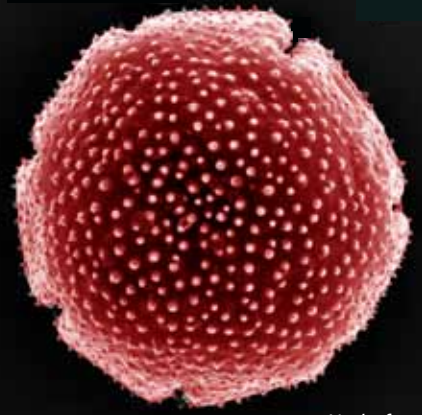
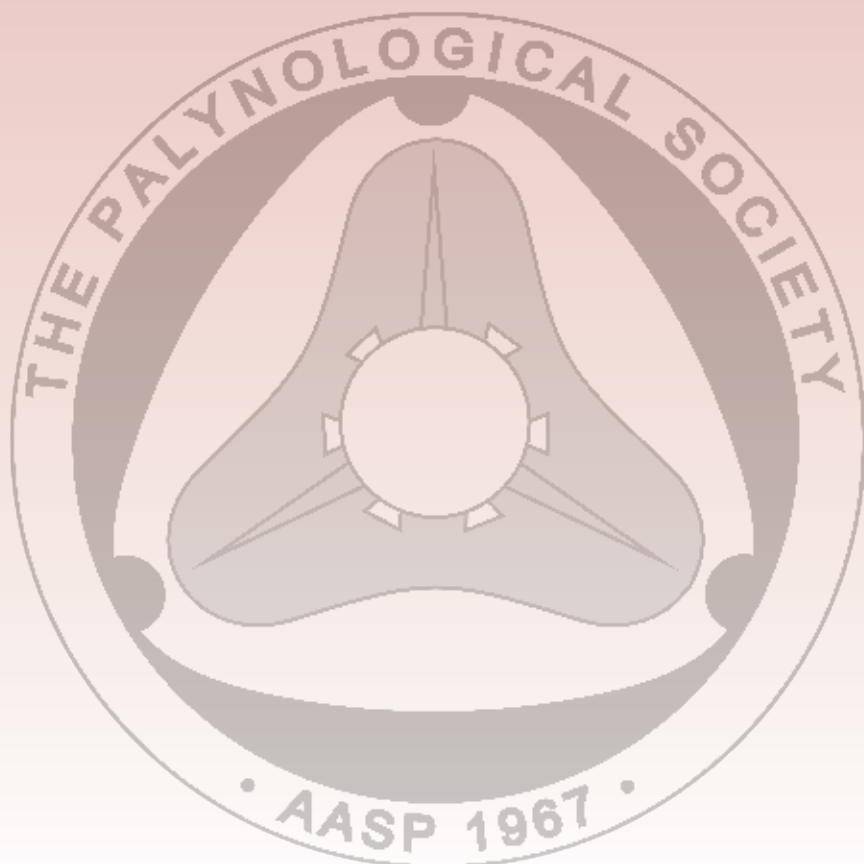


# AASP- THE PALYNOLOGICAL SOCIETY



*Nothofagus fusca*  
by Kate Griener  
and Sophie Warny



## NEWSLETTER



**June 2011**  
**Volume 44, Number 2**



# A.A.S.P. NEWSLETTER

Published Quarterly by the AASP - The Palynological Society

June 2011  
Volume 44, Number 2

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# A.A.S.P.

## The Palynological Society

The American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists, Inc. - AASP-The Palynological Society - 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* (biannually), 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)  
Dr. Satish K. Srivastava (awarded 2006)

### 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 Aural T. Cross (elected 1991)  
Dr. Robert T. Clarke (awarded 2002)  
Professor Vaughn Bryant (awarded 2005)  
Professor 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)  
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)  
Professor Owen K. Davis (awarded 2005)  
Dr. Thomas Demchuk (awarded 2009)



# A.A.S.P. NEWSLETTER

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Sophie Warny, Editor

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Petra Mudie	Black Sea region
Philippe Steemans	French-speaking Belgium
Stephen Louwye	Flamish-speaking Belgium

Thank you to our new  
newsletter correspondents.

We are still looking for  
correspondents to cover some  
parts of the world such as  
Australia, Eastern  
Europe, and Africa.

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The AASP Newsletter is published four times annually. Members are encouraged to submit articles, "letters to the editor," technical notes, meetings reports, information about "members in the news," new websites and information about job openings in the industry. Every effort will be made to publish all information received from our membership. Contributions which include photographs should be submitted two weeks before the deadline. Deadline for next issue of the newsletter is **August 15**. 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.**

# *A message from our President*

By Paul Strother

The executive board met this April at the Center for Excellence in Palynology (CENEX) at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. This was an opportunity to see first hand what John Wrenn and now Sophie Warny have accomplished in fulfilling the mission of the society to promote the science of palynology. Two members of the board were able to fully participate via Skype, which permits live audio and video two-way transmission. Perhaps it is not surprising that the signal from Germany was much more stable than that from Kentucky, but that's another story. As the society becomes more and more international in terms of membership, we need to be also increasingly thinking about serving the international community of palynologists. The web and email help this along of course, but there is nothing like face-to-face collaboration and to that end I encourage all of us to attend this year's annual meeting in Southampton, England. Ian Harding and John Marshall have been busy putting together this meeting which is coming along nicely. The technical sessions are to be flanked by day field trips to the Dorset coast and the Isle of Wight. See the notice in this newsletter for the website for registration.

For those of you not going to England (and those who are), please consider coming to GSA in Minneapolis this October 9 -12. The Palynological Society is co-sponsoring three technical sessions and the success of these is dependent on attendance. Abstract submission ends July 26th and this is a hard deadline. The sessions are, T51 Phanerozoic Palynology: Applications to Stratigraphic, Paleoenvironmental, and Paleoclimatic Research; T55 New Horizons in Precambrian Palynology and Paleobiology; T56 From Organic Detritus to Coal: Tracing the Terrestrial Decomposer Community in Permineralized Peat, Lignite, and Coal.

As members of the board, we welcome feedback and suggestions from the membership. Our numbers continue to dwindle and we encourage you who are members of the society to encourage colleagues and students who are engaged in any aspect of the science of palynology to join the society. Let us know what we can do to make the society benefit all palynologists.

And, don't forget to vote!



2011 AASP Mid Year Board Meeting at the CENEX center at LSU, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

# Managing Editor's report

Volume 35 part 1 of *Palynology* is now with the printers. The publication date will be 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011, and all members should receive this part during June. It comprises six technical articles, plus the citation for Thomas Demchuk's Distinguished Service Award. The citation will appear first, followed by the scientific articles (see below). The front cover will be a very nice shade of yellow, with a SEM photomicrograph of a Late Jurassic dinoflagellate cyst which was kindly supplied by Ian Harding.

Four manuscripts for *Palynology* Volume 35 part 2 (to be published in December 2011) are already typeset. I have several more articles with Taylor and Francis awaiting copyediting/typesetting, and others which are in the reviewing/revision process. That being the case, I can report that we will easily have enough suitable copy for *Palynology* Volume 35 part 2 at this early stage of the year.

The operation of the new online manuscript submission system for *Palynology* is now fully up to speed. If you have any questions regarding this system, please address them to Daniel Jones at Taylor and Francis (Daniel.Jones@tandf.co.uk), copying me in if you think it appropriate. Manuscript submission rates continue to be very healthy.

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May 2011

# Manuscripts to be published in *Palynology*

## Volume 35, part 1 on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011

- 1 Citation for Thomas Demchuk's Distinguished Service Award.
- 2 Acritarchs from the Ordovician-Silurian boundary beds of the Valga-10 drill core, southern Estonia (Baltica) and their stratigraphical and palaeobiogeographical implications by Aurélien Delabroye, Marco Vecoli, Olle Hints and Thomas Servais
- 3 A palynological zonation for the Cenozoic of the Llanos and Llanos Foothills of Colombia by Carlos A. Jaramillo, Milton Rueda and Vladimir Torres
- 4 Diurnal patterns of pollen collection by feral honey bee colonies in southern Texas, U.S.A. by Kristen A. Baum, William L. Rubink, Robert N. Coulson and Vaughn M. Bryant Jr.
- 5 Pollen morphology of some species of *Vernonanthura* (Asteraceae, Vernonieae) from southern South America by Alvaro José Vega and Massimiliano Dematteis
- 6 The early Cambrian phytoplankton radiation: acritarch evidence from the Lükati Formation, Estonia by Małgorzata Moczyłowska
- 7 The selection of small forest hollows for pollen analysis in boreal and temperate forest regions by Mette Venås Overballe-Petersen and Richard H.W. Bradshaw



# ELECTION TIME



## AASP Secretary-Treasurer Candidate

### Dr. Thomas D. Demchuk

What can I tell you about myself that I've not already covered over the past 13 election biographies? I'm very happy to be serving the AASP membership for another year.

I have recently been promoted to Principal Biostratigrapher within the Subsurface Technology Group at ConocoPhillips Ltd. I have been employed by Conoco/ConocoPhillips for 14+ years, following 4+ years at Amoco Corp. My corporate duties involve biostratigraphic coordination of varied exploration and production projects with the ConocoPhillips portfolio.

Data integration includes predominantly palynology, but also other micropaleontological disciplines such as foraminifera and calcareous nannofossils where necessary. Although I've investigated and interpreted palynological data from the four corners of the world, my recent projects mostly revolve around the Western Canadian Oil Sands, the Canada/Alaska Beaufort-Mackenzie region, and the Barents Sea/Norwegian Margin area of the North Sea. I get to dabble in other smaller endeavors such as a drilling well in Southeast Asia, or a quick look at some Africa data, but those are few and far between. I also get to be involved in diverse bio- and chronostratigraphic research including updating our proprietary databases with the latest and greatest timescale information, or quantifying the paleoenvironmental/paleobathymetrical significance within palynofloral assemblages. I also get to attend great functions such as the annual AASP-TPS meetings to hear about all the great new palynology research being undertaken around the world.

As most of you are aware, I am a proud Canadian and Edmontonian, having received my B.Sc. and M.Sc. from the University of Alberta. My Master's work involved constructing a biozonation for Paleocene strata of south-central Alberta: that study was supervised by Dr. Chaitanya Singh at the Alberta Research Council which at that time was a premier research institution. I then moved on to the University of Calgary to study with Dr. Len Hills. My dissertation involved the palynologic and organic petrographic study of the massive Wabamun coal zone, early Paleocene of central Alberta. I feel fortunate that I was able to study palynology with two such wonderful professors and teachers. In 1992 I finally left academic life to move to Houston where I've resided for almost 19 years.

Along with my wonderful wife Marta, who keeps me on the straight and honest, my current joys in life involve spending as much as possible time with my four grandchildren: two grandsons in Padova, and a grand-daughter/grandson in Trenque Lauquen, Argentina. I've come to realize that time with family should be a significant part of one's happiness. Along with a good glass of wine, who could ask for anything more?

AASP-TPS Secretary-Treasurer

## Webmaster Candidate

### Dr. Owen Davis

Owen Davis is a Professor of Palynology in the Department of Geosciences at the University of Arizona.

He has served AASP in various capacities since 1974. He was elected Director at Large 1988 and was a member of the Board when CENEX was formed. He was Managing Editor from 2001-04, and Webmaster from 2004-present. He was given the AASP Distinguished Service Award in 2005. He served as President of IFPS from 1996-2000, served as IFPS Webmaster from 1992 to present and has served as AASP Councillor to IFPS from 2004-present.

He has studied airborne pollen, Quaternary palynology and archaeological palynology for 39 years. He began studying "extra palynomorphs" in 1971 at Washington State University under the direction of Rexford Daubenmire and Peter Mehringer. He completed a Ph.D. study of the Quaternary Palynology of the northern Great Basin under Bob Bright, Herb Right, Ed Cushing and Margaret Davis at the University of Minnesota in 1982.

At the University of Arizona since 1982, he oversaw the construction of the UA palynology laboratory in 1986, after helping establish the Cranwell Smith Award in palynology.

He has authored or edited nine books, fifty-four peer-review publications, ninety-one chapters and miscellaneous publications, one-hundred fifty-six technical reports and one-hundred eleven meeting abstracts.



Photo D. Jarzen



## Palynology Editor Candidate



### Dr. James B. Riding

James B. Riding is a palynologist/stratigrapher with the British Geological Survey based in Nottingham, England. He has over 25 years experience in Mesozoic-Cenozoic palynology. In the 1980s he worked mainly on the Mesozoic palynology of onshore and offshore UK, principally the North Sea. His current interests presently include the palynology of Europe, Australasia, Antarctica, west Africa, the Americas, Russia and the Middle East, together with palynomorph provincialism, forensic palynology, paleoenvironmental palynology, palynomorph preparation techniques and the morphology, systematics and taxonomy of dinoflagellate cysts. Jim studied geology at the University of Leicester, before pursuing palynology by studying the famous MSc course at the University of Sheffield. He 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 has visited the Antarctic Peninsula for fieldwork tours during the Austral summers of 1989 and 2006. The most recent field season was spent on Seymour Island. He undertook a secondment to Geoscience Australia in Canberra, Australia in 1999-2000, 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 2003. He served as a Director-at-Large of AASP between 1999 and 2001, was President in 2003, and became Managing Editor in 2004.

## Newsletter Editor Candidate

### Dr. Sophie Warny

Sophie Warny is an Assistant Professor of Palynology in the department of Geology and Geophysics & at the Museum of Natural Science at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. She moved to the U.S. from her native Belgium, in 1997.

She has a long history with AASP as she won the AASP Student Award in 1996. She received her Ph.D. from the Université Catholique de Louvain, in Belgium working with Dr. Jean-Pierre Suc. Her doctoral dissertation focused on the Messinian Salinity Crisis.

Since graduating, she has been working on Antarctic sediments acquired by the RV/IB N. B. Palmer, and more recently, by the ANDRILL SMS and the SHALDRIL programs. She just received a five-year CAREER award from NSF to support her palynological research in Antarctica. In addition to her research, she teaches Historical Geology, Paleobotany, and Micropaleontology. She also manages the education and outreach programs for the Museum. She has a vibrant research group that is composed of four master students and three PhD students. Since being hired on tenure-track at LSU, she graduated three students. One is a biostratigrapher at BP, the other two were recently hired by DEVON and EOG respectively. She recently remodeled the CENEX facility, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and will be accepting one new master student for Spring 2012.

She has been a member of AASP since approximately 1993 and was elected to serve on the board as Director-at-Large in 2006-2007. She has served as the AASP Newsletter editor for the past six years, since 2006 (AASP NL 39.4).

She has two daughters who are keeping her busy outside of work, Zoe who is 11 and Manon who is 13. She would be glad to keep serving AASP as newsletter editor if elected.



### Dr. Michael Zavada



Born and raised in Bridgeport, Connecticut. I received a B.S. and M.S. degree in Botany / Palynology from Arizona State University, Tempe under the direction of James E. Canright. I have been a member of AASP – The Palynological

Society since 1974. I received a B.A. in Slavic Languages, and a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Connecticut, Storrs working with William L. Crepet. I spent one year as a Fulbright Scholar in Skopje, Macedonia at the Geologic Institute, and the Center for Foreign Languages. I did post-doctoral work with David Dilcher at Indiana University, Bloomington, and Thomas Taylor at Ohio State University, Columbus. I have served on the faculties of The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, The University of Louisiana-Lafayette, was Professor and Chairman of the Department of Biology at Providence College, Providence, RI, and I am currently the Chairman of Biological Sciences at East Tennessee State University and a member of the Center of Excellence in Paleontology. My field research has taken me throughout North America, South America, and Africa, including Madagascar. I have received over \$4 million in grants including grants from the National Science Foundation, National Institute of Health, NASA, American Philosophical Society, and National Geographic Society and I have published over 80 papers. I have had broad and varied interest in palynology. My research interests include elucidating the time and place of origin of

the angiosperms. Pollen has a number of characteristics for tracking the time, place and early diversification of a variety of taxonomic groups. I have had a broad approach in evaluating the taxonomic significance of these pollen characters and my data base includes ultrastructural studies of the extant primitive angiosperms (e.g., basal dicots and monocots, Hamamelidae), dispersed fossil pollen of gymnosperm and angiosperm affinity from five of the seven continents, and pollen found in fossilized reproductive structures of various gymnosperm, pteridosperm and angiosperm taxa of the Permian, Mesozoic and Cenozoic. I am also interested in the functional significance of pollen characters. This may provide insight into the selective pressures which brought about angiosperm pollen characters. This area of my research has been more empirical, and has taken me into disciplines such as the physical sciences (engineering), pollination and reproductive biology (particularly angiosperm self - incompatibility), plant physiology, and development. Another area of investigation that has grown out of the ultrastructural work is an interest in the floristic development in the fynbos of South Africa, and the flora of Madagascar. I have an ongoing interest in stratigraphic palynology, paleoecology, the application of paleobotany and palynology to archeology, ethnobotany, aerobiology (airborne particles and public health). I believe my broad interests in palynology will help me serve the broad membership of AASP-The Palynological Society.

In addition to my academic interests, I played baseball at Arizona State University, I participate in a variety of sports, and outdoor activities, I enjoy travel, and I am an instrument-rated private pilot.

### Dr. Ian Harding



A palynologist/palaeoceanographer at the School of Ocean & Earth Science in the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton, England, I've just calculated with some horror that I will have had 30 years experience (really, that many?!) in Mesozoic-Cenozoic palynology! More recently my work has concentrating on integrated palaeoceanographic studies of mid and high northern latitude Cenozoic palynology. From systematic and taxonomic studies, my work is now mainly concentrated in developing dinocysts and other palynological parameters as palaeoceanographic proxies by integrating them with sedimentological and geochemical proxies.

I was awarded my Bachelor's degree in Geology by the University of Nottingham, little knowing I would be following another of that university's number (the late Bill Sarjeant) into the field of palynology. After some three years staring at a SEM monitor examining Early Cretaceous dinocysts from N.W. Europe, I was awarded a PhD from the University of Cambridge, studying under the late Norman Hughes. Appointed to a lectureship at Southampton in 1989, I co-developed a

Masters programme in Micropalaeontology, and have supervised PhD students in subjects as diverse as Jurassic acritarchs of NW Europe, the PETM in the North Sea/Faeroes-Shetland Basin, and the Eocene of the Norwegian-Greenland Sea. A Senior Lecturer in Palaeontology at Southampton since 2001, I am also a Visiting Professor at Jilin University, Changchun, China, and was Chair of the Palynology Group of The Micropalaeontological Society in the UK from 2005-2009, and represented that society on the council of the IFPS. Most recently, in March, I co-organised a meeting in Tromsø, Norway with Cathy Stickley ('Cretaceous-Paleogene palaeoenvironments, tectonics and biostratigraphy of the Arctic and subarctic') and helped facilitate the 4th Joint Meeting of the Silicofossil and Palynology groups of TMS at the same location.

## Dr. Debra Willard

Debra Willard is a palynologist/paleoecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Reston, Virginia. She has over 20 years experience in Paleozoic, Cenozoic, and Holocene palynology and paleobotany. She began her palynological career as an undergraduate at Penn State with Alfred Traverse and did her graduate work with Tom Phillips at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. There, she used palynomorphs and plant megafossils for paleoecological analyses of Carboniferous coals and clastic units of the Illinois Basin. Her postdoctoral work at the Smithsonian Institution combined systematic analysis of lepidodendrid lycopsids with palynological analyses of late Paleozoic clastic deposits from the southwestern United States. Since joining the U.S. Geological Survey, her research has applied palynological methods to a range of topics: reconstructing mid-Pliocene vegetation; documenting responses of eastern U.S. vegetation to late Holocene climate fluctuations and human-induced changes in land cover and hydrology; calibrating surface pollen assemblages with source vegetation and environmental parameters; compiling pollen atlases from eastern U.S. wetlands; analyzing Cenozoic pollen records from the ACEX core

collected near the North Pole in 2004; and evaluating the palynological signature from high-resolution Paleocene-Eocene pollen records from the Arctic and eastern United States. Her research program relies on integration of palynological data with other proxies from terrestrial, estuarine, and marine settings to document and quantify the response of terrestrial ecosystems to natural climate variability, to evaluate impacts of anthropogenic changes, and to predict future ecosystem responses to different climate and environmental restoration scenarios.



## Dr. Stijn de Schepper



Stijn was introduced to palynology – Silurian chitinozoans at first, later dinoflagellate cysts – during his MSc studies at the University of Ghent and

(2003), which made it possible to attend the AASP meeting in St. Catharines and visit the ODP's East Coast Repository for sampling.

From 2006 to 2011, he was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Bremen, Germany, where he combined dinoflagellate cyst research with geochemical proxies of planktonic foraminifers. This technique was used to investigate the Pliocene palaeoceanography of the North Atlantic and the (palaeo-)ecology of dinoflagellate cysts.

Since April 2011, Stijn is a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Earth Science, University of Bergen, Norway. While in Bergen, he will return to "his roots" in biostratigraphy when working on the Pliocene palynology of the Bering Sea and on a collaborative project with Statoil to improve the stratigraphical framework of the Neogene Utsira Formation, a geological reservoir used for CO<sub>2</sub> storage in the North Sea.

Université de Liège in Belgium.

He went to work with Martin J. Head at the University of Cambridge, UK, where he obtained his PhD degree in 2006 with a thesis on Pliocene and Pleistocene North Atlantic and North Sea dinoflagellate cyst biostratigraphy and palaeoecology. During his PhD, he was supported by an AASP Student Scholarship





**Dr. Rebecca Tedford**

Rebecca Tedford is a palynomorph biostratigrapher for the Gulf of Mexico New Well Deleivery team at British Petroleum based in Houston, Texas.

Rebecca received her B.S. degree in Geology (2001) from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. She then traveled to the cold mid-west where she received her M.S. degree in Geology (2003) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research focused on the stable isotopic stratigraphy and foraminiferal biostratigraphy during the latest Miocene Stable Isotope event (~7.7 Ma).

After completing M.S. degree, she embarked on a journey into the world of palynology, returning to Louisiana

State University to start a Ph.D. with Dr. John Wrenn. John not only introduced her to palynology, but together they explored the fascinating world of silicious plant microfossils, phytoliths. In addition, working with John enabled her to become familiar with the extensive wealth of resources available at the Center for Excellence in Palynology (CENEX). Her research involved a multidisciplinary approach (i.e. pollen, phytoliths, MS, and stable isotopes) to investigating the latest Holocene vegetational and hydrological changes documented at Catahoula Lake, Louisiana.

During her Ph.D. she interned as a palynomorph biostratigrapher at BP in 2008, where she received training and exposure to gulf coast Cenozoic dinoflagellates, spores, and pollen. Upon completing her Ph.D. in 2009, under the advisement of Drs. Sophie Warny and Brooks Ellwood, she began her career at BP, working in Gulf of Mexico Exploration.

Rebecca has been a member of AASP since 2005. She is extremely honored by the nomination for the AASP director-at-large position and looks forward to the possibility of serving the palynological community.



**Dr. Jean Nicolas Haas**

I'm currently working at the Institute of Botany of the University of Innsbruck, Austria, as a professor for Botany and Paleoecology (Unit of Plant Evolution and Diversity, Research

Group Palynology and Archaeobotany, <http://www.uibk.ac.at/botany/index.html.en>).

As a Swiss working in Austria I'm very much connected with North American Palynology since my field studies on aquatic plants throughout the USA and Canada in summer 1994 and through my post-doctoral work (1997-1999) at the Prof. J.H. McAndrews laboratories in Toronto, Canada. Subsequently I became IFPS-councilor for the Canadian Association of Palynologists (CAP; 2004-2012). Since 2008 I'm also acting as an officer of IFPS and as newsletter editor of 'PALYNOS'.

Concerning my research and teaching interests, I'm

focusing on Northern Hemisphere phytodiversity changes during the Quaternary in relation to climatic and anthropogenic impact. Apart from pollen, spores and macrofossils my special interests extend to the so-called 'non pollen palynomorphs', i.e. cysts from snow algae, spores from coprophilous fungi, cyanobacteria, oocytes from Neorhabdocoela worms etc., which are receiving increasing attention from palynologists worldwide in order to characterize local environments and biodiversity during the Quaternary. Current research projects run in connection with botanists, dendrochronologists, archaeologists, sedimentologists, geologists, glaciologists, geographers and zoologists deal with – among others – the history of Holocene snow avalanches and their impact on subalpine vegetation in Tyrol (Austria), Holocene climatic and environmental catastrophes (e.g. the *Tsuga canadensis* decline 5700 years ago) in southern Ontario (Canada), environmental impact of Neolithic and Bronze Age pile-dwellers in Switzerland, Northern Italy and Poland, Holocene aquatic plant growth and immigration in western Ireland, as well as with the local flora of the Eemian/Sangamonian Interglacial stratigraphies at Hollerup (Denmark) and Fernbank (New York, USA).



## Society Awards: A summary

### By Martin Farley

AASP has a number of awards that recognize accomplishments of palynologists. In this article, I want to remind the membership about these awards to ensure that deserving palynologists are nominated for them. I will deal only with awards not directly associated with society officers (that is, I omit Presidential Service, Director-at-large Service; Board of Directors Award) or presentations at the Annual Meeting.

### Distinguished Service Award

This award recognizes individuals who have generously supported the society with their work and resources over a number of years and whose efforts have advanced the society. Typically, recipients have held society office, participated in committees, or dealt with publications or meetings. There have been 16 recipients of this award, most recently Tom Demchuk in 2009.

### Honorary Life Membership

This is actually the oldest AASP award with the first awards dating to 1975. This award is given either to people making fundamental contributions to the science of palynology or people who have given the AASP devoted service or both. Honorary Life Membership has been awarded to twelve individuals, most recently to Vaughn Bryant and Alfred Traverse in 2005.

### Medal for Excellence in Education

This medal recognizes leaders in palynological instruction. Nominees are expected to have considerable experience and accomplishment in all aspects of academic education involving palynology, including training of new scientists for the field. The medal has been awarded three times, most recently to Bill Evitt in 2006.

### Medal for Scientific Excellence

The society's highest award for achievement in the science of palynology is the Medal for Scientific Excellence. The official description lists "fundamental contributions to the development of the science of palynology" as the main criterion. Recipients should have a substantial research history in the field. The medal has been awarded ten times in the history of the society, most recently to Satish K. Srivastava in 2006.

### Awards Procedures

While the basic nomination procedure is similar for most awards (letters of nomination and support, documentation of accomplishment) and there is an annual deadline of March 1 for submission to the Awards Committee, details on the procedures for each award can be found at <http://www.palynology.org/content/awardproced.html>, while a complete list of the people who have received these awards in the past can be found on the second page of this newsletter.

### Student Travel Support

AASP will now have an emended approach to student travel support. In the past, the Society supported travel to the Annual Meeting and other meetings the Board selected for funding. The Society will still have an annual opportunity for the Annual Meeting. In addition, we will have an opportunity for students to request support for any meeting at which they are presenting their palynological results. This opportunity, which will allow more flexibility for student support, will occur once per year. Total amounts of support will be determined by the Board on an annual basis. Details of how these travel support opportunities work are outlined below:

**Annual Meeting**—Application materials will be due about June 1 for each year's meeting.

**Other meetings**—Application materials for these will be due December 1 for all meetings in the following calendar year. Thus, the first deadline will be December 1, 2011 for all meetings in 2012.

The application for both kinds of travel awards can be summarized as follows: 1) one paragraph justification for the request plus the abstract submitted for the presentation (or a description of the research to be presented); 2) outline of the requested amount and how the funds would be used; 3) applicant's email address; 4) all of these to be forwarded by the applicant's advisor who includes a brief explanation of how attendance at this particular meeting will benefit the student. Exact details will be specified in reminders in future newsletters and in emails sent by the Secretary-Treasurer to the membership.

## CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to board member Dr. Jennifer M.K. O'Keefe, Department of Earth and Space Sciences, Morehead State University in Kentucky for getting tenure!

Great job Jen!

Congratulations to president Paul Strother for having his research featured in Nature!

### **BC Scientist's Fossil Discovery May Indicate Life on Land Evolved Earlier than Thought**

CHESTNUT HILL, Mass. (April 2011) – Eukaryotes that evolved on land may have emerged from the sea earlier than previously thought, Earth and Environmental Science researcher Paul K. Strother and his colleagues report in a paper published online in Nature this week.

Strother, a research professor in paleobotany at BC's Weston Observatory, and colleagues describe complex microfossils found in billion year-old rocks from the Torridonian sequence in northwest Scotland.

These diverse microfossils include mostly simple single-celled organisms, but do include some rare multicellular structures with organic walls that measure up to one millimeter long. The team reports that these simple eukaryotes lived in ancient lakes that periodically dried out, exposing life directly to the atmosphere. This discovery places eukaryotes in freshwater settings approximately 500 million years earlier than previously thought.

Life probably originated in the sea more than three billion years ago; however, the first signs of life on land are less well-defined. The identification of eukaryotes in non-marine settings described by Strother's team indicates that eukaryotic evolution on land may have commenced much earlier than previously thought.

"We tend to think of evolution as originating out of the sea, but it could have come from land,"

said Strother. "We can take more seriously the idea that life had occupied terrestrial habitats much earlier than we thought previously and that it was much more a cradle of evolutionary novelty than the oceans were."

In addition to Strother, other researchers involved in the project include Leila Battison and Martin Brasier of the University of Oxford, and Charles H. Wellman, of the University of

Sheffield. Funding from NASA's Exobiology Program supported the team's research.

-- Ed Hayward, an associate director in the Office of News & Public Affairs (ed.hayward@bc.edu).



## PAST IN PICTURES

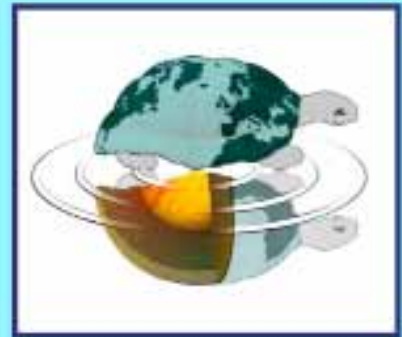
Raymond "Ray" Christopher boards the bus for the trip to the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, October 14, 1990 at the Banff, Alberta, AASP Annual Meeting.

Photo: D.M. Jarzen.



**Scuola di Dottorato  
TERRA, AMBIENTE, BIODIVERSITA'**

Corso di Dottorato in Scienze della Terra



Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra "Ardito Desio"  
Visiting Professors 2010-11

**Milano - June 20-24, 2011**

A Four-day course by **M. H. Stephenson** on

**Applied Palynology for the oil industry**

- The anatomy of spores, pollen, acritarchs and dinoflagellates
- Main trends in palynomorphs
- Palaeozoic palynology and its use in the Middle East
- Mesozoic palynology and the North Sea
- Cenozoic palynology



Course Tutor: Prof. M H Stephenson (Head of Science,  
British Geological Survey; Editor-in-Chief, Review of  
Palaeobotany and Palynology, and experienced  
commercial palynologist  
(mhste@bgs.ac.uk)

**Contact Person in Milano: Prof.ssa Lucia Angiolini**  
**lucia.angiolini@unimi.it**



The Society for Organic Petrology  
28th Annual Meeting

Theme: 21st Century Energy Resources and Petroleum Systems

July 31- August 4 - Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada



TSOP



TSOP is an international society for scientists and engineers involved with coal petrology, kerogen petrology, organic chemistry and related disciplines

## ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada  
World Trade and Convention Center

July 31 - August 4, 2011

Conference Theme:

Energy Resources and Petroleum Systems in the 21st Century

Short Course: Geochemistry, maturation, and petroleum system modelling related to shale gas resource evaluation

Field trip to Joggins Fossil Cliffs and shale gas evaluation  
in the Elgin and Moncton subbasins

TECHNICAL PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS, GENERAL INQUIRIES AND REGISTRATION

Prasanta Mukhopadhyay  
[muki@global-geoenergy.com](mailto:muki@global-geoenergy.com)

or

Mike Avery  
[mavery@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:mavery@nrcan.gc.ca)

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**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 30, 2011**

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Meeting and abstract submission details:

<http://www.tsop.org/2011Halifax>

TSOP: [www.tsop.org](http://www.tsop.org)

TSOP student research grant  
(deadline May 16, 2010)

# Job Opportunities



The Université catholique de Louvain (Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium) is seeking 1 postdoctoral climate scientist for palaeoclimate modelling.

## Profile

The candidate holds a PhD in sciences and with an orientation in climatology, atmospheric or oceanic sciences, and a pronounced interest for palaeoclimates. Previous experience of running large computer codes

and model output postprocessing and visualisation is necessary. Previous experience on palaeoclimates and palaeoclimate data is desirable.

The candidate has a good knowledge of Fortran, Unix environment and shell-scripting. The candidate has a good knowledge of English.

## Job description

Duties are carried out under the responsibility of Andre Berger (<http://www.climate.be/u/berger>) in the context of the European Research Council Advanced Grant 'EMIS' (An Intense Summer Monsoon in a Cool World, Climate and East Asian monsoon during interglacials with a special emphasis on the Interglacials 500,000 years ago and before, for more information <http://www.climate.be/modx/index.php?id=84>).

The candidate will investigate the climate response to the astronomical, greenhouse gas concentrations and ice sheets forcings for the interglacials of the past 800,000 years. A particular attention will be paid on

the tropical monsoon systems and their interactions with the other components of the climate system. The methodology relies on plans of experiments with general circulation model(s).

## Career opportunities

The candidate will be employed on fix-term contract. European Research Council projects are high-profile initiatives with the ambition of developing a growing research agenda and environment, proper to provide a stimulating working environment to the candidate for several years at least.

## Environment

The candidate will be formally employed by the Université catholique de Louvain <http://www.ucl.ac.be>, within the 'Georges Lemaître Centre for Earth and Climate Research'.

This institute is a sought-after centre of excellence with a particular expertise in the astronomical theory of paleoclimates and in the development of Earth system models of intermediate complexity. The candidate will also benefit from close collaboration with a team involved in another ERC grant ITOP (Integrating Theory and Observations over the Pleistocene, <http://www.astr.ucl.ac.be/wiki/itop/>).

The Centre is located in the multi-cultural town of Louvain-la-Neuve, approximately 35 km South of Brussels in Belgium. The most common language in town and in the University is French but English is fluently used. Candidates may apply with a CV, motivation letter, and names of 3 potential referees at their earliest convenience to [andre.berger@uclouvain](mailto:andre.berger@uclouvain).



The RPS Group is a planning and development, energy resources and environmental consultancy with over 3,200 staff worldwide. RPS Energy is a multi-disciplinary consultancy, providing Technical, Commercial and Project Management Support services in the fields of operations, geoscience, engineering and HS&E to the energy sector worldwide.

RPS employ enthusiastic, talented staff with a unique blend of skills and experience that enables them to provide reliable and practical advice.

Currently we are recruiting for Palynologists and Mircopalaontologists across all levels of seniority to be based within our UK and Scottish offices.

For more detailed information on the above roles and similar then please contact me on [searlen@rpsgroup.com](mailto:searlen@rpsgroup.com) or alternatively see the full job description at [www.joinrps.com](http://www.joinrps.com).

## Denison Estate Gift to Benefit Palynology Center

Denison Estate Gift to Benefit Palynology Center

Chris and Kathy Denison of Houston, Texas, have pledged ten percent of their estate to the LSU Center for Excellence in Palynology (CENEX).



Chris Denison is a graduate of the University of Sheffield. He will soon retire, after 24 years with Chevron, initially as a palynologist, and for the past ten years as a stratigrapher interpreting sedimentologic and biostratigraphic datasets for exploration and production projects worldwide. His involvement with AASP began in the early 1980s. He served as president of the organization in 1999. Prior to joining Chevron, Denison worked as a palynologist with Robertson Research in North Wales and Houston, Texas.

"CENEX has had a long and tortured history fundraising through downturns in the industry. But there is tremendous good will toward CENEX in the palynology community," said Denison. Kathy and I are happy to be able to support CENEX through our estate. The process was painless."

CENEX has been a primary focus of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists (AASP) and gifts from the organization and its members like the Denisons has helped to create a steady stream of support for the center.

**LSU AND CENEX THANK CHRIS DENISON (1999 AASP PRESIDENT)  
FOR HIS GENEROUS DONATION!**

## AASP SESSIONS SUBMITTED AT GSA!



### 1) Phanerozoic Palynology: Applications to Stratigraphic, Paleoenvironmental, and Paleoclimatic Research

Session Type: Oral Francisca Oboh-Ikuenobe (Missouri University of Science and Technology), Lanny Fisk (PaleoResource), Debra Willard (U.S. Geological Survey). This session focuses on studies of Cambrian to Holocene sedimentary sequences, which use palynology as a proxy for biostratigraphy, paleoecology, paleoenvironmental reconstruction, and paleoclimatology.

### 2) New Horizons in Precambrian Palynology and Paleobiology

This session is sponsored by AASP-The Palynological Society, The Paleontological Society and GSA Division of Geobiology and Geomicrobiology. The session host is Paul Strother (Boston College).

### 3) From organic detritus to coal: Tracing the terrestrial decomposer community in permineralized peat, lignite and coal

In this session, we will evaluate processes and rates of terrestrial decomposition recorded in permineralized peat and coal, and investigate ways to link the paleoecological record of terrestrial decomposition in permineralized peat and coal.

This session was submitted by Anne Raymond (Texas A&M University) and Jen O'Keefe (Morehead State University).



## AASP-The Palynology Society 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting - Southampton September 4-7, 2011



**Sunday September 4<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
National Oceanography Centre, University of Southampton, England**

**Conference website: [www.southampton.ac.uk/aasp2011](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/aasp2011)**

This year's AASP Annual Meeting will be held at the National Oceanography Centre, University of Southampton, England, and will be a joint meeting with *The Palynology Group* of *The Micropalaeontological Society*. The National Oceanography Centre, a collaboration between the Natural Environment Research Council and the University of Southampton is the largest institution of its kind in Europe, a £50m purpose-built centre which opened in 1995.

Southampton is located centrally on the south coast of England, and is within easy reach of both Heathrow and Gatwick airports (both around an hour and a half away). Southampton Airport ([www.southamptonairport.com](http://www.southamptonairport.com)) is a hub for the European regional airline Flybe ([www.flybe.com](http://www.flybe.com)), with direct connections to many European Cities. The city is just over an hour from London by train and the Eurostar Terminal from Europe.

The AASP meeting will run consecutively after *Dino 9* at the University of Liverpool (<http://pcwww.liv.ac.uk/~dino9>).

**Costs (in UK pounds sterling):** pre-registration will be £75, students £45. On-site registration will be £125, students £75.

Delegates will be responsible for booking their own accommodation for the conference, from the selection of student residences, hotels, etc., listed on the conference website.

**Deadlines:** for pre-registration, abstract submission and field trip bookings - 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011. Online pre-registration, abstract submission and fieldtrip booking will be available by the beginning of April 2011.



**Technical Sessions.** The two day technical program (Monday 5<sup>th</sup>- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September) will accommodate more than 60 talks (in two concurrent sessions), including keynotes. Two themed sessions are currently planned, and suggestions for additional sessions are welcomed:

1. Industrial applications of palynology
2. Palaeozoic palynology symposium

Poster sessions will be convened during tea and coffee breaks.

**Ice-breaker, Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September:** there will be a pre-conference welcome reception with refreshments and nibbles, followed by a keynote invited lecture.

**Conference dinner, Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September.**

The conference dinner will take place on board *HMS Warrior*, the second and largest iron-clad warship in the world, commissioned in 1861, and now berthed at Portsmouth Historic Naval Dockyard ([www.hmswarrior.org](http://www.hmswarrior.org)).

After being piped aboard and welcomed with a tot of rum, delegates will have dinner on tables placed between the cannon on the gundeck. There may be an opportunity to visit the *Mary Rose* Museum (Henry VIII's flagship raised from beneath the Solent) prior to the meal.

**AASP Business Luncheon:** this will take place on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September at a local restaurant, and will cost approximately £20.



**Field Trips.** Two field trips are planned:

**Field trip 1.** Pre-conference: Isle of Wight, Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September. This trip will visit classic areas of English geology, ranging from non-marine Wealden (Cretaceous: Hauterivian/Barremian, which has yielded some of the earliest well-dated angiosperm pollen), through the marine middle Cretaceous (e.g. Atherfield Clay), to the Chalk and into the Paleogene succession of Whitecliff Bay (left: Eocene-Oligocene). These successions have been extensively studied in terms of their palynology.



Costs will be about £40, inclusive of transport, lunch and entrance fee to the *Sandown Dinosaur Museum*.



**Field Trip 2.** Post-conference: UNESCO World Heritage Jurassic Coast of Dorset (see picture above), Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

This trip will take in the world-famous localities of Lulworth Cove and Stair Hole, developed in Upper Jurassic to Upper Cretaceous sediments and including the Lulworth Fossil Forest. Other localities to be visited will include Kimmeridge Bay (above), the type locality of the Kimmeridgian Stage, and the Middle Jurassic of Osmington Mills.

Costs will be about £40, inclusive of transport and lunch.

### **The host city: Southampton**

The city of Southampton has a long involvement with the sea, as both the *Titanic* and the D-Day armada sailed from here.

Even today the arrival of a cruise liner like *Queen Mary II* is a noteworthy local event. The city is big on history – you can walk around the beautifully preserved Norman city walls which date from the 1100's – or visit the Archaeology or Maritime museums, the Tudor House Museum, or the Solent Sky aircraft museum (the Spitfire, the most famous World War two fighter aircraft was designed and first flew in Southampton, and many flying boats were also built here). There are two trails around the city which visit places of historic importance related to the *Titanic* and to Jane Austen, who resided in Southampton from 1807-9. (For more information visit [www.visit-southampton.co.uk](http://www.visit-southampton.co.uk)).



After the conference you might also wish to explore the nearby Hampshire villages, the New Forest (where William II was murdered in 1100), or the historic cathedral cities of Salisbury (close to Stonehenge) and Winchester (former capital of England) only a few minutes drive away.

**For more information, visit:**  
**[www.visit-hampshire.co.uk](http://www.visit-hampshire.co.uk)**

For more information, contact:  
John Marshall ([jeam@noc.soton.ac.uk](mailto:jeam@noc.soton.ac.uk))  
or  
Ian Harding ([ich@noc.soton.ac.uk](mailto:ich@noc.soton.ac.uk))

