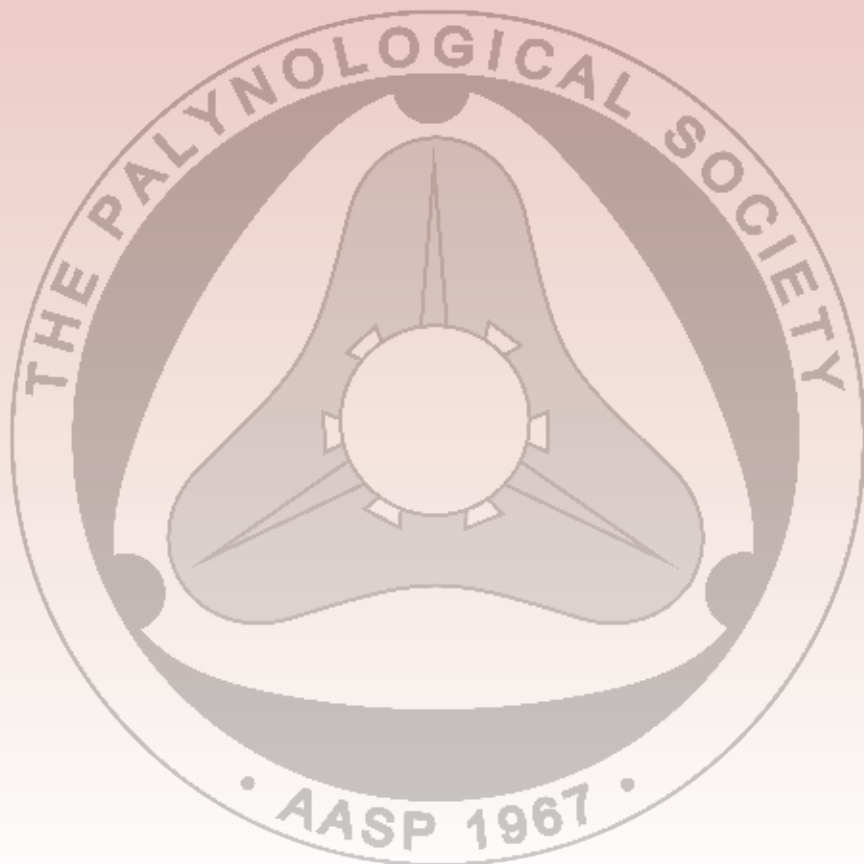


# AASP- THE PALYNOLOGICAL SOCIETY



*Sequoia gigantea*  
by David Jarzen, Cleveland Museum of Natural History



## NEWSLETTER



**March 2013**  
**Volume 46, Number 1**



# AASP-TPS NEWSLETTER

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Published Quarterly by AASP - The Palynological Society

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March 2013  
Volume 46, Number 1

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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)



# AASP-TPS NEWSLETTER

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Sophie Warny, Editor

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Sophie Warny, [swarny@lsu.edu](mailto:swarny@lsu.edu), Department of Geology and Geophysics & Museum of Natural Science, Louisiana State University, E235 Howe Russell Geoscience Complex, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, USA.

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 **May 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 the president

### *Hollerin' about hydrocarbons.*

After starting the weekend with the depressing news that the UK had just joined the majority of industrialised nations (save for Canada and Australia I believe) in having our national credit rating downgraded by Moody's on Friday it was a positive delight to start the new week with some good news! I'm not normally one who has time to keep an eagle eye on business matters, but whilst watching the morning news bulletin the fact that Sterling had lost ground against other currencies following Moody's downgrade was more than offset by a bulletin documenting the fact that investment in the North Sea last year reached its highest level for 30 years. This data came from a newly published report by Oil and Gas UK which indicated companies exploring for offshore energy resources invested £11.4 bn (\$17.3 bn) in 2012, and that the figure is expected to rise to £13 bn (\$19.7 bn) this year. Clearly there is life in the 'old dog' yet, with sixteen new fields and major field redevelopments having secured approval, and expected to deliver 1.5 billion barrels of oil equivalent of reserves. Furthermore the report forecasts more than 130 exploration wells over the next three years.

The report goes on to detail over £8 bn (\$12.1 bn) of investment over the past six months, and the creation of 6,000 highly skilled jobs: Statoil are investing £4.3 bn (\$6.3 bn) in their heavy oil Mariner project which will produce 700 new jobs, Talisman are ploughing £1.6 bn (\$2.4 bn) into increasing production from the Montrose/Arbroath field (2,000 new jobs); the Cygnus gas development will see GDF Suez invest £1.4 bn (\$2.1 bn) to produce 1,200 new jobs; Dana Petroleum has committed £1 bn (\$1.5 bn) to develop the Harris/Barra fields, this in addition to brown-field projects such as the life extension of Enquest's Thistle field and CNR's Tiffany field.

With energy so high on the agenda, the last few weeks of February have seen a great deal of high profile coverage of other hydrocarbon-related business activity, such as the approval of the \$15 bn (£9.9 bn) CNOOC takeover of Nexen. This is all without even mentioning the great kerfuffle about the economic potential and potential environmental consequences of shale gas exploitation: the U.S. Energy Information Administration's (EIA) Annual Energy Outlook 2013

has recently projected that U.S. gas production will increase from 2011's 23.0 trillion cubic feet to 33.1 trillion cubic feet in 2040, a 44% increase. The striking background to this massive 44% increase in domestic gas production is down to projected growth in shale gas production, more than doubling 2011 production figures to 16.7 trillion cubic feet in 2040. There has also been much publicity about shale gas in the UK, with Cuadrilla estimating reserves of some 200 tn cubic feet in the Bowland Shale alone which might be worth some £136 bn (\$205 bn), and Price-WaterhouseCoopers predicting £50 bn (\$33 bn) of economic benefits to the UK by 2035. However, it's not all been rosey, there has been less positive news regarding potential environmental effects (test drilling in NW England triggered two small earthquakes) and the fact that extraction costs have been projected by Bloomberg's New Energy Finance report as being double to triple those in the U.S..

This very recent publicity provides us with an opportunity to bring home the relevance of our own sub-discipline within the hydrocarbon sector, and whilst not all society members are perhaps either directly employed in the industry or involved in the supply of newly qualified students to that industry, the sector will clearly remain one of the major avenues of employment for newly graduated students into the future. (As an indication of this, over the past four years well over half of the students graduating from 4-year undergraduate geoscience degrees at my own institution have entered the hydrocarbons sector). Indeed, in the context of the next generation of hydrocarbon sector employees, data released this week by the American Geosciences Institute (AGI) is pertinent. The AGI have produced the 2009-2012 results of their programme which sees the distribution of free membership packs to some 82 geoscience departments across the U.S.. The brief report provides interesting reading. The programme was instituted to aid the recruitment and retention of undergraduate geoscience 'majors', and the packs included brochures from AGI's participating member societies, internship information, and a copy of EARTH Magazine's "Workforce" edition. Students are offered free membership to up to five member societies. Perhaps not surprisingly the Geological

Society of America (GSA) and the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) were the top two picks for free memberships, but the latter was closely followed by those wishing to join the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) – the latter being chosen by over 50% of the students.

I continue to see this interest in employment possibilities within the hydrocarbon sector increasing amongst my own undergraduate community, and many universities, such as my own, have very active Student Chapters of the AAPG. But the thought has just struck me, I wonder how many palynologists there are on the AAPG's list of speakers who travel out to speak to students about their role in the industry? We as a society clearly benefit from the international publicity about the hydrocarbon exploration industry, and we should thus actively seek to ensure that the role of the palynologist in that sector is publicised to wider audiences. Clearly this is already being done, as many of us in academia involve ourselves with

outreach activities. It is also being done by many in industry continuing to broadcast the message of geoscience and micropalaeontology graduate employability. Perhaps most importantly, industry also engages with the academic community in terms of offering work placements internships. In the UK we now have more flexibility to increase the numbers of students enrolled in geoscience degree programmes at university, and the employability message is very powerful in the context of recruitment. We should all strive to continue the dialogue between academia and industry to ensure that as many of our students as possible have the opportunity to engage with the practical and applied aspects of our subject in the future.



Oil and gas operations support at Port Fourchon, Louisiana. Photo S. Warny.

# WHY NOT PUBLISH IN *PALYNOLOGY*?

*Palynology* (ISSN 0191-6122) is the principal journal of AASP – The Palynological Society (formerly AASP). It began in 1977 when AASP decided to establish a new journal after using *Geoscience and Man* to publish papers on the subject since 1970 (see Demchuk and Riding, 2008). During 2005, *Palynology* became ISI-listed and now has an impact factor of around 1.0; this IF is clearly on a distinct upwards trajectory.

In 2009, the society decided to transfer the production and distribution of *Palynology* to Taylor and Francis. This has been a great success in that it is paper-published twice every year (in June and December), has an efficient online submission, review and production system, and offers online publication once a manuscript has been accepted. Taylor and Francis also operate a competitive Open Access programme (<http://journalauthors.tandf.co.uk/preparation/OpenAccess.asp>). Taylor and Francis have scanned the back catalogue of *Geoscience and Man* and *Palynology*, and high-quality pdf versions of all articles are available online (<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tpal20>). If you are a member of AASP – The Palynological Society, you have unlimited access to this back catalogue. In other words *Palynology* is now on a par with commercial journals.

The page budget of *Palynology* has increased from 300 to 350 pages in 2013. This of course means that we have significantly more space in the journal from this year. So we urge members of AASP to consider using *Palynology* when publishing their papers. We accept suitable manuscripts on all aspects of palynology and palaeobotany. Review papers are especially welcome. There is no formal limit on pages or number of plates, however I would ask authors of large papers to contact me prior to submission. Very large papers can be submitted to our sister publication, the *AASP Contributions Series* (<http://www.palynology.org/aasp-store/4>). *Palynology* has a straightforward format, and the figures and plates are reproduced to the highest standards. An author does not have to be a member of the association. Electronic submission is extremely simple (go to <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/tpal>). The editorial/

production scenario is a familiar one. I send manuscripts out to review, and a decision is fed back to the corresponding author once two reviews have been received. Assuming the manuscript is accepted subject to revision, the corresponding author is tasked with revising the manuscript. Once the revision is received, I make a decision, and (hopefully) the manuscript is sent off for production. All these processes are electronic. Then the paper receives a doi (digital object identifier) number. Once the revised manuscript is accepted and a doi number allocated, the paper is formally published, and can be accessed online and quoted. So, assuming that a review and revision takes around one month each, your paper can be published inside three months from submission! As Managing Editor, I am ably assisted by Matthew J. Pound of Northumbria University and the Editorial Board comprises Thomas D. Demchuk, Martin J. Head, David M. Jarzen, Fabienne Marret-Davies, Alice Milner and Pierre Zippi. In conclusion, I would enthusiastically urge you to consider publishing in *Palynology*. Your paper will be quickly and efficiently produced to the highest professional standards, it will be read by your peers in the subject and will increase your visibility as an author. If potential authors have any questions please contact me direct. Furthermore, if you would like a sample copy of *Palynology*, please contact me.

James B. Riding

Managing Editor – AASP – The Palynological Society

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January 2013

## Reference

Demchuk, T.D. and Riding, J.B. 2008. A history and overview of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists (AASP). *Palynology* 32: 83-100.

# Palynology Managing Editor's Report

The page budget of *Palynology* is increased this year from 300 to 350 pages; on page 7 of this Newsletter there is a short article soliciting manuscripts so that we can fulfil this additional commitment.

I would like to remind members that that you are all entitled to free access to the entire electronic back catalogue of both *Palynology* and *Geoscience and Man*. To access this, you should go to [www.tandfonline.com/tpal](http://www.tandfonline.com/tpal). You then need to sign in with your email address and password. You can then print off articles, download etc. to your heart's delight! An alternative route would be to visit [www.tandfonline.com](http://www.tandfonline.com), then click on "Earth Sciences", next hit "P" and you will then be at the *Palynology* section; this route shows you the full range of Taylor and Francis (T&F) journals. If you are experiencing any difficulties with your online access to *Palynology*, please email your details to [support@tandfonline.com](mailto:support@tandfonline.com). That address will send you a bounceback e-mail to confirm receipt, but then you will be rapidly contacted by one of the T&F team. Should you have any further difficulties, please refer them to the T&F Managing Editor for Environment and Agriculture, James Cleaver on [James.Cleaver@tandf.co.uk](mailto:James.Cleaver@tandf.co.uk).

The journal reference style has recently been standardised which will lead to greater consistency within the journal and reduce publication times by streamlining the production process. The journal will use the CSE reference style which is fully supported by a detailed manual and website guidance is provided for authors (see [http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/style/quickref/tf\\_C.pdf](http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/style/quickref/tf_C.pdf)). CSE is also

supported by *EndNote*. There will be no punctuation between author surnames and initials. For journal articles, the journal title should be abbreviated and the volume and issue number should be separated from the page range by a colon. For book and chapter references, all titles and chapter titles should be in Roman font.

The 2013 volume of *Palynology* (Volume 37) will have a (very nice) green cover, and the featured palynomorph is the fossil hornwort spore *Anthoceros multifidus* which was supplied by Sophie Warny. We have easily enough copy for Part 1, which will be published this June. However to most effectively use the page budget of 175 pages, the final running order has not yet been finalised. Ten articles for this next part are listed below, and are already available online. We already have several other articles typeset, and some going through the editorial process.

Should you have any questions regarding online manuscript submission, please contact Daniel Jones at Taylor and Francis (email: [Daniel.Jones@tandf.co.uk](mailto:Daniel.Jones@tandf.co.uk)), copying me in. If you need to speak to Daniel, his telephone number is +44 (0)20337 73602.

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# 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.
- 8        Buosi, C., Pittau, P., Del Rio, M., Mureddu, D. and Locci, M.C. A palynological investigation of funerary urn contents in a Roman Imperial age necropolis from Sardinia, Italy. 12 p.
- 9        Caffrey, M.A. and Horn, S.P. Using lithium heteropolytungstate (LST) in a heavy liquid separation to process low-pollen samples. 7 p.
- 10      Bowman, V.C., Riding, J.B., Francis, J.E., Crame, J.A. and Hannah, M.J. The taxonomy and palaeobiogeography of small chorate dinoflagellate cysts from the Late Cretaceous to Quaternary of Antarctica. 19 p.





## 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.**

## Can pollen grains act as Trojan horses for oral vaccination?



(Image Credit: Yunzhe Ma)

Dr. Harvinder Singh Gill, an assistant professor of chemical engineering, was recently awarded a five-year, \$2.2M grant from the National Institutes of Health for his proposal, “Pollen Grains as Trojan Horses for Oral Vaccination.”

The grant, known as the NIH Director’s New Innovator Award, is given to support exceptionally creative new investigators who propose highly innovative projects that have the potential for unusually high impact. Gill’s research will develop pollen grains as a novel system for oral vaccination, which could lead to improved, painless, and edible vaccines in the future. Gill is one of fifty-one researchers that are receiving New Innovator awards for the year 2012 to pursue visionary science that exhibits the potential to transform scientific fields and speed the translation of research into improved health, under the High Risk High Reward program supported by the National Institutes of Health Common Fund.

Oral vaccination is painless, can be self-administered, and can induce both systemic and mucosal immune responses. It offers an attractive alternative to the painful needle-based vaccine injections. However, oral vaccination remains challenging due to vaccine degradation in the stomach and poor

uptake across the intestinal lining. Gill proposes to develop a new oral vaccination system based on pollen grains that can overcome these challenges. Pollen grains naturally possess tough outer shells. By first cleaning the native plant biomolecules and filling the interior of the resulting clean pollen with vaccines, he intends to develop a ‘Trojan horse’-like system that can safely ferry vaccines across the harsh environment of the stomach into the intestines for improved uptake into the body.

Gill initially hypothesized that if he could remove offending and allergic reaction-causing proteins and fats present in pollen grains, he could reveal a natural empty shell and create a delivery method with very unique properties. He conducted several experiments with *Lycopodium clavatum* spores, removing the spores’ native proteins and fats, and filling them with ovalbumin as a model protein vaccine. Once consumed, the shells were able to withstand the acidic and digestive environment of the stomach and traveled to the intestines. As he predicted, the grains helped produce excellent immune responses in mice against ovalbumin.

Overall, the potential for this vaccine delivery system is significant. Pollen grains may be a revolutionary way to provide a cheap, convenient, and

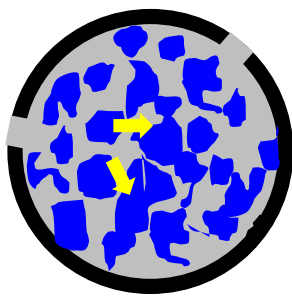
painless path for vaccinations to be delivered into the body and provide excellent systemic immunity and a potent mucosal first line of defense.

Gill joined the Department of Chemical Engineering at Texas Tech in 2009. He received a Ph.D. in bioengineering from Georgia Institute of Technology and has completed post-doctoral work in microbiology and immunology at Emory University. Gill has also received numerous honors

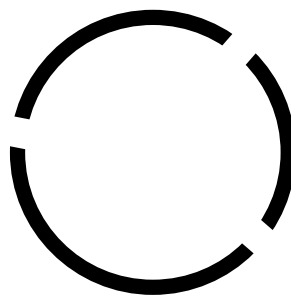
and awards including Sigma Xi Best Thesis Award for his thesis at Georgia Tech in 2008, the Best Doctoral Paper Award at the Science Applications International Cooperation (SAIC) in 2008, and the Dr. Charles Burford Faculty Award at Texas Tech University in 2011.

Material provided by Dr. Gill.

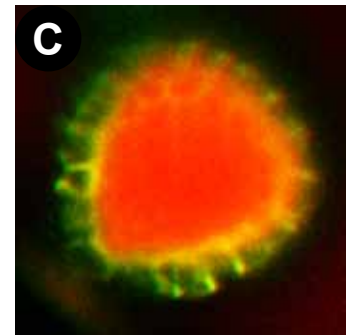
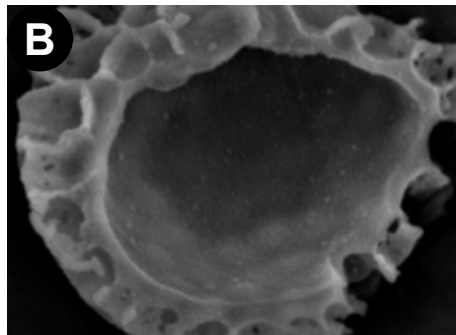
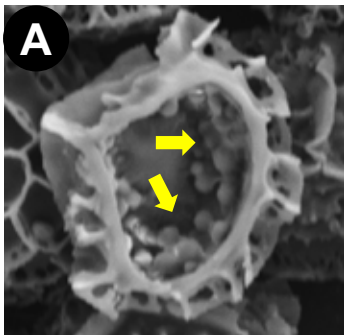
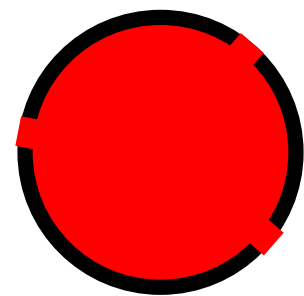
**A. Unprocessed pollen:** contain plant proteins (shown by arrows) that are potentially allergenic.



**B. Pollen processing removes** native biomolecules producing, non-allergenic empty pollen shells.



**C. Hollow pollen shells are** resistant and durable, and provide protective capsules to fill their interior with vaccines

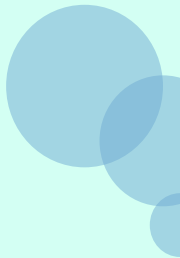


Scanning electron micrographs of sectioned lycopodium clavatum spores/pollens (A) Before processing showing native material in its interior, (B) after processing showing a clean interior.

Confocal micrograph showing ovalbumin, a test vaccine filled inside lycopodium spores.

# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INSTRUCTIONS

Created by: Mohamed Zobaq, AASP-TPS Webmaster, Jan 2013



1- Go to the membership page (<http://www.palynology.org/membership>) in the AASP website.

2- Choose the appropriate membership type and click “Join AASP”, see image below.

## Professional

paid for the current year receive the quarterly newsletter, a biannual membership directory (published electronically), and electronic access to our journal Palynology. Use the menu to pay for up to three years membership.

- ▶ 1 Year: \$45.00
- ▶ 2 Years: \$90.00
- ▶ 3 Years: \$135.00

**Join AASP**

3- You will then be directed to the login page where you can:

a- directly login, if you have registered before in the NEW WEBSITE

b- create a new account, if you have NOT registered before in the NEW WEBSITE

**Note:** The new system will not recognize you as a member until you pay your dues thru it.

<p><b>Your Email Address</b> (Required)</p> <input type="text"/>	<p><b>New User?</b></p> <p>By creating an account at AASP you will be able to shop faster, check on the status of your orders, and keep track of the orders you have previously made.</p>
<p><b>Password</b> (Required)</p> <input type="password"/>	
<p><b>Login</b></p>	<p><b>Register</b></p>
<p><b>Forgot your Password?</b></p> <p>Please enter your email id registered with us.</p> <p><b>Your Email Address</b> (Required)</p> <input type="text"/>	
<p><b>Recover Password</b></p>	

4- Once logged-in, click on the “Join AASP” link under the “Membership” title.

**MY ACCOUNT**

» My Account  
» Order History  
» My Files  
» Edit Profile  
» Edit Shipping Address  
» Change Password  
» Logout

**PROFILE**  
[Edit Profile](#)

Name: test test  
Email: test@mail.com  
Phone: 123456789  
Address1: 1 street  
Address2: city  
Country: US  
State: state  
City: city  
Zip: 12345  
Password: [Change Password](#)

**MEMBERSHIP**  
[Join AASP](#)

You are not a member of AASP

5- Check the desired membership type/numbers of years, then click submit.

**Professional**  
☐ 1 Year \$45.00    ☐ 2 Years \$90.00    ☐ 3 Years \$135.00

**Student**  
☐ 1 Year \$30.00    ☐ 2 Years \$60.00    ☐ 3 Years \$90.00

**Retired**  
☐ 1 Year \$15.00    ☐ 2 Years \$30.00    ☐ 3 Years \$45.00

**Submit**    **Cancel**

6- You will then be transferred to the PayPal website to complete your payment process.

The AASP Foundation

**Your order summary**

Descriptions  
Student Membership: 3 Year: \$90.00

You'll be able to see your order details before you pay

**Choose a way to pay**  
PayPal securely processes payments for The AASP Foundation

**Have a PayPal account?**  
Log in to your account to pay

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And pay with your debit or credit card, or with Bill Me Later®

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☒ Credit Card

Card number

Payment Types: VISA, Mastercard, American Express, Discover

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE THREE 2013 STUDENTS SELECTED FOR AN AASP TRAVEL AWARD



**Rob D'Andrea, Northern Arizona**  
**Advisor: Scott Anderson**  
**email: robertmichaeldandrea@gmail.com**  
**Conference: 2013 Pacific Climate Workshop**  
**(Pacific Grove, CA)**

I will present a project entitled "Paleoecology of Utah's Grand Staircase Escalante national monument: human impacts on landscape and implications for resource management on the Southern Colorado Plateau".

Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) encompasses 1.7 million acres of southern Utah's Kane and Garfield counties and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for managing the region's vast biological, cultural, and geological resources. Reconstructions of Holocene vegetation, fire and climate histories provide BLM managers with baselines for local ecological restoration and fire management strategies, however, paleoecological records within the Monument are scarce. In addition, knowledge of archaeological site function is instrumental in influencing cultural resource management decisions, however, the Monument's unique assemblage of archaeological site types are often characterized by ambiguous land use histories. An investigation of pollen, non-pollen palynomorphs (NPPs), macrofossils and charcoal recovered from Lake Pasture and Canyon Meadow sediment cores and packrat middens will determine vegetation changes and fire regimes for two distinct physiographic regions of the Monument, the Kaiparowits Plateau and the Grand Staircase, respectively, and determine ecosystem



disturbance associated with indigenous as well as Euro-American land use practices. Virgin Branch Anasazi type site architecture and artifacts found near the lakes suggest that they may have been centers for agricultural activity and investigations of pollen from lake sediments and packrat middens may determine when agricultural species were introduced to the region as well as the plant species being cultivated through time. The combination of lake sediment core and packrat midden analysis from the same site is a novel and powerful approach toward paleoecological reconstruction as both local and regional vegetation can be represented, reducing depositional biases. In addition, the ability to crosscheck paleoecological data with archaeological records for each site will lead to more definitive interpretations of human land use and its resulting effects on the landscape. In addition to informing cultural and natural resource management decisions within the GSENM, this study will also be helpful for federal and state level land management agencies on the greater southern Colorado Plateau.

The AASP travel support will be used to cover the price of lodging, meals and applicable fees and taxes during my stay at the 2013 Pacific Climate Workshop, located at 800 Asimolar Avenue, Pacific Grove, California from March 3rd-6th, 2013. At the conference I will present and discuss the objectives, hypotheses, preliminary results and expected results for my graduate research in a poster presentation. This conference will provide a great experience for networking and sharing the findings of my graduate research and could help me make contacts for future employment in western conservation and PhD studies in paleoecology.



**Wieslawa Radmacher**  
**Polish Academy of Science,**  
**Krakow**  
**Advisor:**  
**Jaroslav Tyszka**  
**Email: ndkrol@cyf-kr.edu.pl**  
**Conference:**  
**9th International Symposium**  
**on the Cretaceous System**  
**(Ankara, Turkey)**

I will present a project entitled "Late Cretaceous biostratigraphy and palaeoenvironment based on palynological records from the Norwegian Sea and Barents Sea area".

In the Barents Sea Late Cretaceous deposits are thin and discontinuous due to uplift and erosion. In Svalbard the Late Cretaceous is missing (e.g. Birkenmajer 1981; Nagy et al. 1997; Worsley 2008). In the Norwegian Sea the Late Cretaceous section is much more complete and well preserved, highly diverse dinoflagellate cyst assemblages are present from Albian to Maastrichtian, though there may be minor non-sequences within the succession. Although a great deal of data is in the public domain, very little serious systematic work has been carried out.

**AASP**  
**supports**  
**students!**

One exploration well, one shallow stratigraphic core from the Norwegian Sea and five exploration wells from the southwestern Barents Sea were studied. A better understanding of the dinoflagellate flora is important for dating and regional correlation and several new dinoflagellate cyst species have been defined. Dinoflagellate acmes are good marker horizons on both a regional and a local scale. The blooms may reflect changes in the palaeoenvironment and could also be applied as palaeoceanographic proxies reflecting i.e. palaeoclimate changes.

The well preserved and diversified dinoflagellate cyst assemblages recorded are applied for dating, estimating relative distance from shore as well as palaeoclimatic interpretations. They allow definition of a detailed dinoflagellate cyst zonation indicating that the sequences range from Albian to Late Maastrichtian age. The palynomorph assemblages resemble those from other Late Cretaceous successions in the mid-Norway, Greenland, North Sea and Scotian Margin area. In contrast, they differ from assemblages of Northern Siberia as well as those recorded in southern hemisphere.

Final results and interpretations we would like to present at the 9<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on the Cretaceous system, Ankara, Turkey. The AASP travel support will be used to travel to Ankara.



**Valentina Ramírez Valencia**  
**STRI, Panama**  
**Advisor: Carlos Jaramillo**  
**Email: ramirezv@si.edu**  
**(Costa Rica)**

I will present the following work:

Spore morphology of *Serpocaulon* (Polypodiaceae) spores from the Colombian Central Cordillera (South America) that I prepared in collaboration with David Sanín & Andrés Pardo-Trujillo.

*Serpocaulon* is a monophyletic genus of Polypodiaceae, however the taxonomy is still not precise, because: a) nomenclatural problems, b) wide geographic distribution c) high species diversity, and d) presence of multiple hybridization events (Moran 1995, Smith *et al.* 2006, Sanín 2006). The genus is comprised of 42 Neotropical species, with the highest diversity found in northern South America, mainly in the Colombian Central Cordillera (21 taxa). In order to increase the taxonomic certainty of *Serpocaulon*, we describe 1050 spores from taxa

reported in the Colombian Central Cordillera. For each species we measured 25 spores in both lateral and proximal views. The spore observations were conducted using both transmitted light microscopy (LM) and scanning electron microscopy (SEM). Fourteen morphological characters were evaluated. The description followed the terminology of Tryon & Lugardon (1991) and Punt *et al.* (2007). We used Principal Components Analysis (PCA) (R Development-Core-Team. 2012) to identify taxa variability. Spores are monads, heteropolar, bilaterally symmetrical, ellipsoid to globular in proximal view, and plane-convex to concave-convex in lateral view. All taxa have verrucate ornamentation, which varies in size, shape, and distribution. Two basic types of perispore were recognized (thick-folded and thin). Our results suggest that i) verrucae morphology is important to determine species, ii) PCA is a useful technique to identify morphological patterns. Finally, we present four morphology groups, which were suggested in previous molecular studies for *Serpocaulon* (Kreier *et al.* 2008).

With the AASP travel award, I am going to pay the air tickets to Costa Rica.



**OTS Specialty Course:**

## **TROPICAL FERNS and LYCOPHYTES**

This course is designed to build the diverse skills needed for floristic, taxonomic, phylogenetic and ecological research on tropical ferns through an intensive, 15 day field introduction to the identification, classification, phylogenetics, ecology and reproductive biology of tropical ferns and lycophytes.

# The decline of micropaleontology class offerings

David K Watkins, NAMS President

Greetings. I am about halfway through my stint as President of NAMS, and I have to say that the thing that has impressed me most about the whole organization is the dedicated work of the folks serving as officers and board members. I have been impressed especially by the hard work and long hours that the organizing committee for Microfossils III have put in planning the conference. It is shaping up to be a fantastic meeting, and I urge all of you to come for what promises to be our best meeting yet. I will save my thanks and kudos for my final letter in the Spring Newsletter, and instead focus this letter on a topic near and dear to my heart: the future of micropaleontological education in America's universities.

In order to get some relatively complete and accurate idea on the health of micropaleontology as an academic endeavor, I compiled data from the Directory of Geoscience Departments published by the American Geosciences Institute (AGI). This directory annually compiles data on American academics according to institution

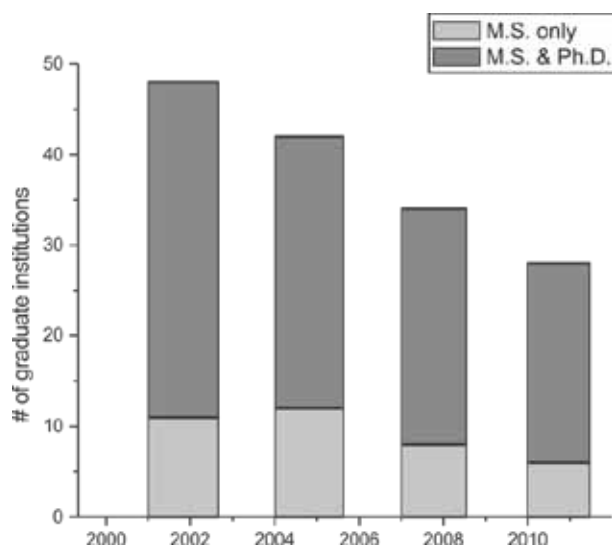


Figure 1. The number of universities offering graduate education in micropaleontology since 2001.

and research specialty (among other criteria). The research specialty is self-designated by each individual faculty member (or by the person in their department that filled out the annual survey); however, so I had to check other, related specialties (such as “paleoecology and paleoclimatology”) to find where those micropaleontologists were hiding. I exclude palynologists from this analysis, so the figures I quote will apply only to that set of micropaleontologists studying mineralized microfossils (forams, nannos, diatoms, rads, ostracods, and conodonts). The resulting data set is not perfect, but I think it gives a robust indication of the trends in academic departments. For this discussion, we will focus on data from four annual reports (2001, 2004, 2007, and 2011) that span the last decade. I compiled data for all types of institutions and academic appointments, but will only discuss those institutions that provide graduate degrees, as these are the programs that produce students that are ready to start professional careers in micropaleontology.

The data analysis indicates a significant decrease in the number of institutions of higher education that offered a graduate micropaleontology program over the last decade, as is illustrated in figure 1. In the academic year 2001-2002, there were about 47 programs in the United States that offered graduate education in micropaleontology. About 37 of those offered both the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees, while 11 offered only the M.S. This number decreased, in an almost linear fashion, through the decade. By 2011-2012, only about 28 institutions still had graduate programs in micropaleontology, with 22 Ph.D.-granting institutions and about 6 M.S.-granting schools remaining. This represents a decrease of about 40% between 2001 and 2011.

The AGI data does not include age information *per se*; however, it does list the year a given specialist gained their Ph.D. The mean year that the Ph.D. was earned by professors at doctoral-

granting institutions currently stands at about 1984, indicating that the average professor in the group has been out of their own graduate program for about 28 years. (Assuming that the average professor had a “normal” progression through undergraduate and graduate schools, this means that the average professor in micropaleontology is in their mid- to late fifties). Within the Ph.D. set, five of the professors (about 23%) received their Ph.D. more than 40 years ago, while only one (4.5%) received their Ph.D. within the last decade. Another way to look at the data is to consider rank. In all of the graduate programs in micropaleontology, 19 are at the rank of Full Professor, while 10 are Associate Professors and only 2 are (untenured) Assistant Professors.

The AGI data also lists Emeritus Professors from departments, although these names seem to drop from the listing within a few years of their retirement. A compilation of emeritus professors over the decade suggests that there are currently more retired professors of micropaleontology (about 40) than there are employed currently in active practice. The list of emeritus professors from the last decade contains many illustrious names that represent an enormous wealth of knowledge and experience that no longer is there for students.

All of these measures (years since Ph.D., academic rank distribution, and large emeritus numbers) indicate the skewed demographic distribution amongst the professorate, which suggests that the significant decrease in programs over the last decade has been the result of attrition without replacement. Stated succinctly, professors have been retiring at a much faster rate than they have been replaced. Paradoxically, the significant decrease in professors over the last decade has occurred during a time when private-sector employment opportunities for newly minted micropaleontologists have been better than it has been since the mid-1980's. This raises the obvious question: why are so many university geoscience departments moving away from micropaleontology?

While there are no doubt multiple reasons for this precipitous decline, I think that a substantial portion of the cause can be explained by the evolution of funding in our nation's institutions of higher learning. There has been a long-term secular trend towards reduction in the level of state funding for our public institutions. Indeed, the level of state funding at some public universities has fallen to the point that they are approaching being “state” universities in location only. Universities at all levels have been forced to rely more and more on competitive research grants to fund graduate education and general operations. Department Heads and their faculties are under pressure from upper administration to bring in new hires who will bring in lots of money. Micropaleontology, especially the industrially-important disciplines of taxonomy and biostratigraphy, generally has not been high on the list of fields with high research funding. As a result, retiring micropaleontologists have been replaced by faculty members in different specialties with more potential for high research funding.

The time has come to forge stronger alliances between academic programs in micropaleontology and the energy industry. Academic micropaleontologists need to strengthen their ties with the industry which is a principal source of employment for their graduate students. The energy companies and their allied consultants need to consider their support for micropaleontology programs in light of the levels of support for other strategic academic programs that they fund. Increased cooperation between industry and academic programs, especially if it includes steady funding support, is the kind of thing that makes Deans sit up and take notice when it comes time to replace a retiring professor.



# PUTTING A FACE ON AASP

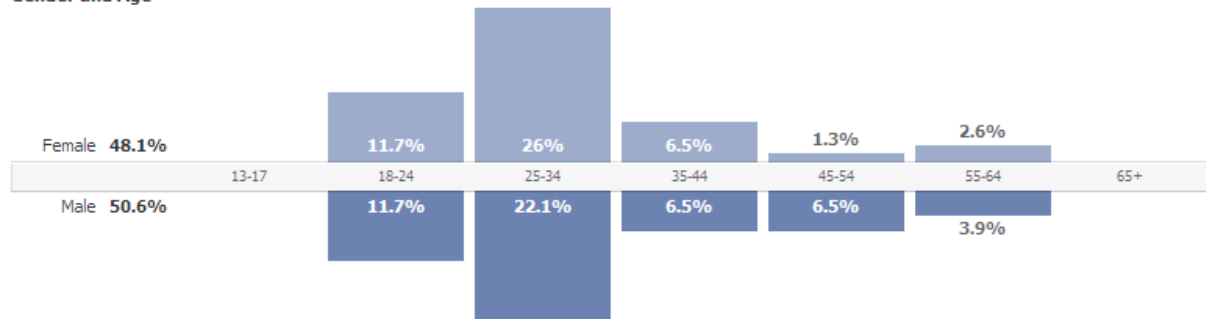
By Rebecca Tedford and Sophie Warny

It has been a year since we decided, as a Board, that it would be a good idea to start a Facebook page for AASP- The Palynological Society. It is a very convenient way to reach not only the palynological community, but a broader audience. After one year, our society facebook page has attracted palynologists from a wide range of geographic localities including 20 countries, speaking 14 different languages. The statistics presented below also show us that about 34% of facebook members liking the AASP site are between the ages of 18 and 34, so most likely graduate students and post-doctoral fellows.

If you would like to provide feedback on the AASP page, please send comments to Dr. Tedford at [rebecca.tedford@bp.com](mailto:rebecca.tedford@bp.com)

## Who You Reached (Demographics and Location)

### Gender and Age<sup>?</sup>



### Countries<sup>?</sup>

- 24 United States of America
- 8 United Kingdom
- 6 Colombia
- 4 Portugal
- 3 Belgium
- 3 Spain
- 2 Poland
- 2 Germany
- 2 Argentina
- 2 India
- 2 Romania
- 1 Uganda
- 1 Costa Rica
- 1 Ireland
- 1 Grenada
- 1 Saudi Arabia
- 1 Australia
- 1 Chile
- 1 Iran
- 1 Egypt

### Cities<sup>?</sup>

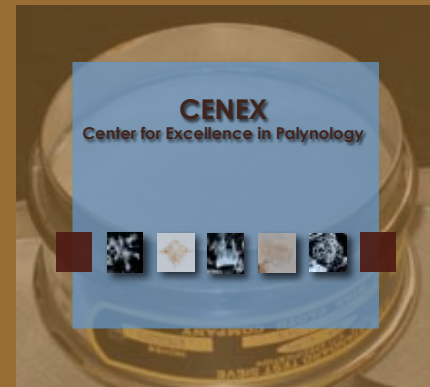
- 3 Baton Rouge, LA
- 3 Bogotá, Cundinamarca, Colombia
- 2 Gent, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium
- 2 Birmingham, England, United Kingdom
- 2 London, England, United Kingdom
- 1 Selyatino, Moskva, Russia
- 1 Alexandria, VA
- 1 Stillwater, OK
- 1 Santiago, Region Metropolitana, Chile
- 1 Mendoza, Argentina
- 1 Tempe, AZ
- 1 Puposky, MN
- 1 Otley, England, United Kingdom
- 1 Budapest, Hungary
- 1 Melbourne, VIC, Australia
- 1 Kolsås, Akershus, Norway
- 1 Palmira, Valle del Cauca, Colombia
- 1 Newark, NJ
- 1 Mérida, Yucatan, Mexico
- 1 Katy, TX

### Languages<sup>?</sup>

- 39 English (US)
- 13 English (UK)
- 4 Spanish
- 4 Portuguese (Portugal)
- 4 Spanish (Spain)
- 3 Dutch
- 2 Arabic
- 2 Polish
- 1 English (Pirate)
- 1 Portuguese (Brazil)
- 1 Azerbaijani
- 1 Italian
- 1 Hungarian
- 1 German

# Recent donations to the LSU CENEX palynological collections

by Dr. Sophie Warny, LSU, Baton Rouge (swarny@lsu.edu)



This semester, two retired palynologists (Dr. Peter Griggs and Dr. Norm Norton) selected our center to donate their microscope and library collections. My students and I are extremely grateful. The books and reprints will definitely be put to good use.

One of our goals at CENEX is to grow the pollen, spore, and dinoflagellate collections. We recently started to digitize the collections that were donated to the center when Dr. John Wrenn was director. We have well over 10,000 species that we are currently in the process of digitizing. We selected a curation software called SPECIFY to help us curate the data. While our current focus is to have all species in our collections digitized and available online, we are also actively seeking ways to increase our collections. We are doing so via graduate student research projects. For instance, Kate Griener is currently growing our collection of *Nothofagus*. Marie Thomas is studying multiple

samples from Papua New Guinea and will without a doubt contribute new specimens to our collections. We are also collaborating with other museum collections and herbarium to extract pollen from diverse sources of samples. For instance, we hope to receive funding to build an online database of Mexican pollen prints that we will build using samples collected in Mexico by generations of LSU curators such as Dr. Mark Hafner and his students. These samples include 4598 samples collected from 564 unique localities spread across all 31 Mexican states and its Federal District. A grant to do so was submitted by Dr. Hafner and I, and if funded, would support a post-doctoral fellow at CENEX.

Finally, we hope to serve as a "safe heaven" for collections that will no longer have a curator. If you have a palynological collection that you would like to donate to CENEX, we would love to discuss a donation with you and assist you with tax deduction paperwork.



Left: Bob Clarke and his wife facilitated the transport of Norm Norton's collection to CENEX. They are standing in our lab with students Kate Griener and Shannon Ferguson.

Right: Peter Griggs with CENEX students Madison Kymes, Isil Yildiz, Shannon Ferguson, Marie Thomas, and Kate Griener.

# Obituaries

**It is with great sadness that we report the loss of  
three of our fellow palynologists...**



*Jan Jansonius*  
**Palynologist, artist,  
friend**  
**1928 – 2013**  
*Submitted by Bert  
van Helden, Calgary,  
February, 2013*

Jan Jansonius was born in the city of Groningen, the Netherlands on April 21, 1928. He died in Calgary, Alberta, Canada on January 25, 2013.

After his high school years (“Gymnasium  $\beta$ ”) Jan enrolled in the study of geology at the University of Groningen where he spent as much time in geology as in the study of art. After obtaining his B.Sc. in 1952 he continued his studies in geology at the University of Utrecht where he graduated with a M.Sc. in 1955.

While in Utrecht, he met and married Bettie, the love of his life. Together they emigrated to Canada and settled in Calgary in 1956. Jan was hired by Imperial Oil (later Esso) and worked at their research lab as a palynologist, together with Stan Pocock, under the supervision of Frank Staplin. He briefly worked for Imperial in Houston.

Jan and Bettie designed their own house and had it built on a vacant lot overlooking the city within easy cycling distance from the lab so Jan could enjoy lunch at home with the family.

While at Imperial he studied the palynology of Triassic sediments in the Western Canada Basin and obtained a Ph.D at the University of Utrecht on the results of this study.

He soon became an authority on scolecodonts and chitinozoa and authored and co-authored many palynological publications.

He was guest speaker at a luncheon meeting

of the Alberta Society of Petroleum Geologists (now *Canadian Society*) in 1975.

Jan was very much a perfectionist and it was no surprise that he became involved with the International Committee on Botanical Nomenclature. He was a passionate taxonomist and nomenclaturalist. Although always having an eye toward the pragmatic, he realized that application of fossil data based on careless systematics led at best to poor communication and sloppy results. Jan was a long-time active member of the Committee for Fossil Plants under the auspices of the International Association for Plant Taxonomy, the body responsible for producing the International Code for Botanical Nomenclature. He served on this committee from the 1970s through to the early 2000s.

His expertise and accuracy in observations were in high demand and together with Len Hills (University of Calgary) he published the “*Genera File of Fossil Spores and Pollen*”, illustrated with Jan’s own pen drawings. Shortly before his death he saw the completion of this massive project in digital format.

Another lasting contribution to the palynological community and its students was a three-volume reference “*Palynology, principles and applications*” (1996, AASP) which he co-edited with Colin McGregor.

Within the palynological community Jan’s other contributions were many. He was co-chairman with Len Hills for the Sixth International Palynological Conference in Calgary in 1984. In 1996 he became President of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists. AASP recognised Jan for his dedication to the organisation by presenting him with the Distinguished Service Award in 1996.

After his retirement from Esso in 1987 Jan donated his time and boundless energy to the Institute of Sedimentary Petroleum Geology (Geological Survey of Canada) in Calgary where he catalogued its recently acquired addition to the palynological library and assisted his colleagues from time to time with their investigations. Finally his health deteriorated to such an extent that he had to abandon his scientific endeavours in 2009.

He received a Volunteers Award as part of the "International Year of Volunteers" from the Government of Canada (signed by then Prime Minister Jean Cretien) in 2001.

But palynology was only part of how Jan spent his time and energy. Family was high on the list of his priorities and family outings often consisted of bicycle trips and hiking in the Alberta Foothills and beyond. Indeed, bicycling with Bettie was a joy, and together they made trips to Banff, Lethbridge, Bragg Creek, Vulcan and many other parts of Southern Alberta.

Outdoor activities also included his love for gardening and his successes with grafting apple trees, thereby creating trees with multi-coloured apple blossom in spring and apples in the fall.

His interest in art, which he developed in his younger years in Holland, continued in Calgary. Not only did he collect paintings, but he also became an accomplished painter with oil and watercolour. This creativity was also expressed in the many beautifully detailed and accurate line drawings of the spores and pollen in the Jansonius and Hills catalogue. Jan started an informal catalogue of dinocysts, listing numerous genera with their allocated species, all illustrated by himself in pen and ink.

Besides his interest in visual art, he became involved in singing with the choir of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and with the Festival Chorus.

It is almost unbelievable that he also found the time to become an accomplished furniture maker. Several tables, desks and other pieces of very well built wooden furniture still adorn the family home. He moved quietly and modestly within the sphere of his rich life. He fulfilled his duties as a man, a husband, a father and a friend. He aided his fellow men without self-interest and to the best of his abilities.

His kindness, his integrity and his knowledge of our beloved science will be remembered by all whose life he touched, above all those who were nearest and dearest to him, in the persons of his wife of 56 years, his daughter Corine and his sons Paul and Johannes and their families.

May they find strength by cherishing the memory of this man, who we are proud and grateful to have known as a colleague and friend.

*The author wishes to thank the Jansonius family, Rob Fensome, Thomas Demchuk and Frank Staplin for their assistance in providing much of the information contained in this eulogy.*



*On September 8, 2005, Jan sent this note and the photo above to David Jarzen, who graciously shared it with us. Jan wrote: "The man looking down the microscope is Frank Staplin; Stanley Pocock is the fellow to the right, with the wavy hair; and I sport the (then black) beard. The photo was taken by the Esso photographer to illustrate a write-up in the monthly newsletter, explaining what marvelous things we palynologists could do."*

**Brian H. Conway**

**Born 6th of March 1950, passed away 15th November 2012. Brian had a wide field of interests in Palynology, Nannoplankton, Organic Thermal Maturation and Palynofacies analysis.**



From abstracts, reports and publications one recognizes three periods in the life of Brian as a scholar. The first decade, from 1978 until his Ph-D from the University of London, followed by lecturing on Organic Maturation (M. Sc. Course) at Sheffield University;. From 1989 until his retirement on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010, Brian served as a researcher at the Geological Survey Israel, he got promoted to assistant professor in 1994.

As a scholar: Brian tackled the palyno-stratigraphy of the Jurassic system in Israel and its thermal maturity, both subjects that remained his strength during his entire career. In a second decade, he widened his horizon to englobe the younger Mesozoic and Cenozoic. In the third decade, the experienced researcher contributed enormously to oil exploration, in particular in the field of oil windows in the newly explored Mediterranean offshore boreholes.

As a researcher: In the GSI he was a meticulous and industrious scientist preparing all pollen samples using special extraction techniques that he developed himself. Working with him was tough but rewarding,

as we remember, like preparing the Jurassic review paper for the Peri-Tethys project (1998), writing drilling reports together or studying some coalified wood in the petrified forest of the Ramon "crater" in the Negev. He was the ultimate authority in Jurassic biostratigraphy and when other tools would provide no reliable clues, he stood his point, even when other researchers did not accept his conclusions. But, after the years his determinations were found to be rock solid. Brian published 55 papers, technical reports and abstracts. As a person: Brian was born as the elder son of Sidney and Pat Conway (formerly Cohen). His loving and spirited family was living in Stratford, site of the recent Olympics rather than Shakespeare's, a fairly tough part of east London. He attended Stratford Grammar School where he did well academically. Stratford Grammar was unusual for its time, and for the area, in that it had several talented teachers who were trained to teach the earth sciences. This encouraged Brian's early interest in geology although he did not initially indicate that he would go to university later, like his boyhood friend Paul Smith. But Brian's excellent A-level grades gained him access to Queen Mary College, University of London. Paul was astounded and delighted to find him at the first day of classes. They experienced much field work and mapping together as part of their honors program in the Mendip Hills (Somerset). In his early years Brian loved to travel and in the summer of 1970, he and Paul hitch-hiked together through France, Switzerland and Italy making it as far as Rome. In 1972, as a young tourist, Brian (Baruch) arrived in Israel. Looking for a job at the GSI, he was hired immediately. As his closest friends, we remember how during the 'Yom Kippur' war, Brian volunteered for a few weeks to help sustain border settlements, and was assigned to the Golan Heights. From 1974-1975 he went back to England to gain his Master's degree and from 1976 to 1978 he worked as a palynologist in South Africa. When he returned to Israel in September 1978, he joined the Paleontology Division. While taking care of immigration procedures at the Ministry of the Interior, he fell in love with the officer who took care of him, Miriam, who soon became his beloved wife. Their three children, Inon, Ido, Rakefet are now successful and well educated adults. Brian was a vivid, curious and inventive scholar. He contributed much to the oil exploration in Israel, the country to which he felt most attached. He was also generous with assistance to his friends and colleagues. He worked very hard to build his home in Israel all by himself. In order to

earn more money for his family he worked at night in a hotel as a sommelier. In spite of his face injury after a bicycle accident his spirit remained high and there was always a smile on his face. In his humble and quiet way he was full of dignity. This explains part of his personality, far from being a "snob" at all. His life has not been paved with many lucky events. At an early age, his beloved wife Miriam fell ill with a serious disease of the nervous system. While she was bedridden, Brian took care of her with love and care in an exemplary way until she died, 7 years ago. Soon after her death, Brian brought to Shimon's office the large Philodendron that stood in Miriam's room at home. Seven years later, during Shiva, Shimon told Brian's children about the plant and, grateful, they promised to welcome the plant back into the family. His three children were the light of his life, and, as a loving father, he maintained his family as a solid unit until the end. When he retired less than two years ago, Brian purchased an apartment in Netanya, closer to his children and grandchildren. Brian died of a heart attack on the 15th of November 2012. Brian was a good friend, gentle and caring, with lots of interesting conversations. He trod his own path and not everybody understood him. He never pursued honors, fame, or privileges. He will be remembered as a loving husband and father, a dear friend and reliable colleague, a careful and skillful researcher. We cherish and appreciate Brian as a scientist and as a "Mentsh".

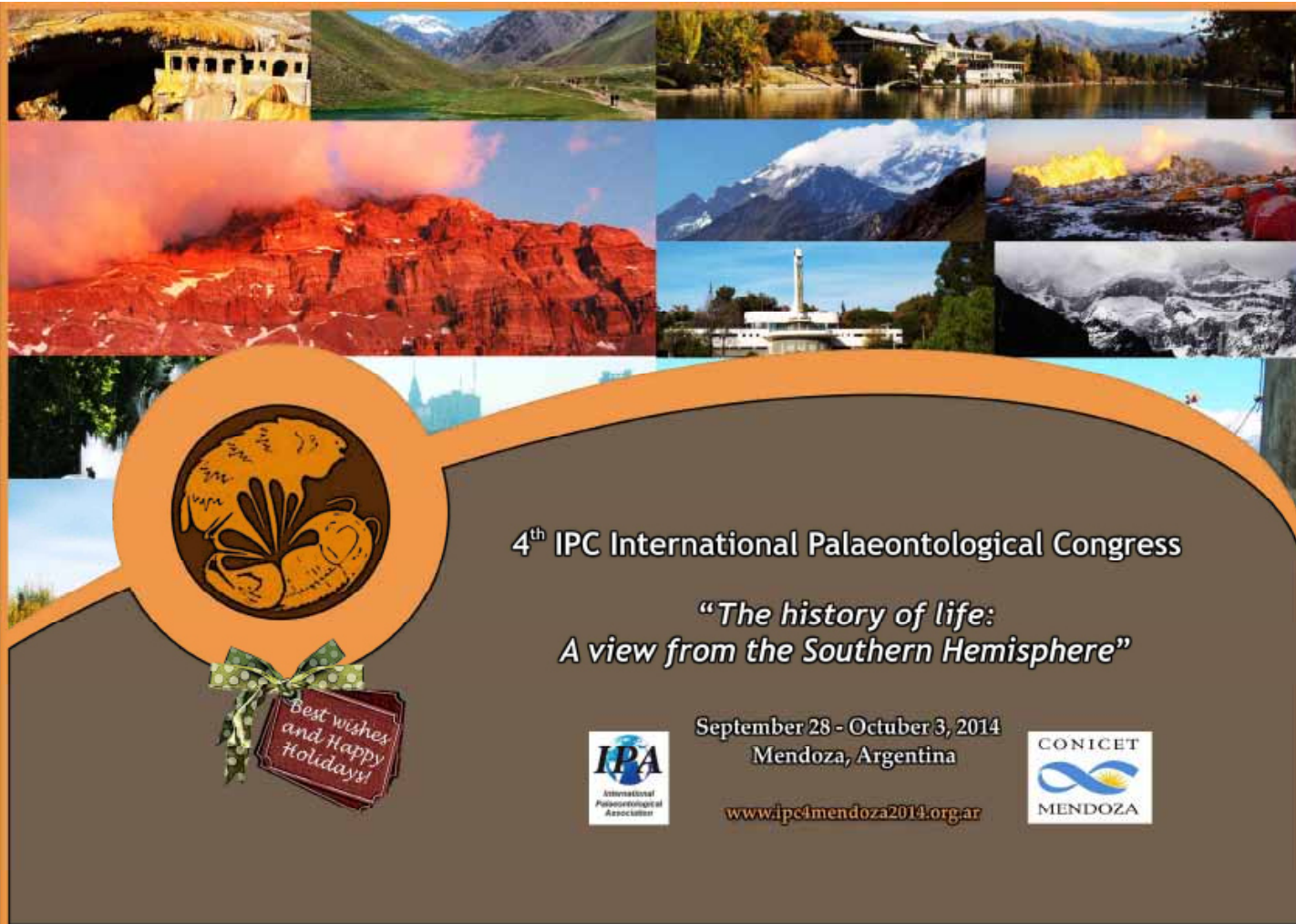
Be blessed His Memory.

Francis Hirsch, Shimon Ilani,  
Lydia Perelis-Grossowicz, Amnon Rosenfeld,  
Rimona Siman Tov, Paul Smith  
and Michael Dvorachek

## Potter, Delbert Edward



Was born in Plymouth, N.H. on Sept. 22, 1922. And passed peacefully in his sleep on Christmas Eve 2012 at his residence in Farmers Branch, Tx. He is preceded in death by his parents, Edward Saxon Potter and Annie Elizabeth Merchant. His Sister Helen Knowlton and two brothers Francis and Edward Potter Jr.. His Wife Laura Minna Littmann. He is survived by his sister Patricia Pike. Daughter Deborah Potter and Sons David Potter and Delbert and his wife Shannon Potter. Grand children Zachariah and Kara Potter and 3 Great grand children. Delbert served in the Army Air Corp during WWII. He later graduated from Columbia University to perform his duties as a Paleontologist at Sinclair Oil and at Atlantic Richfield where he retired. Only to enjoy being a greeter at Walmart for nearly 15 years. He loved gardening and feeding the birds. There are no scheduled services. In lieu of anything (flowers or etc.) just think highly of Delbert Edward Potter as a positive influence on us all. He would of thought that was the best gift of all... Remembrance. God Bless.



4<sup>th</sup> IPC International Palaeontological Congress

*"The history of life:  
A view from the Southern Hemisphere"*

September 28 - October 3, 2014  
Mendoza, Argentina

[www.ipc4mendoza2014.org.ar](http://www.ipc4mendoza2014.org.ar)

CONICET  
MENDOZA

IPA  
International  
Palaeontological  
Association



PetroStrat Ltd is a focused consultancy group, providing specialist biostratigraphic services to the oil and gas industry. PetroStrat's main purpose-built office and labs are located in Conwy, North Wales, on the edge of the Snowdonia National Park. We opened our first satellite office in St. Albans (north of London) in July 2011 which provides a fully operational main office location for several staff, and to have a presence closer to our clients in London and the South of the UK.

We are currently seeking to recruit several **Biostratigraphers (at Junior, Staff and Senior levels)** (Ref PS13-02)

We have exciting opportunities to further expand our skilled and experienced team of 25 biostratigraphers. To complement our current skill base we are looking for candidates with backgrounds in palynology, micropalaeontology or nannopalaeontology.

The roles will require working within a team on a wide variety of analytical studies, including single or multi-well and reservoir to regional scale projects, to be undertaken either in our UK offices, overseas or at well site. We offer varied and interesting career opportunities and are currently active in many areas including North, West & South Africa, The Middle East, North & South America, the North Sea, Norwegian Sea, Eastern Europe, the Caribbean, SE Asia and Australasia. Applicants should preferably be willing to conduct wellsite work, both onshore and offshore; full training for offshore work will be provided. Our posts typically involve a balanced mix of office-based analytical work and wellsite work, with excellent opportunities for career progression within an expanding and dynamic organisation which has exciting plans for further expansion.

The successful candidates will have a minimum of an MSc in an appropriate biostratigraphic discipline. Previous industrial experience, including wellsite work is required for more senior roles.

We offer a highly competitive benefits package, including pension and bonuses for wellsite work. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Please send a CV and covering letter, quoting the reference number above to: HR Director, PetroStrat Limited, Tan-y-Graig, Parc Caer Seion, Conwy, North Wales, LL32 8FA or email: [jobs@petrostrat.com](mailto:jobs@petrostrat.com). For more information please visit [www.petrostrat.com](http://www.petrostrat.com).

All short-listed candidates to provide proof of eligibility to work in the UK.

We are accepting applications now; closing date for all applications: 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2013

# *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**

Photo Wiki Commons

## ♪ Are You Going to San Francisco? ♪ Be Sure to Wear Some Flowers in Your Hair

Please feel free to either sing or hum along. It has been said (albeit without statistical support) that there have been more songs written about San Francisco than about any other city in the world. Think of the classics: “We built this city (on rock and roll)” by Jefferson Starship, “When the lights go down in the city” by Journey, “On the dock of the Bay” by Eric Redding, “Little boxes on the hillsides” by Pete Seeger, and “Are you going to San Francisco?” by Scott McKenzie. Well, are you? Going to San Francisco?

San Francisco is a magical place, a place to dream about, a place everyone should visit at least once in their lifetime. And now you have a reason – an excuse if you wish – an opportunity really to visit the “City by the Bay”, maybe waste a little time sitting on a dock, and possibly write off the whole trip as a business expense!

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 only one block from the brass plaque that reads “Heart of San Francisco”! You do not want to miss this opportunity to visit “The City” – “The City by the Bay”.

San Francisco is a fabled tourist destination recognized worldwide with such major attractions as the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz Island, Fisherman’s Wharf, Haight-Ashbury, cable cars, beautiful beaches, redwood forests, Napa Valley wine country, Silicon Valley, Berkeley, etc., etc. These hugely popular features attract visitors and their families from around the world to vacation 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. If you don’t think that you can wait another 30 years for a reason to come to San Francisco, you better come this year! The tentative schedule calls for:

### 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.

When you come to “The City by the Bay”, in memory of the ‘60s “Be sure to wear flowers in your hair”. (Are you still singing?) But be forewarned that what happens in Las Vegas may stay in Las Vegas, but what happens in San Francisco stays on YouTube!! Whatever happens during your stay in San Francisco, we can promise you one thing. When you leave the meeting, you will be singing “I left my heart in San Francisco” by Tony Bennett.

Questions or Suggestions? Contact Co-Chairpersons Lanny H. Fisk ([Lanny@PaleoResource.com](mailto:Lanny@PaleoResource.com)) or Joyce Lucas-Clark ([jlucark@comcast.net](mailto:jlucark@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 - Special Sessions, Symposia, and Workshops

Our call in the December Newsletter for proposals for symposia, field trips, and workshops for the San Francisco 2013 meeting has netted us some tremendous, well thought-through proposals. We'll provide you with only a taste here.

First, we have been joined. In addition to meeting jointly with Dino10, CAP, and NAMS, now CIMP -- *Commission Internationale de Micropaleontologie Paleozoique* is joining us in San Francisco and sponsoring a half-day session on Gondwanan Paleozoic Palynostratigraphy. CAP will be sponsoring a special session on "Palynology of Sudden Events" (asteroid impacts, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, etc.). NAMS will be sponsoring a half-day session on paleoclimate change.

Three workshops have been proposed for the San Francisco meeting. First is a two-day, pre-conference activity entitled "Palynological Databases -- a Hands-on Computer Workshop" to be presented by Eric Grimm and colleagues. Anne de Vernal will lead out a half-day workshop on "Dinoflagellate Assemblages as Paleoclimatic Proxies". Following up on discussions held at last year's meeting in Lexington, we are also considering including a half-day workshop on "TimeScale Creator and Palynostrat".

A one-day special symposium honoring Bill Evitt will be organized. Please submit papers on any aspect of dinoflagellate research to Joyce Lucas-Clark.

We will be surveying your interests in these various planned events and activities soon. Watch for an e-mail in an inbox near you. In the meantime, stay tuned for more details in the June Newsletter or visit the AASP-TPS website ([www.palynology.org](http://www.palynology.org)) for updates on the San Francisco 2013 meeting.

Additional information will be available in the June newsletter.

# First Call for Abstracts

*It's early, but it's time to start planning your presentation.*

The Organizing Committee for **San Francisco 2013** – a joint meeting of AASP-TPS, Dino10, CAP, CIMP, and NAMS – invite you to submit an abstract for the conference to be held 20–24 October 2013 at the Hotel Whitcomb in downtown San Francisco, California.

The conference will offer a three-day, dual-track technical program featuring both oral and poster sessions on all aspects of palynology – both fossil and modern, dinoflagellates / pollen / spores, plus other microfossils as proxies for paleoclimate interpretations. Research results from studies concentrating on any portion of the fossil record are welcome – as are studies on any aspect of modern pollen, spores, and/or dinoflagellates. In addition to specialized sessions, symposia, and workshops, there will be sessions devoted to “General Palynology”. If you call yourself a palynologists (or anything close), your presentation will no doubt fit into one of the planned sessions. And, if not, we'll plan a new session that will include your research.

As a speaker or poster presenter at **San Francisco 2013**, you will have the opportunity to engage in live, real-world discourse with your fellow presenters and attendees concerning your research. This is your chance to present your latest research to the top experts and professionals in palynology and possibly get some help with identifications or interpretations from the international community. This may also be your chance to meet potential research advisors, research collaborators, or even employers!

**Presentation Format:** We invite abstracts for either poster or oral presentations. When you submit your abstract(s), you will be asked whether you would like to present your research orally, as a poster, or either. Session organizers would like to maximize flexibility by communicating with presenters and requesting that your presentation be moved from poster to oral (if we need a talk to fill out a session) or moved from oral to poster (if we have too many oral presentations for a session).

**Abstract Format:** Please format your abstract following the guidelines for the AASP-TPS journal *Palynology* (see a recent issue of the journal or [tandfonline.com/tpal](http://tandfonline.com/tpal) for a style guide).

**Abstract Submission:** Actual abstract submission will be via the AASP-TPS website [www.palynology.org](http://www.palynology.org). More detailed information will be available in the June AASP-TPS Newsletter and soon on the website. If you have any difficulties at all uploading your MS-Word document abstract file, you can contact either or both of the meeting co-chairs listed below.

**Abstract Submission Deadline:** Deadline for all abstracts is **Saturday 07 September 2013**. For those authors making presentations as part of a special session, symposium, or workshop (see information elsewhere in this newsletter), please plan to submit your abstract early to the convener(s) for approval.

We look forward to receiving your abstract submissions.

# Pollen and Spore Master Class

## July 8-12, 2013

### Utrecht, The Netherlands

#### **Tentative Course Outline:**

**General Pollen/Spore Morphology and Taxonomy**

**Concepts and Applications**

**Early Paleozoic Palynology**

**Paleozoic Spore Chronostratigraphy and Paleoecology**

**(with special focus on Middle East plays)**

**Mesozoic Spore/Pollen Chronostratigraphy and Paleoecology**

**(Australia/New Zealand, N.W. Europe, North and South America)**

**Cenozoic Pollen Chronostratigraphy and Paleoecology**

**(North and South America, Australia/New Zealand, Antarctic)**

**Special Focus on Neogene Pollen Chronostratigraphy and Paleoecology**

**(West Africa, Southeast Asia)**

**Quaternary/Holocene Palynostratigraphy and Paleoecology**

**Fieldtrip: Type-Maastricht**

**Proposed Instructors: Timme Donders, Guy Harrington, Wolfram Kuerschner, Robert Morley, David Pocknall, Mercedes Pramparo, Surangi Punyasena, Jim Riding, Michael Stephenson, Paul Strother, Roel Verreussel, Thomas Demchuk**

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
- Visit the Course website at: [www.palynology.org/short-courses](http://www.palynology.org/short-courses)

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





## **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, Paleoceanography, and Relative Sea-level Change
- Taxonomy, Phylogeny, and Evolution
- New Technologies and Techniques in Microfossil Studies

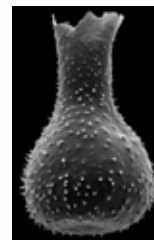
For more information, visit <http://www.sepm.org/nams> or contact **Dr. Mark Leckie** at:

[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.