

# AASP- THE PALYNOLOGICAL SOCIETY



*Acacia hirta* pollen  
by Shannon Ferguson, CENEX, LSU

## NEWSLETTER



**December 2012**  
**Volume 45, Number 4**



# AASP-TPS NEWSLETTER

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Published Quarterly by AASP - The Palynological Society

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## December 2012 Volume 45, Number 4

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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)  
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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)  
Professor Owen K. Davis (awarded 2005)  
Dr. Thomas Demchuk (awarded 2009)



# AASP-TPS NEWSLETTER

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Sophie Warny, Editor

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The AASP-TPS 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. 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 submission for the next issue of the newsletter is **February 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

### Youthful enthusiasm...

This is an entire rewrite of the first version of my President's Letter for this Newsletter, as clearly when I set fingers-to-keyboard yesterday I was in a rather gloomy mood, and today I have awoken wanting to produce something entirely more uplifting for you to peruse! In this iteration I have decided to reflect on the new-found enthusiasm for our subject that I and fellow academics constantly find in those we teach at a variety of attainment levels, something that it is becoming all too difficult to encourage in meaningful ways, sustain and reward over the longer term.

Here at Southampton, as in all academic institutions, we have for many years placed a great deal of emphasis on the future employability of our undergraduate cohort, and one of the other "hats" I wear (aside from the ones I wear as official *curricula vitae* mentor and unofficial c.v. proof-reader!) is to convey the importance of relevant work experience prior to seeking gainful employ in the Big Bad World. There is no doubt that the benefits of being able to demonstrate the acquisition of such experience has become clear in the minds of our students, and thus we are in the fortunate position of having a regular 'supply' of undergraduate students wishing to acquire some knowledge of micropalaeontological protocols – and they are now frequently requesting practical experience in our palynology labs on an entirely voluntary basis. We have also been fortunate to have captured the occasional undergraduate student research bursary in national competitions, and indeed I had one high-flying student, Alex, secure one such award this summer. Although the fund only covered a small 'salary' for the student, I was able to piggy-back some palynological fieldwork to southern Spain on the back of a trip I was also undertaking in the same region as part of a teaching project. Having gone armed with published papers and Google Earth print-outs indicating the location of this particular locality, we were astonished to discover that we simply could not locate the section from where the samples had been taken...

Finally, two hours later - and after a few choice phrases! - the realisation dawned that the published locality map was hopelessly inaccurate. After traipsing through what seemed like countless dry valleys in the approximate area, we identified the rogue locality: from a relatively poor photograph of the said section in the paper! So, the point of my anecdote? When seeing the joy on Alex's face when we finally found the section, and his delight in pointing out the short-comings in the published paper, it dawned on me that this had been an unintentional but very graphic way of bringing home to an undergraduate student the need to provide robust and comprehensive documentation of your science – especially if it goes on to be published! Some animated discussions

then ensued about where the responsibilities for ensuring such basic information was documented – which provided him with an additional insight into the process of peer review and the role of editors. Whilst Alex already had a meticulous approach to the documentation of his field observations, he became even more careful to record anything he felt might be of importance in locating any of the sites we subsequently visited! A lesson well learned...

I have also been in the fortunate position of having a ready stream of enthusiastic and talented undergraduates entering their final (4<sup>th</sup>) year of study wishing to undertake independent research projects with a palynological bent, the roll call being around three per year (this project comprising some 40% of their final year marks). It is a straightforward matter to train these individuals up to collect palynofacies data – and constantly rewarding to see the 'light bulbs' go on when they can work through their own datasets and derive robust interpretations of what these data are showing them. However, unlike foram and nannofossil workers, this type of research project is often limited in scope, due to restricted funding made available by the department per project (in our case £150/\$240 is available to cover the entire project's costs), meaning that the amount of processing/number of samples has to be tightly constrained, and accompanying



Alex helping out with the virtual fieldtrip project in southern Spain



stable isotopic analyses are often simply unaffordable. Whilst this does provide excellent training in constructing and working to strict budgets for the students concerned, it also necessarily restricts the scope of the research they are able to complete. These constraints might seem ridiculous to those used to budgets on an entirely different scale in industry, it does perhaps provide some perspective as to the boundaries within which academia has to work!

However, undeterred by such matters, many of these undergraduate project students at Southampton and at other institutions produce work of the highest standards - and if I might be permitted to 'crow' a little, one of my project students from last year, Joe, was one of three European undergraduates shortlisted for the very prestigious Young Earth Scientist of the Year at the Science Engineering and Technology (SET) Awards, proving that even at undergraduate level, applied palynology can attract recognition on the national and international stage. However, despite Joe's enthusiasm for his project work he has chosen a career in the offshore geoengineering sector, being snapped up by Fugro before he had graduated. Indeed, how many of the some dozen palynology project students John Marshall and I have supervised in the last three years have gone on to pursue palynology after their first degree? None. Not one. Zip. Ziltch. This is a problem I know from conversations that we in academia share, and it highlights another real issue our subject faces - how to retain individuals to PhD and post-doctoral level, a problem which I touched upon in my first President's letter.

Ultimately for there to be a continued development of not just the "next generation" of palynology doctoral students, but for the subject area to continue to develop into the foreseeable future, there is a need for new faculty members to be appointed in universities across the globe. Whilst there have been some very high profile people with palynological expertise appointed to faculty positions over the past few years, as a percentage of total faculty recruitment the number of appointments has been vanishingly small. To provide a recent example, of the perhaps 35 candidates applying for the two lectureship positions advertised in palaeoceanography at Southampton, there was only one candidate with a palynological background, regrettably at too early a career stage to compete with other applicants who had completed one or more post-docs/fellowships and had several papers published in the highest impact scientific literature (e.g., *Nature*, *Science*, etc.). The shortlisted candidates have delivered presentations on their research with great gusto and enthusiasm for their subject areas, but it was a great shame not to have a palynologist trumpet our subject.

The recruitment of new academics will continue to be driven by research output in high-impact journals and proven ability to capture grant income, on a global scale. Industry is obviously a very tempting route for many PhD graduates, especially with relatively few palynologists now being trained to this level (and especially tempting when they see they can start on higher salaries than their supervisors have reached after decades working in the academic sector!), and thus it makes it even more problematic to retain palynologists in academia long enough for them to develop their profiles to a level where they can be

considered for faculty positions. Whilst it is not quite true to say that academia will not employ palynologists in the future, it will only employ scientists who utilise palynology as an investigative methodology into the big-picture problems in wider fields of research. Several recent recruits into industry with whom I am acquainted had earlier professed a heartfelt desire to remain in academia, but the frustrations of trying to secure post-doctoral financial support swayed them away from such a course. Thus encouraging the enthusiasm of these individuals for their subject, and maintaining the continuity of palynological expertise within academia is a thorny issue with no easy solution.

On a positive note, and one which will hopefully be a boon to those students wanting to develop a career in academia, I would like to remind you of our intention to create the new position of Student Member on the AASP-TMS Board, as mentioned in the last issue of this Newsletter [v.45 (3): 11]. We hope this proposal will meet with the approval of members. Our intention is to provide the opportunity for the views of student members of AASP-TMS to be represented more effectively and directly by electing a student representative to serve as a voting member on the Board for the term of a year (and could serve for up to three consecutive terms). Thus the post is of equivalent status to that of Director at Large. In addition, we see this elected post as developing into a prestigious 'measure of esteem' to add to the curriculum vitae of an early career palynologist, providing evidence of their involvement and standing in the international palynological research community. We hope that this position will attract the interest of many high calibre students, and look forward to the contests for the post over the coming years.

Finally, I will end with a tale of when over-enthusiasm is anything but beneficial. I'd like to refer to this as another example of 'youthful enthusiasm', but I don't think I qualify for that particular adjective! As the second phase of the teaching grant I mentioned earlier, I was in the fortunate position of being able to tag along with our 3rd Year volcanology fieldcourse in November - as you can imagine a micropalaeontologist would never be top of the list to staff such a trip, but as the teaching project grant had been jointly awarded to the trip leader, I was invited along to collect some hi-resolution Gigapan photomosaic images for our project. I was more than enthused by the prospect, little did I know that two days into the 7-day trip my enthusiasm at entering my first lava tube would be my downfall... As the majority of students piled straight into a 4m high lava tube entrance, I held back with some three of the 55-strong group, examining the drip-structures left by the evacuating lava. Then satisfied, we strode into the dark insides of the tube, to see the rest of the group had scurried some 50m into the tube to where a crack in the roof was letting light stream in - without a further thought I pootled off after them, not letting my eyes adjust to the darkness and managing to completely miss the metre-diameter lump of basalt in the floor of the tube, and around which the path split. Let's just say that after a severely grazed thigh, cracked ribs and ten stitches in my shin later, I now know why they call volcanics "hard rock"! Enthusiasm is great - but in its rightful place!

Ian Harding

# Palynology Managing Editor's Report

Matthew Pound of Northumbria University, Newcastle, UK recently contacted me with an offer to join the editorial board of *Palynology*. Matt and I discussed the nature of this role, and it became clear that Matthew wishes to become more than a regular reviewer for the journal. Matthew informed me that he would be willing to take on a much more hands-on role, i.e. dealing with the wider editorial process. Editing the journal is an extremely time-consuming job, and I am really grateful for this offer. With the permission of the Board, I have offered Matthew the position of Assistant Editor and he has accepted. This is an informal role, and does not carry with it membership of the Board of Directors. Therefore there are no constitutional ramifications whatsoever for the Society. This situation has precedents; for example Managing Editor Dave Goodman had Michael Farabee and Len Ford as Assistant Editors. Matthew is a member of the Association, and has attended recent annual meetings. Matt and I will sort out who does what in the very near future. A biography of Matthew is included separately in this Newsletter.

I have recently finalised the 10 articles for the next part of *Palynology* (Volume 36, Part 2) which will be paper-published in early December. These articles are already available online, and are listed below. We already have seven further articles typeset, and which will be paper-published in Volume 37, Part 1 during June 2013. Again, these papers are listed below. By the time this Newsletter is issued, all seven papers should be available online. Additionally, we have several other manuscripts currently going through the editorial process.

The page budget for *Palynology* will be increased from 300 to 350 in 2013 and we hope that this will stimulate more submissions and help us to enhance the impact factor of the journal, which currently stands at 0.9.

The current point of contact at Taylor and Francis is the Managing Editor for Environment and Agriculture, James Cleaver (James.Cleaver@tandf.co.uk). James recently replaced Victoria Gardner who has taken a position in open access publishing with Taylor and Francis. We thank Vicky for her hard work and wish her well for the future.

As I reported in the last Newsletter, *AASP Contributions Series* numbers 45 and 46 are both now available. Both can be obtained from Production Editor Bob Clarke (RTClarke@aol.com) at a price of US\$20.00 (#45) and US\$30.00 (#46) plus shipping\*. They can be ordered via the website or directly from Vaughn M. Bryant Jr., Secretary AASP Foundation, c/o Palynology Laboratory, Department of Anthropology (TAMU 4352), Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843-4352, USA (tel.: 979-845-5255; fax: 979-845-4070; e-mail: [vbryant@neo.tamu.edu](mailto:vbryant@neo.tamu.edu)).

As ever, should you have any questions regarding the online manuscript submission system for *Palynology*, please contact Daniel Jones at Taylor and Francis (email: Daniel.Jones@tandf.co.uk), copying me in. If you need to speak to Daniel direct, his phone number is +44 (0)20337 73602.

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## PRICE DETAILS\*:

**Contributions 45: \$20 + \$5 for overseas shipping. No shipping charge for US address.**

**Contributions 46: \$30 + \$3 for US shipping and \$15 for overseas shipping (non-US address).**

## PALYNOLOGY VOLUME 36 PART 2

December 2012

List of papers to be paper-published compiled by J.B. RIDING

- 1 Jones, G.D. and Allen, K.C. Using *Amaranthus palmeri* pollen to mark captured tarnished plant bugs. 8 p.
- 2 Musotto, L.L., Bianchinotti, M.V. and Borromei, A.M. Pollen and fungal remains as environmental indicators in surface sediments of Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego, southernmost Patagonia. 18 p.
- 3 Mays, C.M. and Stilwell, J.D. Judging an acritarch by its cover: the taxonomic implications of *Introvertocystis rangiaotea* gen. et sp. nov. from the Late Cretaceous (Cenomanian-Turonian) of the Chatham Islands, New Zealand. 11 p.
- 4 Eisawi, A.A.M., Ibrahim, A.B., Rahim, O.B.A. and Schrank, E. Palynozonation of the Cretaceous to Lower Palaeogene strata of the Muglad Basin, Sudan. 17 p.
- 5 Bryant, V.M., Kampbell, S.M. and Hall, J.L. Tobacco pollen: archaeological and forensic applications. 16 p.
- 6 Riding, J.B., Pound, M.J., Hill, T.C.B., Stukins, S. and Feist-Burkhardt, S. The John Williams Index of Palaeopalynology. 10 p.
- 7 Warny, S., Jarzen, D.M., Evans, A., Hesp, P. and Bart, P. Environmental significance of abundant and diverse hornwort spores in a potential submerged Paleoindian site in the Gulf of Mexico. 19 p.
- 8 Lattar, E., Pire, S., Avanza, M.M. and Ferrucci, M.S. Pollen analysis in some species of Linaceae-Linoideae from Argentina. 10 p.
- 9 di Pasquo, M.M. and Grader, G.W. The palynology of the Lower Permian (Asselian-?Artinskian) Copacabana Formation of Apillapampa, Cochabamba, Bolivia. 12 p.
- 10 Galloway, J.M., Sweet, A.R., Pugh, A., Schröder-Adams, C.J., Swindles, G.T., Haggart, J.W. and Embry, A.F. Correlating middle Cretaceous palynological records from the Canadian High Arctic based on sections from the Sverdrup Basin and the Eclipse Trough. 25 p.

## PALYNOLOGY VOLUME 37 PART 1

June 2013

List of papers to be paper-published compiled by J.B. RIDING

- 1 Srivastava, S.K. and Braman, D.R. The palynostratigraphy of the Edmonton Group (Upper Cretaceous) of Alberta, Canada. 27 p.
- 2 Aguilera, F. and Ruiz Valenzuela, L. Time trend in the viability of pollen grains in the 'Picual' olive (*Olea europaea* L.) cultivar. 7 p.
- 3 Soliman, A., Feist-Burkhardt, S., Harzhauser, M., Kern, A.K. and Piller, W.E. *Mendicodinium mataschenensis*, a new endemic dinoflagellate cyst from the Late Miocene (Tortonian) of Lake Pannon, Austria. 12 p.
- 4 Lindström, S. A review of the enigmatic microalga *Tetranguladinium* Yu et al. 1983 ex Chen et al. 1988; palaeoecology, stratigraphy and palaeogeographical distribution. 14 p.
- 5 Candel, M.S., Borromei, A.M., Martínez, M.A. and Bujalesky, G. Palynofacies analysis of surface sediments from the Beagle Channel and its application as modern analogues for Holocene records of Tierra del Fuego, Argentina. 15 p.
- 6 de Jersey, N.J. and McKellar, J.L. The palynology of the Triassic-Jurassic transition in southeastern Queensland, Australia, and correlation with New Zealand. 38 p.
- 7 Langgut, D., Gadot, Y., Porat, N. and Lipschits, O. Fossil pollen reveals the secrets of Royal Persian Garden at Ramat Rahel (Jerusalem). 15 p.





## Let's meet the new Assistant Editor of Palynology



### *About me*

by Matthew Pound

Hello! As the new assistant editor of Palynology, I have been asked to introduce myself to the society. Many of you may have already met me at the 2010 or 2011 annual meetings, but I will give a brief (and it is brief!) résumé for the benefit of those who have not encountered me before. I graduated with a degree in geology in 2008 from the University of Bristol and after some dabbling with some vertebrate palaeontology, I began a PhD at the University of Leeds that was very kindly sponsored by the British Geological Survey. In the beginning the project was titled “Land cover in a warmer world”. I submitted my thesis in September 2012 and by the time you read this I should have successfully defended it (hopefully I haven’t jinxed proceedings by typing this!). Since February 2012 I have been a Research Assistant in Physical Geography at Northumbria University, Newcastle–Upon–Tyne. Upon submission my PhD thesis was titled Middle to Late Miocene terrestrial biota and climate. Within which I conducted a palynological study on the Brassington Formation, Derbyshire, UK. This important formation has been used to date the uplift of the Pennine Hills and the only datable material in the formation is pollen and spores. By comparison to the rest of northwest Europe we were able to refine an age of Late Miocene – Early Pliocene (11.61 – 3.6 Ma), to late Tortonian (9 – 7 Ma).

With this refined age the Brassington Formation flora could then be included in a database of published Miocene palaeobotanical data. This database has been used to reconstruct global vegetation, an important proxy for climate. It has also been combined with a climate and vegetation model to develop a hybrid global vegetation: the distribution of palaeobotanical data is not uniform in all regions and the model was used to fill these gaps. By combining data with a model a complete map of Tortonian vegetation has been created and can now be run through climate models to investigate what impacts the global biome reconstruction has on climate. Finally I looked at the biome preferences of Late Miocene mammals. It turned out that there is a high proportion of biome specialists in the Late Miocene (as there is today) and so I developed a co – occurrence technique to use mammals to reconstruct biomes in regions lacking palaeobotanical data. My current position at Northumbria University has me working on a couple of small grant projects. The first was to develop a map of Late Pliocene soils and lakes for climate models. The second project involves developing a global vegetation map across the Eocene – Oligocene boundary and working on some material, of the same age, from New Zealand. Finally, I would like to thank the board for welcoming me and giving me the opportunity to join Jim as an assistant editor of Palynology. This is a pleasure for me and I look forward to assisting for many years to come.



## A REMINDER... IMPORTANT BY-LAW CHANGE

The following changes to the by-laws are recommended by the Board in order to accommodate the addition of a new position, Student Member, which has been recommended by the Board. The recommended changes/additions to the text of the by-laws are indicated below in boldface type.

The original text reads:

**"4.02** The number of Directors shall be eleven...."

The revised text reads:

**"4.02** The number of Directors shall be **twelve (12)**,..."

The original text reads:

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

The revised text reads:

**"5.01** The officers of the corporation shall be a President, President-Elect, Past-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Managing Editor, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, **a student member**, and four (4) Directors-at-Large, all **twelve (12)** of whom shall be members of and constitute the Board of Directors."

The original text reads:

**"5.02** ...The Secretary-Treasurer, Managing Editor and Webmaster may succeed themselves in office."

The revised text reads:

**"5.02** ...The Secretary-Treasurer, Managing Editor, Webmaster, **Newsletter Editor** and **Student Member** may succeed themselves in office."

The following new text is recommended for insertion to follow Section 5.11:

### **Student Member**

**5.12 A Student Member of the Board shall be elected each year and serve a one year term as a voting member of the board. The Student Member must be enrolled in a degree program at a college or university as of the first day of January in the election year. The Student Member may serve up to three (3) consecutive terms on the board.**

### **Note:**

A ballot will follow later for you to record your objections or approval of these proposed changes.

# ATTENTION STUDENTS!



## **AASP Student Scholarships Applications Due March 31, 2013**

AASP Student Scholarships are awarded annually to support studies in palynology. These comprise two scholarships for US\$2000 each. 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 can be downloaded from our website at <http://www.palynology.org/content/scholar.html>

**AASP  
supports  
students!**

## **Advice on preparing an effective application for an AASP Student Scholarship**

The single most valuable piece of advice is “know and write to your audience.”

You have only a very limited space to describe your project, so use the words wisely. Writing briefly is more difficult than writing at length, but is worth the effort. Literature review should be at a minimum. Keep in mind that the Awards Committee does not know all the context for your project, and may not even have a closely related specialty in palynology. Thus it is important to write for this broader audience. It can be a good idea to show your text to someone who is not a palynologist or involved in the project to see if they understand your description well.

It is fine to have a project that integrates palynology with other data, but be sure to make clear what palynological work you will be performing. If there is prior palynological work, explain how your approach is new or different.

Application materials should be sent electronically to the Chair of the AASP Awards Committee:

Martin Farley  
Dept. of Geology & Geography  
University of North Carolina at Pembroke  
[mbfarley@sigmaxi.net](mailto:mbfarley@sigmaxi.net)

**Scholarship applications must arrive by  
email no later than March 31, 2013.**



# Pollen Counts Increasing at Rapid Rate Study Finds

Article modified by Dr. Lanny Fisk, based on press releases from the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology.

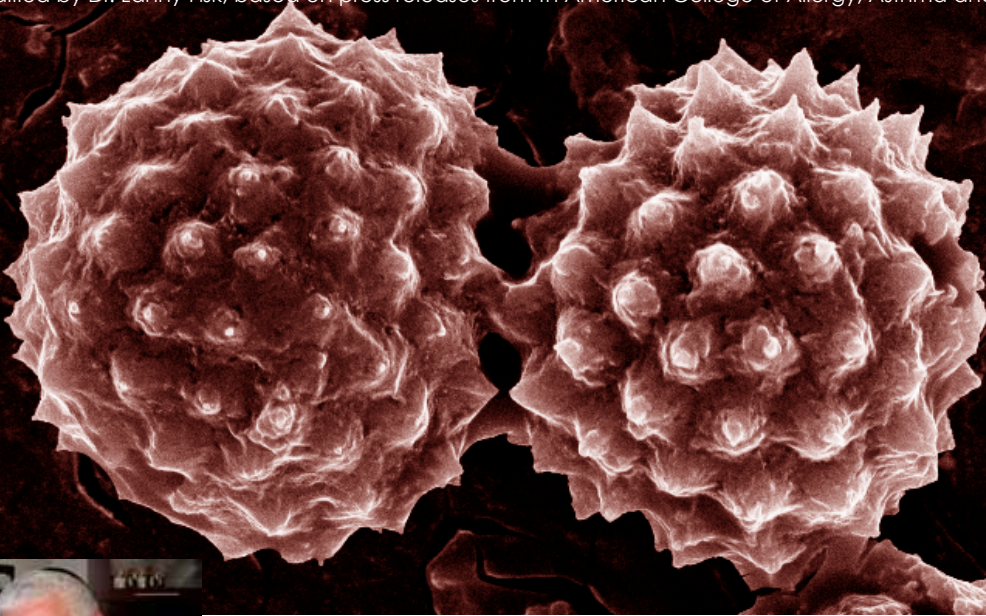


Photo by S. Warny, LSU



Allergist Dr. Leonard Bielory, MD, at his microscope in his research lab at Rutgers University.

According to research presented earlier this month at the annual meeting of the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI) in Anaheim, California, pollen counts, which averaged ~8,500 pollen grains per cubic meter of air in 2000, are expected to reach ~22,000 by 2040. As a

natural consequence, hay fever (also known as seasonal allergic rhinitis) likely will worsen, allergists say. Many people believe that 2012 has been the worst year for hay fever, but seasonal allergies will get far worse if the concentration of airborne pollen more than doubles over the next 28 years as the new study author predicts.

The study author Dr. Leonard Bielory, MD, a researcher at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, believes that the cause for the increase in pollen production is global warming, with longer growing seasons especially at more northern latitudes. "Climate changes will increase pollen production considerably in the near future," Bielory added. "Economic growth, global environment sustainability, temperature and human-induced changes, such as increased levels of carbon dioxide, are all responsible for the influx that will continue to be seen," he explained.

As global temperatures rise, the sneezing season will

begin earlier each year, the study author said. "In 2000, annual pollen production began on April 14 and peaked on May 1," Dr. Bielory said in the ACAAI news release. Based on the current rate of global warming, he predicts that by 2040 pollen levels will peak by April 8, three weeks earlier than at present.

Dr. Bielory's and others' research suggests that with global warming, nasal allergy during the ragweed pollen season – also called hay fever season – lasts up to three weeks longer than it used to, and the further north you live, the longer you have to wait for relief.

Research has found that the average concentration of ragweed pollen in the central United States from Texas to the Canadian border has significantly increased over the past 25 years. Considered the most allergenic of all pollen, ragweed appears in the eastern and Midwestern part of the United States starting in mid-August. One plant alone can produce up to one billion pollen grains, and individual pollen grains can travel more than 100 miles from their source.

During allergy season, people with hay fever should monitor pollen and mold spore counts, keep windows and doors shut at home, and keep car windows closed, the ACAAI suggests. Allergy sufferers should stay inside during mid-day and afternoon hours when pollen counts are highest, wear a mask when outdoors doing chores such as mowing the lawn, and take a shower, wash their hair and change their clothes after working or playing outdoors.





## 2012 Shell Lecture Series Workshop Rhodes University, South Africa

Article submitted by Dr. Annette E. Götz, Rhodes University

The Geology Department at Rhodes University, South Africa hosted the 2012 Shell Lecture Series Workshop *Applied Biostratigraphy in Exploration and Production*, November 12-16. Researchers and students from six South African universities, and industry representatives from South Africa, Namibia and Australia attended the one week workshop in Grahamstown, Eastern Cape.

The workshop was presented by Katrin Ruckwied (Shell), Iain Prince (Shell), and Annette E. Götz (Rhodes University) and the main emphasis was placed on palynology and palynofacies, but a short introduction was also given for all other microfossil groups. Lectures and microscopic exercises focussed on the different terrestrial and marine palynomorphs and their application in biostratigraphy. After an introduction to the different fossil groups, a one day exercise was carried out to familiarize the participants with data interpretation and standard biostratigraphic work flows during exploration.

Several case studies from the hydrocarbon industry were presented to demonstrate the different applications of biostratigraphy during exploration, appraisal and production in conventional and unconventional plays. A welcome reception and a workshop dinner contributed to the relaxed atmosphere of this event – not to forget to mention the famous Cape wines which inspired our discussions in the evenings!

South Africa for the first time hosted a Shell Lecture Series and Rhodes University will continue this successful series in the next years to broaden the education within its newly designed Exploration Geology Course Programme and to establish it as an inter-university course for entire Africa.

Photo caption:

Participants of the 2012 Shell Lecture Series Workshop *Applied Biostratigraphy in Exploration and Production* at Rhodes University, South Africa. Photo: G. Costin.



# NEWS, UPDATES AND FLASH BACK



## Congratulations to Jennifer O'Keefe:

Jen was recently elected as the 2<sup>nd</sup> vice chair of the GSA coal geology division. This position is a 5-year commitment that rotates through to chair and then down to the awards committee for a year.

## Palynostratigraphy and TS Creator:

A group met in Lexington at the Annual Meeting to discuss the relative paucity of palynostratigraphy in TS Creator ([www.tscreator.org](http://www.tscreator.org)). Briefly, TS Creator allows the user to plot timescales, chronostratigraphy, and calibrated biostratigraphies customized to your needs. An outgrowth of that meeting was a subsequent meeting at GSA between Jim Ogg, creator of TS Creator, and us to discuss what TS Creator now does in stratigraphy for various fossil groups and what paths to develop for increasing palynology available in TS Creator. We recognize that a larger group of palynologists would be interested in being informed of these discussions. If you are interested and are not already on the email list that has received communications, please email Martin Farley ([mbfarley@sigmaxi.net](mailto:mbfarley@sigmaxi.net)) to be added to the list to be informed of developments.



Martin B. Farley, Franca Oboh-Ikuenobe and Jen O'Keefe

## Death of Dr. John Albert Clendening:



It is sad to see that we have lost another one of us. I remember John very well. He was on the BOD while I was the editor and I remember he would run off all of our newsletters and send them out "courtesy" on his AMOCO account... this was before the internet age. Anyway, he was a good friend and a good Scot who loved to dress up in his Scottish outfit. He and I were the ones who first started the "Annual AASP Golf Tournament," which lasted a number of years and was attended by many AASP members. The first tournament was held in Halifax, NS during the AASP meeting. I don't remember when we played the last one, but many of the earlier attending members either died, quit AASP, retired, or gave up golf (with the exception of David Pocknall of course, who was one of the faithful who attended most of the tournaments and is an outstanding golfer.....much better than any of the AASP competition he encountered).

A message from Vaughn M. Bryant

## Past in Picture:

Dr. Miklós Kedves (1933 - 2004) at the IX International Palynological Congress, Houston, Texas, U.S.A., June, 1996.

Photograph by his close friend D.M. Jarzen.





# C.S.I. BATON ROUGE

**CENEX palynology class discuss the use of pollen at crime scene with New York forensic expert**

By Sophie Warny, Assistant Professor of Palynology and Curator (LSU)

The LSU GEOL 4012 class teaches basic facts and research projects about the main types of microfossils. Although the primary focus is on palynomorphs, we also review nanofossils, diatoms, radiolarians and foraminifers. For each microfossil type, we review the value of the fossils in biostratigraphy and in environmental studies. But one class focusses on the use of palynology in forensics. Thanks to Dr. Vaughn Bryant who shared some of his case studies with me, this class is one of the students' favorites.

This year, in addition to the lecture I gave, we had the chance to have the visit of two forensic experts. First, Andy Lawrence, a PhD student working with Vaughn Bryant at Texas A&M. Andy is also an employee of the Department of Homeland Security. And last week, the class ended on a high note when Mr. Edward W. Wallace Jr. flew from New York to meet the students, courtesy of the LSU Stephenson National Center for Security Research and Training (SNC-SRT). Thanks to this center, LSU is currently a leader in providing training on anti-terrorism and counter-terrorism techniques and regularly supports projects initiated by state and federal law enforcement agencies.

Ed Wallace has served the NYPD for over 20 years and retired April of 2004. During his tenure with the NYPD Mr. Wallace performed various law enforcement duties including, Uniformed Patrol, Plain Clothes Patrol, Training Officer, Crime Scene Investigator, and finally Counter Terrorism Investigator. Mr. Wallace held the coveted NYPD rank of Detective First Grade. Mr. Wallace spent 15 years in Crime Scene Investigations and investigated 2649 crime scenes including both World Trade Center attacks, the October 2001 anthrax attack, and has given testimony as a forensic expert in 393 trials. Mr. Wallace holds certifications in teaching, hazardous materials/weapons of mass destruction, fire investigations, post blast investigations, crime scene investigations, and homeland security. Mr. Wallace has over 26 years of experience as an instructor and has performed numerous training lectures, nationally and internationally, on arson investigations, post blast investigations, crime scene investigations, DNA/biological evidence recovery, WMD/

Haz-Mat, and latent fingerprints. Mr. Wallace finished his career with the NYPD as a member of the Counter Terrorism Bureau and upon his retirement from the NYPD, Mr. Wallace became the President of Finest Forensic Consultants, L.L.C., a company that provides expert consultations for forensics, crime scene investigation, counter terrorism investigations, evidence, WMD/Haz-Mat incident investigations and training in these areas. He has also co-authored two text books on crime scene investigations titled, Crime Scene Investigation, published by Lexis-Nexis Andersen and Practical Crime Scene Investigations for Hot Zones, published by CRC Press.

CENEX students want to thank Mr. Wallace and the Stephenson center for taking the time to share their expertise with the class and teaching them how to follow protocol when collecting pollen and other trace evidence at crime scenes.



Group picture: (second row) Marie Thomas, Kate Griener, Madison Kymes, Sophie Warny, Jason Krause, Jill Bambricks, David Pipkin, and Edward Wallace. (first row): Melissa Auburn, Tara Jonell, Eric Orphys and Corey Shircliff.

Top picture: CSI equipment reviewed during the class (photo: M. Thomas).

# The Micropalaeontological Society Annual General Meeting 2012

## Matthew Pound



This year's Micropalaeontological Society meeting was the first of a new breed of TMS AGMs. Previously the meetings were held for one day in London, with the exception of a visit to Leicester in 1972 to discuss "The Electron Microscope on Micropalaeontology" (Riding and Kender, 2012). With the backing of the committee, this year's AGM was held over three days and hosted at the British Geological Survey, Keyworth, UK.

The meeting began on the Sunday with a field trip to Charnwood Forest, which provided an opportunity to visit Ediacaran sediments and spot some of the famous *Charnia* fronds. The conference proper started on Monday and 75 delegates gathered in the new BGS conference facilities. The TMS committee met in the morning and for those not involved a tour of the BGS was highly recommended. In recent years (over the course of my PhD in fact!) the BGS has undergone a significant refurbishment. New buildings have been built, one of which even features an unconformity in the wall (planned, not some errant builder!), the core store has been expanded and a Geological Walk has been laid out. The BGS Geological Walk is a celebration of the finest geology the British Isles has to offer, condensed into a convenient 130 metre walk. From a Palaeoproterozoic Meta – anorthosite (formally a resident of the Outer Hebrides, Scotland) to a Cenozoic Sarsen sandstone from Wiltshire, a short stroll allows the viewing of some spectacular strata.

After lunch we were formally welcomed by John Luden, director of the BGS and then Mike Ellis (BGS Head of Science for Climate Change) issued a challenge to the community. His challenge was a simple one and related to climate change: For the community to communicate what we know about the past to a wider audience. With the gauntlet resting on the floor, the afternoon con-

tinued with a cornucopia of keynote speakers on the theme of "warmer worlds". First up was Alan Haywood (University of Leeds) who presented the current state of affairs on palaeoclimate modeling, data comparisons and direction for the future. The next speaker was Emanuela Mattioli (University of Lyon) who showed that the size of the calcareous nannoplankton *Schizosphaerella* evolved inversely with temperature. Jenny Pike (Cardiff University) showed the results of a study on diatoms and their use to reconstruct seasonal melt water discharge around Antarctica. The final, pre – coffee, speaker was Andy Purvis (Imperial College London) who presented the macroevolutionary and macroecological patterns of planktonic foraminifera across the Eocene – Oligocene boundary. After coffee, the final talk of the day came from Jörg Pross (Goethe University Frankfurt) who showed the results from the Early Eocene portion of IODP Site U1356.

The evening began with societal business. For those interested TMS is doing well, full details of which will be given in a future TMS Newsletter. The highlight of the business was, of course, the awards. Richard Aldridge (University of Leicester) won the prestigious Brady Medal for his substantial contributions to many areas of micropalaeontology. Tom Dunkley Jones (University of Birmingham) received the Alan Higgins award for his significant achievements early in his career. Finally Tracey Aze (Cardiff University) was presented with the best student paper award. With business done we were treated to an hour and a half of socializing and posters. Accompanied by a selection of ales (wine and non-alcoholic drinks were also available), I toured the 24 posters. Without extending this meeting report to ridiculous lengths, I will content myself with merely stating that all the posters were of an impressive stan-



dard both in terms of content and design. They covered every aspect of micropalaeontology and its wider uses in industry and academia. Just as I finished my second beer our hosts informed us that the conference dinner was to be served, once we had taken the short coach ride to the restaurant. The restaurant provided an excellent space and ambience for the evening to continue, whilst the large wine glasses (and ample provision of the liquid for them) kept the meeting in the highest spirits. With the last bottle drained and a good meal consumed we wandered out into the streets in the direction of the hotel. For many the night continued in the hotel bar, until smaller hours. Many made a more restrained choice and opted for beds.

The following morning many sore heads and gruff voices assembled on the coach for the short trip out to the BGS. The second session started with the last keynote speaker of the conference. Martine Hardy (ExxonMobil) gave the industrial keynote lecture on a recent study of a shale gas play in Poland. Showing how the integration of palynology and geochemistry had improved the understanding of an unconventional shale gas. The morning continued with an open session of short, sharp ten minute talks. Our first speaker was Haydon Bailey (Network Stratigraphic Consulting Ltd), who showed the value of microfossils to the hydrocarbon industry (more than \$2 billion a year for the North Sea, apparently! – Time for a pay rise?). Next, Vanessa Bowman (University of Leeds) presented evidence for Antarctic sea ice during the Late Cretaceous. Taniel Danelian (University of Lille) spoke about applying radiolarian biochronology to the ophiolite cover sediments in Armenia. Alice Kennedy (The Open University) presented some of her initial PhD findings on the Toarcian Oceanic Anoxic Event from the UK. The final speaker before the coffee break was Ben Kotrc (Harvard University) who spoke about the empirical morphospace of planktonic diatoms and how over the Cenozoic there has been morphological stasis.

After the coffee break Matthew Pound (Northumbria University) spoke about global Miocene vegetation and climate. Then Johan Renaudie (Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin) presented current research into high – resolution radiolarian stratigraphy for the Neogene around

Antarctica. Mike Rogerson (University of Hull) gave a talk about the post – mortem transport and sorting of benthic foraminifera. Ulrich Salzmann (Northumbria University) presented the Miocene vegetation and climate results from IODP Site U1356. Thomas Servais (University of Lille) showed abnormal acritarchs become more abundant leading to  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  excursions and asked others to keep an eye open for unusual morphologies. Deborah Wall-Palmer (Plymouth University) then presented the use of pteropods as a proxy for surface ocean carbonate concentrations during the Late Pleistocene. The penultimate talk was given by Geoff Warrington (University of Leicester) who provided an overview of Permian microspore records from the UK. The final presentation came

from Mark Williams (University of Leicester) who gave a talk about a recent collaboration with the archaeology department to investigate the provenance of Iron Age artefacts from Burrough Hill fort, Leicestershire. The meeting was then closed by the TMS president Paul Smith who thanked Jim and Sev for their hard work in organizing such a successful meeting. Sentiments I would like

to reiterate here as it was an excellent meeting, with an eclectic mix of talks from all areas of the field. This new breed of TMS meeting is a marvelous evolution and I would like to offer one final thought: Keep an eye open for next year's meeting and if you can attend, do!

Riding, J.B., Kender, S., 2012. The Micropalaeontological Society Annual General Meeting. Program of Abstracts.



Photo page 16: Ediacaran fossil genus *Charniodiscus* Ford 1958 from Memorial Crags, Bradgate Park, Leicestershire, UK (565 to 555 Ma old fossil).

Above: Participants at this famous locality taken on Sunday 11 November on the pre-conference field trip.

# *Do you want to:*

- learn more about what's the latest in palynological research?
- converse with your Dino10, CAP, and NAMS colleagues?
- enjoy a dinner cruise around San Francisco bay and under the Golden Gate Bridge?
- walk through majestic redwood forest?
- visit the famous Napa Valley wine country?

Then...



## *MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY!*

**46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
AASP – The Palynological Society  
San Francisco, U.S.A.  
October 20-24, 2013**





**46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**  
**AASP – The Palynological Society**  
**San Francisco, U.S.A.**  
**October 20-24, 2013**

The 46th annual meeting of AASP – The Palynological Society (AASP-TPS) will be a joint meeting with Dino 10, the Canadian Association of Palynologists (CAP), and the North American Micropaleontology Section of SEPM (NAMS). The meeting will be held in the Heart of San Francisco at the Hotel Whitcomb, which

has been chosen for its location, its historic elegance, its proximity to everything San Franciscan, and its excellent conference facilities. A large block of rooms has been reserved at the conference hotel, including a variety of comfortable, affordable individual rooms and suites. The hotel has guaranteed us the lowest rate available, not to exceed \$159/room/night.

San Francisco (SF) is located on beautiful San Francisco Bay in coastal central California on the west coast of the United States. SF is a tourist destination recognized worldwide with such major attractions as the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz Island, cable cars, beautiful beaches, redwood forests, Napa Valley wine country, etc. These popular features should help attract palynologists and their families from around the world to visit and maybe spend a few extra days vacationing in the Bay Area.

To take advantage of the excellent weather during early Fall, the meeting is scheduled for 20-24 October 2013 – 30 years to the week after the 16th annual meeting held in SF in 1983.

## **AGENDA**

**Sunday 20 October** – pre-meeting field trip to Napa Valley, Calistoga Petrified Forest, Muir Redwoods, Golden Gate Bridge, etc. Evening Ice-Breaker/ Welcoming Reception at the Hotel Whitcomb.

**Monday 21 October** – presentations/posters in the conference hotel. Walking tour of the San Francisco sights for spouses/guests. Evening Conference Dinner aboard a pleasure ship cruising San Francisco Bay.

**Tuesday 22 October** – presentations/posters in the conference hotel. Noon Business Luncheon at the conference hotel. Evening free.

**Wednesday 23 October** – presentations/posters in the conference hotel. Paleoclimate Symposium.

**Thursday 24 October** – post-meeting field trip from SF to either Sierra Nevada or Santa Cruz.

Questions or Suggestions? Contact Co-Chairpersons  
Lanny H. Fisk (Lanny@PaleoResource.com) or Joyce  
Lucas-Clark (jluclark@comcast.net)



# Hotel Whitcomb

## Historical Elegance and Venue for Our 2013 Annual Meeting



The 46th annual meeting of AASP – The Palynological Society (AASP-TPS), meeting jointly with Dino10, the Canadian Association of Palynologists, and the North American Micropaleontology Section of SEPM, will be held literally in the heart of San Francisco at the Hotel Whitcomb. This hotel is only one block from the brass plaque that reads “Heart of San Francisco”! The Hotel Whitcomb was chosen for its location, its historic elegance, its proximity to everything San Franciscan, and its excellent conference facilities. A large block of rooms has been reserved at the conference hotel, including a variety of comfortable, affordable individual rooms and suites.

The hotel has guaranteed us the lowest rate available, not to exceed \$159/room/night vs. regular rates of \$249 to \$489/room/night. You will not need to search the internet (Expedia, Travelocity, Orbitz, etc.) for the lowest rate; you are already guaranteed the lowest rate available, period! End of search! Of course, for a few hundred dollars more per night, you and your partner may wish to stay in the Marilyn Monroe Suite or the Governor’s Penthouse Suite.





The Hotel Whitcomb was built immediately following the 1906 earthquake that devastated SF. Seeing its elegance and location in the heart of the city, the city fathers rented the entire hotel as City Hall from its completion in 1912 until 1915. In fact, the original city jail is still in the basement and can function to hold any unruly or disorderly guests who get out of line during our meeting. From its grand opening in 1916 until the 1960s, Hotel Whitcomb was THE hotel of choice for the rich and famous who visited SF, with such honored guests as Marilyn Monroe, Joe DiMaggio, Frank Sinatra, etc. The hotel's luxury was most visible in its Austrian crystal chandeliers, Tiffany glass, Janesero wood paneling, and polished Italian marble. The Hotel Whitcomb was truly the place to see and to be seen.

Through the years, the Hotel Whitcomb has been "modernized" numerous times, most recently in 2011. Before you arrive, it will have undergone yet another "renovation" and "upgrading" with 42-inch, flat-screen TVs in every room. With each renovation, the hotel has maintained its level of elegance, while remaining true to its architectural heritage.

San Francisco (SF) is located on beautiful San Francisco Bay in coastal central California on the west coast (some would say the far left coast) of the United States. SF is a fabled tourist destination recognized worldwide with such major attractions as the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz Island, cable cars, beautiful beaches, redwood forests, Napa Valley wine country, etc., etc. These hugely popular features should help attract palynologists and their families from around the world to visit and maybe spend a few extra days vacationing in the Bay Area.

To take advantage of the excellent weather during early Fall, the meeting is scheduled for 20-24 October 2013 – 30 years to the week after the 16th annual meeting held in SF in 1983.



*DINO 10 is happenin'  
in San Francisco*

October 20-24, 2013

As a Joint Meeting with AASP, CAP, and NAMS at the Hotel Whitcomb in the Heart of San Francisco.

Special Symposium dedicated to William R. Evitt  
Pre- and Post- Meeting Field Trips  
Stay tuned for details and registration.

Organizing Committee Chairs: Lanny Fisk (lanny@paleoresource.com) and Joyce Lucas-Clark (jluclark@comcast.net)





**San Francisco 2013 AASP-TPS 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
A Joint Meeting with Dino10, Canadian Association of Palynologists,  
and the North American Micropaleontology Section of SEPM**

**CALL FOR SYMPOSIUM, FIELD TRIP, AND WORKSHOP PROPOSALS**

The Organizing Committee for the AASP-TPS 46th Annual Meeting, 20–24 October 2013 at the Hotel Whitcomb in downtown San Francisco, is calling for proposals for symposia, field trips, and workshops.

Symposia proposals should include a concise description of the symposium topic including its significance and specific relevance to this particular meeting time and location (if appropriate), and a list of potential speakers with preliminary titles. Proposals should not exceed two pages in length. Symposia can be full day (8 hours, 24 presentations), half day (four hours, 12 presentations), or quarter day (two hours, 6 presentations) in length. All talks (except for keynote presentations) must be limited to 15 minutes each allowing 5 minutes for questions and discussions. This presentation time format will also apply to all other oral presentations. Poster presentations are also welcome as part of a symposium and can be tied to the symposium theme.

As for the general technical sessions, all abstracts submitted for symposia will be rigorously reviewed by the Program Committee and subject to rejection. To avoid empty slots in the program, the symposium organizers will be encouraged to pre-review abstracts prior to submission.

Proposals for field trips and workshops must not exceed one page and should include a concise description of the field trip or workshop, including where applicable:

- Purpose and intended outcome.
- Proposed date(s) and times (beginning and ending).
- Name(s) of organizer(s)/leader(s) and all of their contact information.
- A detailed budget. The field trip budget must cover ALL expenses as AASP-TPS will NOT absorb shortfalls for field trips.
- Cost per person (please factor in the cost of the leaders if they are not to be charged).
- Minimum and maximum number of attendees. Please let us know if the maximum and minimum number of attendees includes the leaders or not, so that registration can be adjusted accordingly.
- Field trip transportation: bus, vans, or private vehicles? Exact pick up/drop off point(s)? NOTE: If transportation will be provided by a leader, or other participant, proof of insurance must be provided, and be preapproved at least 30 days prior to the date of the trip.

Regarding Costs: Leaders will be reimbursed the expenses incurred by running the field trip, including admission fees, transportation, any included meals, etc. for the participants. Field trip leaders should provide completed reimbursement forms and receipts immediately following the meeting.

**Please send proposals for symposia, field trips, and workshops to San Francisco 2013 Organizing Committee Co-Chairs: Lanny H. Fisk at [Lanny@PaleoResource.com](mailto:Lanny@PaleoResource.com) and Joyce Lucas-Clark at [jluclark@comcast.net](mailto:jluclark@comcast.net). The deadline for submission of proposals is Friday, 18 January 2013.**

**Thank you!**

*Lanny H. Fisk and Joyce Lucas-Clark, San Francisco 2013 Co-Chairs*



Utrecht University

**TNO** innovation  
for life



ConocoPhillips

# Pollen & Spore Master Class

July 2013, Utrecht, The Netherlands

## Tentative Course Outline:

General Pollen/Spore Morphology and Taxonomy

Concepts and Applications

Paleozoic Spore Chronostratigraphy and Paleoecology

(with special focus on Middle East plays)

Mesozoic Spore/Pollen Chronostratigraphy and Paleoecology

(Australia, N.W. Europe, North America)

Cenozoic Pollen Chronostratigraphy and Paleoecology

(North and South America, Antarctic)

Special Focus on Neogene Pollen Chronostratigraphy and Paleoecology

(West Africa, Southeast Asia)

Quaternary/Holocene Palynostratigraphy and Paleoecology

Fieldtrip: Type-Maastricht

## Proposed Instructors (Not Confirmed):

Guy Harrington, Carlos Jaramillo, Robert Morley, Michael Stephenson,  
Thomas Demchuk, Jim Riding, Timme Donders, Roel Verreussel,  
and others TBA

**Confirmation of Instructors and exact dates will be announced soon**

The Aims and Deliverables of the Class will be:

- Provide instruction on basic pollen/spore/algal taxonomy as an aid in identifying and classifying varied terrestrially-derived palynoflora
- Provide a general background into terrestrial palynomorph morphology, taxonomy, chronostratigraphy, paleoecology, and paleoclimate through the Phanerozoic
- Provide case studies of standard and innovative industrial applications of terrestrially-derived pollen/spore/algae to subsurface problem solving, including calibration to sequence stratigraphic modeling (system tracts)
- Each of the age specific topics and lectures will be accompanied by extensive microscope workshops
- This week-long course will include a half-day fieldtrip to the type-Maastricht in the southern Netherlands, and opening evening Icebreaker and mid-week dinner
- Maximum enrollment will be 35-40 participants

Expected Course Fees: 300 Euros (Students), 600 Euros (Academic/Consultant), 1000 Euros (Industry)

**For additional information regarding this course, please contact:**

**Thomas D. Demchuk ([thomas.d.demchuk@conocophillips.com](mailto:thomas.d.demchuk@conocophillips.com))**

**Timme Donders ([T.H.Donders@uu.nl](mailto:T.H.Donders@uu.nl)) or**

**James Eldrett ([James.Eldrett@shell.com](mailto:James.Eldrett@shell.com))**



# An advanced course in organic walled dinoflagellate cysts

By Arjen Grothe



As all the readers of this newsletter probably know, palynology is more than only studying pollen and spores. In fact, all the residue that is still 'alive' after our destructive processing methods (we usually treat sediments with hydrochloric and hydrofluoric acids) may be considered as potential study material for a palynologist. Dinoflagellate cysts (dinocysts) and acritarchs comprise a major component of such residues, especially in marine sediments.

To gather the principles of dinocyst taxonomy and stratigraphy or just to share the newest insights regarding the dinocysts, the so-called dinocourse was invented. This course is organized every three years. Most recent editions were held in Urbino (Italy), but this year's edition was organized in the Utrecht (The Netherlands). To be more precise, a group of approximately 50 people, ranging from just started PhD's and students to real 'dinocyst-mastodons', was hosted in the TNO-building at the Uithof during the final week of June.

The set up of the course was very systematic, discussing in chronological order the oldest known dinocysts of the Triassic up to present day specimens. However, first of all there was a very clear introduction lecture by Martin J. Head about dinoflagellates, dinocysts and their basic taxonomy. Following these systematics and definitions, two entire days were focused on Mesozoic dinocysts, ranging from the Triassic up to the Cretaceous-Paleogene boundary.



On the third day a very nice excursion was organized to the famous Boom Clay in Belgium. Although the weather was not what one wishes while visiting a clay pit, some clouds with patches of rain passed over, the fieldtrip was a big success. To finish the day in style, we went to a Lebanese restaurant in Antwerp with the fabulous name '*t Onschuldige schaep* (the innocent sheep), where they served us a delicious conference dinner, as well as the essential alcoholic dainties!

Although, the fieldtrip day was long, most participants were again present the morning after. According to some of the faces the course dinner was indeed a big success. Thankfully there was enough coffee available to suppress the lack of sleep. This 4<sup>th</sup> day was primarily focused on Paleogene dinocysts. Moreover Jörg Pross gave a nice overview of the applicability of dinocyst for the reconstruction of past environments.



The final day consisted of a comprehensive overview of the Neogene and Quaternary dinocysts. Also, the ecology and preservation potential, especially of modern day dinocysts, was discussed. The course ended with abundant drinks in TNO's entrance hall. At the time that all drinks were finished and TNO was about to be closed, a big group of course participants continued with drinks in the city centre of Utrecht. A worthy end of an informative and enjoyable course!

Finally, I would like to thank the *Palynologische Kring* (Palynological Circle) for providing me a scholarship that gave me the opportunity to participate in this dinocourse. It would be great if in the future more (PhD-)students could benefit from such a scholarship!

## Role Profile - Senior Palynologist (Ref: 17038)

**Role Description:** The Energy Division (ED) is seeking an experienced and innovative Palynologist to take a dynamic leadership role in stratigraphic framework studies of Australian Basins, within the Basin Resources Group. A primary output of the Group is the geoscience data that underpins the annual offshore petroleum release. This is an ongoing appointment offering excellent opportunities for promotion and applied research. You will have demonstrated skills in dinocyst and/or spore pollen taxonomy; its application to sequence stratigraphy and palaeo-environmental interpretations, as applied to resource exploration. You are aware of ongoing work in the Global Timescale project and understand the implications to existing palynozones and biostratigraphic data sets. It is essential that you are skilled in using digital methods for capture, handling, presentation, and interpretation of palynological data. Previous experience working for a petroleum exploration company would be an advantage, as would be an existing network of key scientists in the field of biostratigraphy.

**Role Duties:** You will engage in a range of activities including:

- timescale research, with an emphasis on systematic study of palynofloras,
- interpretation of previous palynological studies
- the design, execution, and delivery of sampling and palynological research studies to assist Geoscience Australia's regional projects.

**Special Requirements:** PhD in palynology or demonstrated contemporary and relevant industry experience. The successful candidate will undertake travel to national and international meetings, as required.

**Key Relationships:** Reporting to the Section Leader of Acreage Release, Prospectivity Products and Promotion. This position requires a team player, to work with project teams within Geoscience Australia, and to liaise with Industry and to work, where necessary, with external science providers in a collaborative way.

### Additional Details:

**Division/Branch:** Energy Division

**Project/Section:** Acreage Release&Promotion/Stratigraphic Framework of Australian Basins

**Geoscience Australia Band / Level:** EL 2

**Salary Band:** EL 2 – from \$108,424 to \$138,425 per annum plus superannuation

**Employment Type:** Full Time/Ongoing

**Security Level:** Baseline Vetting

**Functional Stream:** Scientific

### SELECTION CRITERIA

Geoscience uses a competitive selection process to fill jobs, based on an assessment of candidates' work-related qualities and those qualities required to perform the duties, and on the capacity to achieve outcomes related to the duties, as reflected in the Role Profile

- For short listing purposes, please describe your skills and experiences against the following selection criteria
- It is in your interests to relate your statements, as far as practicable, to the requirements of the job as set out in the Role Profile
- There is a 500 word limit for each criteria
- Please ensure that you attach a comprehensive, up-to- date Resume when prompted to do so later in this Application

**Selection Criteria One:** • What is your recent track record in palynostratigraphic studies of hydrocarbon-bearing sedimentary basins?

**Selection Criteria Two:** • In your view, what are the current and emerging drivers in the palynology/biostratigraphy?

**Selection Criteria Three:** • What and where are your most recent experiences in mentoring and training of younger scientists?

**Selection Criteria Four:** • Demonstrate the extent of your networking among relevant palynological groups and • Are you able to foster new collaboration with key stakeholders, and who are the stakeholders

**Selection Criteria Five:** • What is your experience in promoting palynological results to industry, key government agencies and to the general public?

**Contact Officer:** Dr Clinton Foster (Chief Scientist)

**Contact Officer Phone:** +61 2 6249 9447 (International) 02 6249 9447 (National)

**Contact Officer Email:** [Clinton.Foster@ga.gov.au](mailto:Clinton.Foster@ga.gov.au)

**THIS POSITION IS BASED IN CANBERRA**



**JOBS!**



## **Microfossils III: Geologic Problem Solving with Microfossils**

### **March 10-13, 2013**

### **University of Houston**

### **Houston, TX USA**

**New  
Abstract  
Deadline!!!**

**December 15, 2012**



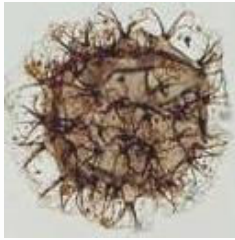
The **NAMS** Section of SEPM announces the 3<sup>rd</sup> ***Geological Problem Solving with Microfossils*** conference (a.k.a., Microfossils III) that will be held March 10-13, 2013 at the University of Houston in Houston, Texas. The mission of Microfossils III is to bring together a diverse range of geoscientists to focus on the use of microfossil disciplines to solve geologic problems.

The conference activities include: oral and poster technical presentations, a regional pre-meeting field trip, post-meeting short courses, ice breaker, and plenary dinner at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Tentative session themes include:

- The Microfossil record of Major Oceanic Events
- Microfossils and Unconventional Resources: The New Frontier
- High-resolution Biostratigraphy, Chronostratigraphy, and Geochronology
- Reconstructing Past Environments Using Microfossils
- Paralic and Lacustrine Micropaleontology
- Microfossils and Biofacies Analysis: Applications and Challenges
- Paleoclimate, Paleooceanography, and Relative Sea-level Change
- Taxonomy, Phylogeny, and Evolution
- New Technologies and Techniques in Microfossil Studies

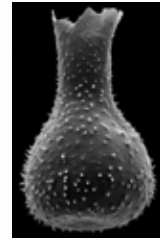
For more information, visit <http://www.sepm.org/nams> or contact **Dr. Mark Leckie** at:

[MLeckie@geo.umass.edu](mailto:MLeckie@geo.umass.edu)



**CIMP 2014**

**Ghent - Liège, Belgium**



As you probably know, the next CIMP congress will take place in Belgium early July 2014 (most probably: 06<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> July). The conference is organized jointly by **Jacques Verniers**, at the Ghent University, and by **Philippe Steemans**, at the Liège University.

We propose the following provisional program:

**Day 1:** - Workshop on chitinozoans in Ghent.

**Day 2:** - Workshop on chitinozoans in Ghent.

**Day 3:** - Field trips and/or museum visit. The visit of the geological sections takes place on the path between Gent to Liège. The route is approximately 250 Km by bus. The field trips and museum visits will depend on the number of participants. The museum visit may also be done independently for those who do not want to attend the field trips (Brussels is halfway on the road between Ghent and Liege by train).

- Museum: the Royal Institute of Natural Science of Brussels is well known for its Europe's largest Dinosaurs gallery (<http://www.naturalsciences.be/index.html>).

- Field trip (1): the Cambro-Silurian of the Brabant Massif and the Condroz Inlier

- Field Trip (2): the Devonian from the Namur Syncline and from the Dinant Synclinorium.

- Evening ice breaker party, downtown Liège.

**Day 4:** - CIMP general sessions, downtown Liège.

**Day 5:** - CIMP general sessions, downtown Liège.

- Conference dinner, downtown Liège.

**Day 6:** - CIMP general sessions, downtown Liège.

- CIMP technical session, downtown Liège.

- Election of the best student poster and talk.

We will try to keep this congress as cheap as possible for all, and especially for students.





Ghent (Gent in Dutch or Gand in French) is a city of history, situated in the Flemish (=Dutch) speaking part of Belgium. During the Middle Ages, it was one of the richest and most powerful cities in Europe. It was once considered the second largest city north of the Alps, after Paris. The impact of this rich past can be clearly seen when viewing the imposing architecture of churches and the houses of rich

traders. The whole of the city centre is restored in this fashion, and still breathes the atmosphere of a thriving late-medieval city state. As the city council made the centre free of cars, it is now a very welcoming and open area, which does not fail to impress even the people who live there (<http://wikitravel.org/en/Ghent>).

Liège (Luik in Dutch and Liège in English) has been an important city since the early Middle Ages and is situated in the French speaking part of Belgium. It was the capital of the Principality (prince-bishopric) of Liège, which remained an independent state until the French Revolution (around 1789). In the 19th century it became an early centre of



industrialism. The central area of Liège presents itself as a rather interesting mix of a historic town centre, a rather elegant new town with wide boulevards, tall apartment buildings (some Art Deco) and a few pretty parks. The outskirts of Liège consist mainly of two distinctive areas: large industrial complexes sprawling on the river's bank in the north and the south (with the cities of Seraing and Herstal) and working-class areas in the east and the west with mainly green neighbourhood for healthy people. Liège is located just at the beginning of the Ardennes, which makes the landscape of the south very different than the rest of the city, with high hills and a lot of forest (Sart-tilman and beyond) (<http://wikitravel.org/en/Luik>).

July is summer in Belgium, but this does not mean something for the weather. It could be very hot (35°C) and dry as well as very humid and cold (15°C). July is also holidays for many people, therefore it is important to book hotels early especially for the hotels of the touristic Ghent city. Both cities have many restaurants in all specialities and price classes.



It is really easy to get to both cities by car, by train (with a high-speed train station in Liège) or by plane. The national airport is located at Brussels (Bruxelles in French) (60min train to Ghent and 60min to Liège). Take care that the Brussels South Charleroi airport is located near Charleroi and not close to Brussels. However you may reach easily the other cities by train from Charleroi: Belgium is a very small country. The Charleroi airport is an alternative for low-cost airlines. The Maastricht, Frankfurt, Lille and Luxembourg airports are also close to Belgium. There is no flight between Paris and Brussels. The connection between both capitals is best by high-speed train.



Don't forget: Keep some free space in your luggage to return with kilos of our delicious chocolate

(<http://www.visitbelgium.com/?page=chocolate-lovers>) and some precious bottles of our famous

beers ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beer\\_in\\_Belgium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beer_in_Belgium)).

Belgium contains thousands of cafés that offer a wide selection of beers, ranging from perhaps 15 in a neighbourhood café, to over 1000 in a specialist beer café (e.g. « De Dulle Griet » and « Trappistenhuis » in Ghent ; « La pierre levée » and the « Vaudrées » in Liège). There are 2445 different beers brewed in Belgium, i.e. one each 12 Km<sup>2</sup>. If you do not believe us, go to <http://www.bierebel.com/biere.php?sort=all>

To prepare the congress, could you answer the following questions, and send the answers to [p.steemans@ulg.ac.be](mailto:p.steemans@ulg.ac.be) ? You may cut and paste the following questions/answers in your email.

- Family and given names:
- I will come to the congress (delete proposals that do not concern you):  
Surely YES – Probably YES – I do not know – Probably NO – Surely NO.
- Do you prefer to have the choice between 2 different field trips or not (delete proposals that do not concern you)?:  
YES – Equal - NO
- I will participate to (delete proposals that do not concern you):  
Chitino workshop – field trip 1 - field trip 2– Ice breaker – CIMP general sessions – Conference dinner.