years, the U.S. subsidy price has fallen below the world market price and thus most beekeepers have sold their domestic honey for higher prices than the subsidy amount. However, in some years, the world market price for honey has been below the U.S. subsidy amount, thus encouraging some unscrupulous individuals to purchase foreign honey and then sell it to the U.S. government subsidy program as “domestic honey.” By doing this, these individuals are able to reap a quick profit between the paid price and the price sold to the subsidy program.

During the years that I was asked to examine domestic honey samples purchased as part of the U.S. subsidy program I discovered that approximately 94% of all samples could be verified as coming from some geographical location within the United States. Most of the remaining 6% of the samples came mostly from Central America and more recently from China.

Of the leading dozen honey-producing countries in the world, the U.S. is alone in not requiring any form of “truth in labeling” in terms of honey sold in the United States. In other words, the U.S. does not “require” any information on the label indicating the accurate geographical origin, or the accurate nectar sources in honey sold in the United States. Therefore, even though many honey products sold in the United States may state the geographical origin of the honey and may indicate the type (floral sources) of honey; those designations are not required to be correct. There is currently no federal law requiring an accurate statement on honey in terms of origin or contents. There are a few states, which do require accurate labeling of certain premium honey types including Orange Blossom Honey and Sourwood Honey. Nevertheless, enforcement of even these minimal standards is difficult because there are “no reliable established standards” for exactly what is, or is not, a certain type of U.S. honey. Most current requirements for nectar sources focus on the percentages and ratios of various sugar isotopes present in honey, and some have suggested we adopt the international standard for a unifloral honey, which is “45%” of a single pollen type. However, both systems are flawed.

Some years ago, Dr. Jonathan White and I examined a series of honey samples that had been used to establish the sugar isotope ratios for mesquite and acacia unifloral honeys. The first thing we discovered from pollen studies was that most of the honey samples, labeled as mesquite or acacia, were neither. In other words, the national standard upon which mesquite and acacia honeys were being “certified” for their isotope ratios were NOT unifloral honeys of either type indicated. This actually is a very common problem among beekeepers. Over the years I have found that more than 50% of the honey samples I have received are incorrectly labeled as to their actual nectar contents. In other words, specific unifloral honey types, based on observations by beekeepers are accurate only about one-half the time!

Second, for some highly under represented pollen types (i.e., mint, avocado, fireweed, blueberry, acacia, alfalfa, sourwood, etc.) it would be exceptionally rare to find a sample containing the required 45% pollen to be certified as a unifloral type.

Today, beekeepers in the U.S. export about 4% of all the domestically-produced honey, and as a country the U.S. imports about 1/3 of the honey we need each year. In other words, the U.S. produces only about 2/3 of the honey we use each year. The 4% that is exported from the U.S. consists of highly-prized premium honey types that command high prices on the world market. A growing problem, however, is that some U.S. exporters are now being required to certify the origin and contents of their honey in order to meet the federal regulations of many importing countries.

One of the more important resolutions passed at this year's annual meeting of the American Beekeepers Federation pertains to the need for certification and truth in labeling for all domestic honey products sold in the U.S. Specifically, the resolutions passed this January by the ABF read as follows:

*“WHEREAS, current honey labeling practices are confusing and sometimes deceptive, and WHEREAS, the current practices of honey labeling for identifying country of origin do not accurately reflect the true source of the honey in the package Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF will work to establish mandatory and accurate country of origin labeling regulations.*

*WHEREAS, a Standard of Identity for Honey is urgently needed to protect honey consumers, honey packers and honey producers from false, deceptive and misleading product labeling, and the lack of a standard of identity of honey impairs the ability of the honey industry to protect the image of honey and protect consumers from adulterated and/or deceptively labeled products, and creates an emergency.*

*NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF urges the FDA to adopt a Standard of Identity for Honey as expeditiously as possible; and,*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ABF requests the aid and financial help of other industry groups and the FDA to achieve promulgation of a Standard of Identity for Honey as soon as possible.”*



So why should we, as palynologists, be concerned about this topic? First, and foremost, if such a law is passed by the FDA, then someone is going to want to know “how” honey can be authentically certified as to its geographical origin and correctly identified by name, based on the true nectar sources in a honey. This means that it is highly possible that palynologists will be asked to help establish guidelines for certification and then will be involved in the certification process. Second, if such a law is passed, then there may be a “rush” of individuals claiming to be reliable “palynologists” able to certify U.S. domestic honey as to its geographical origin and nectar contents. Money always seems to attract such individuals! We saw

a similar phenomenon occur several decades ago when archaeologists were confronted with new federal and state guidelines pertaining to the requirement of exploring for pollen evidence in the sites they were excavating. Unfortunately, some untrained “parapalynologists” emerged and began conducting pollen analyses, which for the most part have proven to be inaccurate and misleading.

In summary, my report is just a point of information alerting colleagues that at some future time the FDA, at the urging of the ABF and others, may change the laws regarding the labeling of domestic honey. That event would bring the U.S. in line with the requirements of most of the other leading honey-producing nations of the world, and they might be needing our help!

# Urbino Dinoflagellate Class: A Report of Events

July 13-17, 2006 Urbino, Italy

By Thomas D. Demchuk, AASP Secretary-Treasurer, ConocoPhillips, Houston



The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Utrecht Organic-Walled Dinoflagellate Class was held in Urbino, Italy, during the dates of July 13-17, 2006. The spectacular scenic hilltop town of Urbino served as the setting for this class, and the University campus provided wonderful teaching facilities. Henk Brinkhuis as the main perpetrator, and a host of instructors including Joerg Pross, Martin Head, Jim Riding and Martin Pearce, along with collaborators Graham Williams, Rob Fensome, Daniel Michoux, and Jonathan Bujak provided insight as to the positive impact of dinoflagellates towards chronostratigraphic interpretations and reconstructions of ancient seas and oceanography. The local host, Simone Galleoti from the University of Urbino made sure all of us felt at home, and provided endless logistical support to the class.



This five-day class covered all topics regarding organic-walled dinoflagellates of Jurassic through Recent age, including up-to-date chronostratigraphic calibrations. The emphasis of this class importantly, focused on the high-profile research of using dinoflagellates for paleoecologic and water mass reconstructions, and as input for fully-coupled climate modeling among other topics. Additionally, there was much to be talked about regarding dinoflagellate morphology, taxonomy, and other relevant topics in the current science literature. From its first iteration in 1999, the class has progressed significantly to impress upon the scientific and palynologic community, the importance of dinoflagellate cysts in paleo-oceanographic research.



The first couple days of class covered the important topics of dinoflagellate morphology taxonomy, before moving on to earliest dinoflagellate evolution and radiation in the Jurassic. Later lectures involved discussion of late Mesozoic and early Tertiary dinoflagellates, importantly incorporating exercises in which the participants had to interpret real data from real sections/boreholes and make their own interpretations regarding various water mass parameters including relative sea-level, salinity stratification and productivity. These exercises were an excellent addition to the class and helped the participants realize the significance of the dinoflagellate assemblages in these ancient reconstructions.



1: Instructors for the Urbino 2006 edition: Jorg Pross, Henk Brinkhuis, Martin Pearce, Simone Galleoti, and Martin Head (missing Instructor: Jim Riding). 2: Instructor Jim Riding holds up one of the Urbino mascots. 3: Stefano Torricelli presents aspects of Italian dinoflagellate stratigraphy at the night-time technical gatherings. 4: Mike Rampino explains the significance of the K-T boundary event at the famous Gubbio locality.

On the Saturday, the course was punctuated by a fieldtrip to a couple of famous Italian stratigraphic sections: the Gubbio K-T boundary locality and the Contessa Quarry section. Early in the trip, local host and foram stratigrapher Simone Galleoti (we won't hold that against him) explained the local tectonic and structural regime, including comment about why nearby Venice is sinking and nothing can be done about it (ever wonder why?...ask Simone). This early overview of the local geology helped put everything into perspective. At the famous Gubbio locality, we all had opportunity to view this famous locality and gaze upon the Iridium anomaly.

Several experts expounded their view regarding the K-T boundary event. Immediately following was a wonderful lunch at the local trattoria where we viewed the guest book which included names of famous (infamous?) geologists in K-T boundary research. The afternoon was spent leisurely viewing the the spectacular Contessa Quarry section, which exposes the late Cretaceous organic beds, the K-T boundary, and the now famous Paleocene-Eocene thermal maximum (PETM) being studied by University of Utrecht scholars.

That evening, to finish off a wonderful day, dinner was had at a nearby villa. With the flowing of wine and great local Umbrian cuisine a great time was had by everyone. All the instructors were presented with gifts, as was Simone for his local organizational efforts. After dinner several of the crowd left to go back to the hotel, while others preferred to stay and enjoy the trials and tribulations of grappa tasting. Needless to say, Sunday morning was rather slow and lectures got off to a very shaky start.

Along with the formal lectures during the day, each evening back at the host hotel offered opportunities for participants to present lectures on their research topics and gain feedback from the other participants. The outside patio of the hotel, a makeshift audio-visual screen, pasta dinners and bottles of wine provided a wonderful setting for these informal gatherings and informal discussions. Among the lectures were those provided by Deborah Skilliter, Stefano Torricelli, Vanessa Thorm (a great photographer!), and Mitsuru Arai; my apologies if I forgot someone. A presentation by the newly annointed Dr. Appy Sluis (the fellow with a bad sense of humor) included a multi-media video on his travels on the IODP cruise to the Walvis Ridge in search of Elmo and the PETM. These informal gatherings over dinner and the presentations provided great insight for meeting the other participants and to gain an idea of what kind of dinoflagellate research is being conducted.

As a sponsor of the class, AASP provided travel grants to three students: Katarzyna Slawinkia, Andrea Fischel and Deborah Skilliter all received funds from AASP to aid them in attending the class. I fully expect for AASP to continue to sponsor such events in the future.

All in all, the Utrecht Dino Class has advanced significantly over the past 7 years. I've had opportunity to attend three of these classes (Urbino 1999 and 2006, and Tübingen 2004) and they seem to get better each time. From discussions of chronostratigraphy to explanations of paleo-oceanography and climate models, the course has highlighted the power of dinoflagellate cyst biostratigraphy. Anyone interested in dinoflagellates, or palynology in general, is urged to attend one of this courses. As



Henk Brinkhuis pontificates about the PETM event at the Contessa Quarry section.

well as the educational benefit, the opportunity to meet others interested in dinoflagellates including those from academia and industry, and most importantly the students, is paramount. Plus, the historic surroundings of Urbino and the geological significance of its surroundings lead to an overall exhilarating experience.

Henk Brinkhuis and Marjolein Mullen-Pouw of U. of Utrecht, and Simone Galeotti are to be applauded for their efforts towards this class. Look forward to the next installment of the Utrecht Dino class, to be advertised in the AASP Newsletter soon. I know I will.....



# PANAMA 2007

## 40th Annual Meeting

### September 8-12, 2007

[aasp2007@si.edu](mailto:aasp2007@si.edu)

The 40th Annual Meeting of the AASP will be held on **September 8-12, 2007**, at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama. The Smithsonian is located in Panama City, Panama, which is located at 9°N and borders Costa Rica and Colombia. The country is 50-120 miles wide and is bounded by 477 miles of Caribbean coastline and 767 miles of Pacific coastline. The temperature in Panama City is usually 80-85 °F (27 °C) during most of the year. Much of the countryside is farmland, but large areas of forest remain in many regions. Close to the city, there are many Natural Parks to visit and explore. The capital, Panama City, is located on the Pacific coast next to the entrance to the Panama Canal. The city offers a wide choice of restaurants, hotels and some museums. Other large cities include Colon, at the Caribbean entrance to the canal, and David, in the province of Chiriqui (for more information on Panama visit <http://www.panamainfo.com>).

The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI: <http://www.stri.org>) is a unit of the Smithsonian Institution, and one of the world's leading centers for basic research on the ecology, behavior and evolution of tropical organisms.

A block of single and double rooms has been reserved in the Hotel El Panama for participants at the meeting (ask for the AASP 2007 rate). There will be an opening mixer on Sunday evening, September 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Hotel El Panama following a pre-meeting field trip to Barro Colorado Island, one of the research stations of STRI, or to the Canopy Crane at the Metropolitan Park in Panama City. Also, there will be a mid-conference tour to the Miraflores Locks at the Panama Canal.

There will be grants for students presenting at the meeting, preference will be given to talks over posters. All you need to do is register by the early registration deadline, send an email applying for a travel grant together with your cv and proof that you are a student (scanning of your ID would be enough). We will notify those selected.

Contributions will be accepted from **January 1 until July 5**. A symposium in Pollen Morphology and Phylogeny is being organized by David Jarzen ([dmj@flmnh.ufl.edu](mailto:dmj@flmnh.ufl.edu)), and another in Tropical Palynology by Vladimir Torres ([vladimir.torres@ecopetrol.com.co](mailto:vladimir.torres@ecopetrol.com.co)). For those interested in organizing a Symposium, please contact Carlos Jaramillo ([aasp2007@si.edu](mailto:aasp2007@si.edu)).

With the exception of keynote addresses, talks will be 20 minutes long (15 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for questions). Detailed information about registration, technical sessions, abstract submission, field trips and social events, and can be found on <http://striweb.si.edu/aasp07>. Please direct questions about logistics to Audrey Smith ([aasp2007@si.edu](mailto:aasp2007@si.edu)) and questions about the technical program to Carlos Jaramillo ([aasp2007@si.edu](mailto:aasp2007@si.edu)).





**American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists  
40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
Panama  
September 8-12, 2007  
<http://striweb.si.edu/aasp07>**

**Hosted by the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute**

- a division of the Smithsonian Institution
- one of the world's leading centers for basic research on the ecology, behavior and evolution of tropical organisms.



**Events**

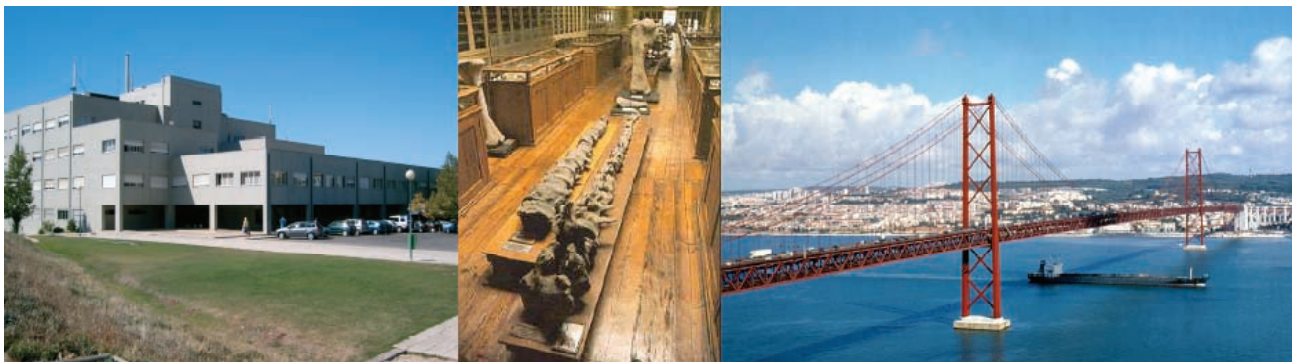
- Opening mixer
- Pre-meeting field trip to Barro Colorado Island or to the Canopy Crane at Metropolitan Park in Panama City
- Tour of the Miraflores Locks at the Panama Canal



**Guidelines**

- Contributions accepted until July 5
- Student Financial Aid available
- Hotel rooms reserved at discount rate at the Hotel El Panama
- Additional information at <http://striweb.si.edu/aasp07>
- Contact us at [aasp2007@si.edu](mailto:aasp2007@si.edu)





## CIMP LISBON 2007

We are pleased to invite you to the CIMP Lisbon'07 joint meeting of the Spores/Pollen and Acritarch Subcommissions, organized by INETI-GEOSCIENCES (Portuguese Geological Survey), to be held in Lisbon, Portugal from September 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007. This meeting will involve three days of scientific sessions followed by a two-day post-meeting field trip to Southern Portugal. The venue is at the Portuguese Geological Survey headquarters. CIMP Lisbon'07 will be a forum for specialists interested in current progress, future developments, and application of Palaeozoic palynology.

You are strongly encouraged to participate and submit papers to CIMP Lisbon'07. The official working language is English and you are most welcome to visit the web page at <http://e-geo.ineti.pt/CIMPLisbon07> for further information. Please visit the web page and fill out the questionnaire regarding your possible attendance. Note that the deadline for filling out the questionnaire has been extended to March 30, 2007, the same date as for early registration. It would, however, help us greatly in planning for the meeting if you would answer the questionnaire as soon as possible so that we know approximately how many people plan to attend.

Lisbon, the capital of Portugal, is known throughout the world as the city of sun. It is located near the Atlantic Coast and is a well-known venue for international events. We hope to see you in Lisbon in September 2007.

### Organizing Committee

Z. Pereira (LNEG-LGM, Portuguese Geological Survey)  
J. Tomas Oliveira (LNEG-LGM, Portuguese Geological Survey)  
P. Fernandes (University of Algarve, Portugal)  
N. Vaz (University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro, Portugal)

### Scientific Committee

G. Clayton (Trinity College, Dublin)  
J. Marshall (University of Southampton)  
Z. Pereira (LNEG-LGM, Portuguese Geological Survey)  
P. Steemans (University of Liege)  
R. Wicander (Central Michigan University)



### Location

The headquarters of the Portuguese Geological Survey are in Alfragide, near Lisbon, just in front of the Lisbon Camping Park, on the west side of the Lisboa-Cascais highway. In addition to a 300-seat auditorium, the Portuguese Geological Survey has all of the facilities required for scientific meetings, including a cantina where the conference lunches will be served. About 300 m from the Laboratory are bus stops to the city centre.





Looking forward  
to welcoming  
all colleagues  
in Austria next  
month!

## European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2007 Vienna, Austria, 15 – 20 April 2007

### SESSION SSP17: Environmental perturbations during the Palaeozoic-Mesozoic interval: Organic geochemical and palynological proxies

Convener: Ulrich HEIMHOFER, Bochum (Germany), [ulrich.heimhofer@rub.de](mailto:ulrich.heimhofer@rub.de)

Co-Convener: Annette E. GÖTZ, Halle (Germany), [annette.goetz@geo.uni-halle.de](mailto:annette.goetz@geo.uni-halle.de)

The objective of this session is the reconstruction of palaeoenvironmental change in the marine and terrestrial biosphere by integrating organic geochemical and palynological techniques. Major environmental perturbations documented in the Palaeozoic and Mesozoic sedimentary record are often associated with prominent changes in terrestrial vegetation patterns, marine productivity, phytoplankton and microbial communities as well as in organic carbon burial and preservation. The composition and distribution of sedimentary organic matter is a sensitive recorder of these changes and allows to trace changes in palaeoclimatic and palaeoceanographic evolution as well as in ecosystem structure and biogeochemical cycling across critical intervals on different time-scales during the Palaeozoic and Mesozoic Era. To better understand the causes and consequences of palaeoenvironmental change we encourage contributions from different subdisciplines studying sedimentary organic matter from various perspectives including stable isotope and biomarker studies, palynofacies and maceral analyses as well studies with focus on spore-pollen and marine palynomorph assemblages. The high potential of such integrated analyses will benefit from the dialog between the various disciplines.

## *NEWS FROM INDIA...*

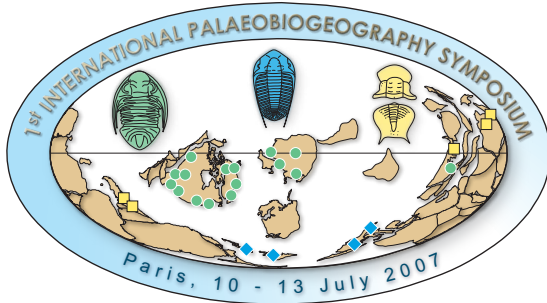
Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany on the auspicious occasion of its Diamond Jubilee Year organized an International Conference on "Changing Scenario in Palaeobotany and Allied Subjects" from 15-17<sup>th</sup> November, 2006. The Conference covered diverse aspects of fundamental and applied researches in Palaeobotany and Allied Earth System Sciences.

More than 135 research papers were presented on various aspects of Palaeobotany dealing with biota of Pre Cambrian to Holocene including the usage of Palynology in the fossil fuel exploration. In addition, 6 plenary lectures and 12 key note addresses were also delivered by eminent scientists such as David Dilcher (Fossil record of angiosperm evolution), Robert A Spicer (Palaeobotany and its role in predicting future climate change), Edward R. Cook (Climate change from Tree rings in India), Sun Kequin (Palaeophytographic reconstructions) and J. W. Schopf (On the use of non intrusive and non-destructive techniques (CLSM and Raman imagery) for the study of Precambrian microorganisms and also for investigation of higher plants) besides people from the Oil and Coal Industry e.g. Manoj Asthana (Palaeobotany in Hydrocarbon exploration), S. K. Srivastava (Future energy scenario in India: Coal a key player).

The most significant outcome of scientific interactions has been the keen interest shown by several scientists for entering into collaborative research in the areas of mutual interest with BSIP. Dr. Ramasami, Secretary Department of Science & Technology, Government of India in his valedictory address appreciated the need of basic research but emphasized that it should be coupled with utility/applied research.

## MORE TO MARK ON YOUR AGENDA

2007



### July 10-13 First International Palaeobiogeography Symposium, Paris

University Pierre et Marie Curie

More info, contact Monique Troy,  
palstrat@ccr.jussieu.fr

La 2ème circulaire va être mise en ligne sur le site de la Société géologique de France, en voici le lien:  
<http://sgfr.free.fr/rencontrer/seances/s07-07paleobiogeo.html>

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The second announcement will be available online shortly at the following link:  
<http://sgfr.free.fr/rencontrer/seances/s07-07paleobiogeo.html>

### May 2nd to 5th 2007 Third Argentinian Symposium on the Jurassic Mendoza, Argentina

Estimado Colega

Cordialmente lo invitamos a visitar el sitio web del Tercer Simposio Argentino del Jurásico que se realizará en la ciudad de Mendoza, entre el 2 y 5 de Mayo de 2007. Toda la información disponible acerca de esta reunión puede ser consultada en la página web del Simposio: <http://www.cricyt.edu.ar/saj>, la cual será actualizada periódicamente.

Esperamos contar con su presencia.  
La Comisión Organizadora  
3sa-jurasico@lab.cricyt.edu.ar

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear colleague,

We invite you cordially to visit the website of the Third Argentinian Symposium on the Jurassic, which will be held in Mendoza, Argentina, from May 2nd to 5th 2007. All information available about this meeting is in the site: <http://www.cricyt.edu.ar/saj>, which will be updated periodically.



*Dear friends palynologists:*

As IFPS councillor for CAP it is a pleasure to announce that the new PALYNOS issue (Vol. 29, No. 2, 2006) is now also posted on the IFPS website:

<http://geo.arizona.edu/palynology/ifps.html>

I wish you a good start into 2007!

Jean Nicolas

PROF. DR. JEAN NICOLAS HAAS  
UNIVERSITY OF INNSBRUCK, DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY  
DIVISION OF PALYNOLOGY, SYSTEMATICS AND GEOBOTANY  
STERNWARTESTRAÙE 15, A-6020 INNSBRUCK, ÖSTERREICH - AUSTRIA  
TEL.: +43-512-5075958  
FAX: +43-512-5072715  
E-MAIL: JEAN-NICOLAS.HAAS@UIBK.AC.AT  
<http://botany.uibk.ac.at/>

# XVII INQUA Congress

Cairns, Australia, 28 July - 3 August 2007

**TWO SESSIONS OF INTEREST...**

## Ice Age Refugia

**John R. Stewart (England) & Ian Barnes (England)**

The aim of this session is to highlight developments in the study of Ice Age Refugia in a variety of relevant disciplines. The relatively recent field of phylogeography has revived the importance of this area of research. Issues that are generally dealt include the location of refugial populations of organisms and the role of such populations in the formation of our present day biotas. This subject has given Quaternary palaeontology a key role in the development and testing of hypotheses regarding the evolving location of populations of organisms over time. This will all lead to a greater understanding of microevolution among Quaternary animals and plants.

The hope is that this session will be of interest to all Quaternary palaeontologists whether their interest is in reconstructing environments, looking at Quaternary extinctions, using organisms in biostratigraphy or vertebrate (including human) evolution.

It is also hoped that the session will attract a variety of participants including people working on the fossils themselves, modellers and users of meta-data as well as molecular biologists working on modern and ancient DNA.

## High-resolution analysis of catastrophic environmental changes and human response.

**Suzanne Leroy, John Clague, and Matt McGlone**

Rapid and catastrophic environmental changes have helped shape our civilisation. We know that some ancient civilisations have collapsed under their impact, and we wonder if our society is better prepared. In order to improve our preparedness we need to understand what is the full potential of natural hazards (earthquakes, droughts, volcanic eruptions, landslides, hurricanes, meteorites) to wreak damage. Only the analysis of past archives (such as sediment, historical documents, archaeological remains) can give the total overview of the consequences, physical, biotic and social.

This session explores natural catastrophic impacts that affect people and ecosystems. It is also deals with recovery, either to a new, more resilient status or a return to the previous situation. A multidisciplinary approach is encouraged with geologists and geographers working alongside historians, archaeologists meteorologists and physicists in order to create more comprehensive and better understood palaeo-reconstructions. The session will also deal with high temporal resolution and robustly calibrated dating. While high resolution will enable us to detect changes at a societal scale, robust chronologies from different archives are essential to be able to establish cause and effect.

The deadline for abstract was the 31st of January 2007, but you can still register for the conference on the website by the 31st of March 2007, at: <http://www.inqua2007.net.au/>

# New members and reinstatements - Thank you for supporting AASP!

## New Members

BARREDA, VIVIANNA DORA  
MUSEO ARGENTINO DE CIENCIAS NATURALES  
ANGEL GALLARDO 470 - C1045DJR  
CIUDAD DE BUENOS AIRES  
ARGENTINA  
TEL. 11-46724747  
vbarreda@fibertel.com.ar

CHITOLIE, JONAH  
95 HEATHCROFT AVENUE  
MIDDLESEX  
UNITED KINGDOM TW16 7SR  
TEL. 0192 780948  
jonc@hum.ac.uk

CLOWES, CHRISTOPHER  
257 HAUNUI ROAD  
PUKERUA BAY  
WELLINGTON 6010  
NEW ZEALAND  
TEL. 275-508-528  
chris@peripatus.gen.nz,

FERNANDES, PAULO MANUEL CARVALHO  
UNIVERSIDADE DO ALGARVE  
FACULDADE DE CIENCIAS DO MAR E AMBI-  
ENTE  
CAMPUS DE GAMBELAS  
FARO, PORTUGAL 8005-139  
TEL. 00-351-289800995  
FAX. 00-351-289800069  
pfernandes@ualg.pt

FERNANDES, JOSE PEDRO B.M.  
RUA CAMPO ALGRE 687  
PORTO  
PORTUGAL 4169-007  
TEL. 1220114539  
FAX. 1220114540  
jpferman@fc.up.pt

LAGUNA FAC DE FARMACIA  
P.O. BOX 830470  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35283  
EBSCO SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES

LOUWYE, STEPHEN  
GHENT UNIVERSITY  
KRYGSLAAN 281/58  
B-9000 GHENT  
BELGIUM,  
TEL. 9 264 4611  
FAX. 9 264 4608  
stephen.louwye@ugent.be

PALAZZESI, LUIS,  
MUSEO ARGENTINO DE CIENCIAS NATURALES  
ANGEL GALLARDO 470 - C1045DJR  
CIUDAD DE BUENOS AIRES  
ARGENTINA  
TEL. 11-49826670  
lpalazzesi@gmail.com

RADFORD, SCOTT  
P.O. BOX 103  
FORD, WA 99013  
TEL. (509) 258-4046  
killerfungis@yahoo.com

RAYMER, JANET  
15004 E. 51st STREET  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64136  
TEL. (816) 868-9626  
jdryr4@umr.edu

SANGIORGI, FRANCESCA  
LPP - BUDAPESTLAAN 4  
UNIVERSITY OF UTRECHT  
THE NETHERLANDS 3584 CD  
TEL. 302532419  
f.sangiorgi@uu.nl

## Reinstatements

BARTON, JONATHAN  
PT ROBERTSON UTAMA INDONESIA  
JALAN MAMPANG PRAPATAN RAYA  
KAV.100, JAKARTA 12510  
INDONESIA  
TEL. 08158103768  
jonbarton@cbn.net.id

HARDING, IAN C.  
SCHOOL OF OCEAN & EARTH SCIENCE  
UNIV. SOUTHAMPTON  
EUROPEAN WAY, EMPRESS DOCK  
SOUTHAMPTON SO14 3ZH  
UNITED KINGDOM  
TEL. (023) 80-592031  
FAX. (023) 80-593052

KOPPELHUS, EVA B.  
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA  
DEPT. OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
C2 405 BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES BUILDING  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA  
CANADA T6G 2E9  
TEL. (780) 492-6572  
eva.koppelhus@ualberta.edu

KURITA, HIROSHI  
FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
NIIGATA UNIVERSITY  
NIGATA 950-2181  
JAPAN,  
TEL. 25-262-6374  
FAX. 25-262-6374  
kurita@sc.niigata-u.ac.jp

## Address Updates

ABBINK, OSCAR  
TNO  
P.O. BOX 80015  
3508 UTRECHT  
NETHERLANDS  
TEL. 30-256 4730  
FAX. 30-256 4605  
oscar.abbink@tno.nl

AHMED, HISHAM B.M  
SUNNYSIDE, 15 CART LANE  
GRANGE-OVER-SANDS  
CUMBRIA  
UNITED KINGDOM LA11 7AF  
TEL. 00 44 15395 38868  
FAX. 00 44 15395 38868  
cumbria100@aol.com

BACKHOUSE, JOHN  
55 LAKE MONGER DRIVE  
WEMBLEY  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
AUSTRALIA 6014  
TEL. (08) 9380 6630  
FAX. (08) 9380 6631  
jbackhou@segs.uwa.edu.au

CUSHMAN, ROBERT A.,JR.  
1390 BROADWAY #B273  
PLACERVILLE, CA 95667  
TEL. (530) 748-8795  
bcushman@llu.edu

DALZELL, MATTHEW  
CANADIAN LIGHT SOURCE  
101 PERIMETER ROAD  
SASKATOON, SK  
CANADA S7N 0X4  
TEL. (306) 657-3739  
FAX. (306) 657-3535  
m.dalzell@sasktel.net

D'ANTONI, HECTOR L.  
NASA/AMES RESEARCH CENTER  
MAIL STOP 239-20  
MOFFET FIELD, CA 94035-1000  
TEL. (650) 604-5149  
hector.l.dantoni@nasa.gov

DE VERNAL, ANNE  
GEOTOP-UQAM CP 8888  
MONTREAL, QUEBEC  
CANADA H3C 3P8  
TEL. (514) 987-3000 EXT. 8599  
FAX. (514) 987-3635  
devernal.anne@uqam.ca

FEIST-BURKHARDT, SUSANNE  
FLAT 6 WARREN COURT  
28 COPERS COPE ROAD  
BECKENHAM, KENT  
UNITED KINGDOM BR3 1NQ  
TEL. (0) 20 7942 5142  
FAX. (0) 20 7942 5546  
S.Feist-Burkhardt@nhm.ac.uk

GRIMM, ERIC C.  
23 PROVIDENCE LANE  
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62711  
TEL. (217) 785-4846  
FAX. (217) 785-2857  
grimm@museum.state.il.us

HALL, STEPHEN A.  
RED ROCK GEOLOGICAL ENTERPRISES  
3 CAGUA ROAD  
SANTA FE, NM 87508-8116  
TEL. (505) 466-7755  
steve@redrockgeological.com

HALLETT, RICHARD  
RESERVOIR STRATIGRAPHY, ENTERPRISE  
HOUSE  
OCEAN VILLAGE  
SOUTHAMPTON SO14 3XB  
UNITED KINGDOM  
TEL. (0)23 8057 4572  
FAX. (0)23 8033 2050  
richard.hallett@reservoirstrat.com

HEAD, MARTIN J.  
DEPT. OF EARTH SCIENCES  
BROCK UNIVERSITY  
500 GLENRIDGE AVENUE  
ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO  
CANADA L2S 3A1  
TEL. (905) 688-5550 X5216  
FAX. (905) 682-9020  
mjhead@brocku.ca

HOCHULI, PETER A.  
PALEONTOLOGICAL INSTITUTE  
UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH  
KARL SSHMID-STRASSE 4  
CH-8006 ZURICH  
SWITZERLAND  
TEL. 44 634 2338  
FAX. 44 634 4923  
peter.hochuli@erdw.ethz.ch

IBRAHIM, MOHAMED I. A.  
DEPT. OF ENV. SCIENCES  
FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY  
ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT  
MOHAREM BEY 21511  
TEL. (02) 0127608054  
mibrah@gmail.com

JORSTAD, ROBERT B.  
507 ASHBY DR.  
CHARLESTON, IL 61920  
TEL. (217) 348-5129  
rbjorstad@eiu.edu

KURMANN, MARIE H.  
AUSSERDORF 29  
CH-6147 ALTBURON  
SWITZERLAND  
TEL: (041) 062 927 1848  
FAX. (041) 062 927 3048  
m.kurmann@spectraweb.ch

MARINO, GIANLUCA  
PALEOECOLOGY  
INST. OF ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY  
FACULTY OF SCIENCES  
UTRECHT UNIVERSITY  
LABORATORY OF PALEOBOTANY AND  
PALYNOLOGY  
BUDAPESTLAAN 4  
3584 CD UTRECHT, NL  
G.Marino@bio.uu.nl

MATTHIessen, JENS  
ALFRED WEGENER INSTITUTE FOR  
POLAR & MARINE RESEARCH  
P.O. BOX 120161  
27515 BREMERHAVEN  
GERMANY  
TEL. (49) 471-4831-1568  
FAX. (49) 471-4831-1923  
jens.matthiessen@awi.de

MCKELLAR, JOHN L.  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF  
QUEENSLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY  
BLOCK A, 80 MEIERS ROAD  
INDOOROOPIILLY  
QLD 4068 AUSTRALIA  
TEL. 7 3362 9350  
FAX. 7 3362 9343  
john.mckellar@dme.qld.gov.au

MILDENHALL, DALLAS C.  
1 FAIRWAY DRIVE  
AVALON, LOWERHUTT  
NEW ZEALAND  
TEL. (64 4) 570-4696  
FAX. (64 4) 570-4600  
d.mildenhall@gns.cri.nz

MORGAN, BILL E.  
2711 BRIARHURST #6  
HOUSTON, TX 77057-5362  
TEL. (713) 780-3836  
FAX. (713) 780-3095  
morganbb@netzero.net

NANDI, BHARATI  
5D RANI BRANCH ROAD  
KOLKATA  
INDIA 700002  
TEL. 011-91-2528-3005  
bharati\_2@hotmail.com

NICHOLS, DOUGLAS J.  
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
BOX 25046 M.S. 939  
DENVER, CO 80225  
TEL. (970) 532-2939  
dnichols745@comcast.net

NISHIWAKI-NAKAJIMA, NIICHI  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL RESEARCH  
NARA UNIVERSITY  
1500 MISASAGICHO  
NARA CITY 631-8502  
JAPAN  
TEL. 742-41-9555  
niichi@daibutsu.nara-u.ac.jp

POWELL, JAMIE  
RUE DE VILLAGE 20  
LE MUIDS  
SWITZERLAND CH-1273  
TEL. 0 22 366 09 42  
FAX. 0 22 366 09 42  
jamespowell@bluewin.ch

SAEEDI, FARNOSH  
9 OLD LAKE ROAD  
CONGERS, NY 10920  
TEL. (845) 268-0682  
farnoosh.saeedi@bcc.cuny.edu

SCHOENWETTER, JAMES  
1246 E. RIVIERA DRIVE  
TEMPE, AZ 85282-5537  
TEL. (480) 838-2851  
FAX. (480) 838-8856  
j.schoenwetter@asu.edu

VERGEL, MARIA DEL MILAGRO  
LAS PEIDRAS 729 3A  
(4000) SAN MIGUEL DE TUCUMAN  
ARGENTINA 4000  
TEL. 54-381-4311816  
vergelm@csnat.unt.edu.ar

WAANDERS, GERALD L.  
1475 RANCHO ENCINITAS DRIVE  
ENCINITAS, CA 92024-7031  
TEL. (858) 759-0180  
FAX. (858) 759-9028  
waanpaly@roadrunner.com

WALL, DAVID  
5127 TARNBROOK DRIVE  
HOUSTON, TX 77084  
TEL. (281) 856-9312  
FAX. (281) 856-9314  
davorwall@cs.com

## Noticias...

NOTICIAS is the official publication of the ALPP (Asociación Latinoamericana de Paleobotánica y Palinología). It is available in AIPP site of Internet ([www.ufrgs.br/alpp](http://www.ufrgs.br/alpp)). This issue include the activities, the last General Assembly (Bahía Blanca, Argentina, May, 2006), new publications, list of members and more. It is the way to be in contact with Latinoamerican colleague and their activities.

## EDITOR'S NOTE



Dear AASP members,

it has been a busy Spring semester here in Louisiana as we keep sharing our research with Louisiana public school children, hopefully alluring many children to the field of palaeontology...

I am sure you all have been busy with demanding schedules as well, therefore, I want to thank those of you who took the time in the middle of a very busy life to submit information for this issue of the AASP Newsletter. Many thanks also to all of you who provided feedback on the December issue. It is a pleasure to work with such a great group of individuals from all around the world.

Thank you!

**I want to reiterate that this newsletter cannot be created without your support. I encourage each of you, AASP members, future members, and colleagues, to send your contributions or ideas. I see the newsletter as a way of helping members to stay in touch with each others, and find out about all that palynology has to offer.**

**With this in mind, I am looking forward to receiving your contributions.**

Please send items such as (note that the order is not a reflection on priorities):

- Student thesis abstracts, updates on student research, etc.
- Reports on meetings, workshops, etc.
- Review on unique palynomorphs (one will be selected to illustrate our new NL cover)
- Historical notes
- Reviews on active research (climate, archeology, etc.)
- News on upcoming palynological and related meetings
- News on publications
- Human interest stories about members and students
- Information from groups out of the United States
- Opinion pieces on palynological subjects
- Job oppening in your company, university, or that you are aware of
- News flash items, serious or humorous
- Advertisements on palynological-related items
- And any items our members thinks are appropriate.

Thank you!

Sophie Warny  
swarny@lsu.edu  
1-225-578-5089



**ATTENTION STUDENTS:  
The deadline is just around the corner!!!**



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 (Martin Farley, [mbfarley@hal-pc.org](mailto:mbfarley@hal-pc.org)), 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.