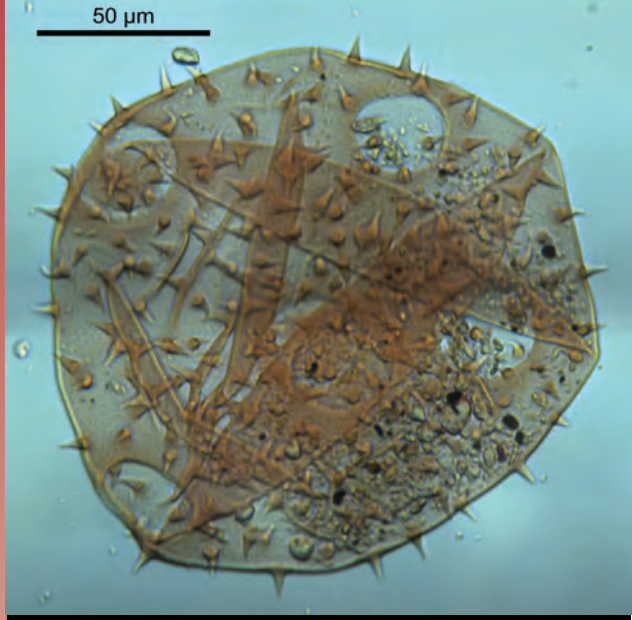
AASP-
THE
PALYNOLOGICAL
SOCIETY



Cucurbita foetidissima
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NEWSLETTER

June 2015
Volume 48, Number 2

Published Quarterly by AASP — The Palynological Society

AASP-TPS NEWSLETTER

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June 2015
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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 theAASP Contributions Series (mostly monographs, issued irregularly), as well as several books and miscellaneousitems. 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)
Professor Estella B. Leopold (awarded 2013)

AASP Honorary Members
Professor Dr. Alfred Eisenack (elected 1975)
Dr. William S. Hoffmeister (elected 1975)
Professor Leonard R. Wilson (elected 1975)
Professor Knut Faegri (elected 1977)
Professor Charles Downie (elected 1982)
Professor William R. Evitt (elected 1989)
Professor Lucy M. Cranwell (elected 1989)
Dr. Tamara F. Vozzhennikova (elected 1990)
Professor Aureal T. Cross (elected 1991)
Dr. Robert T. Clarke (awarded 2002)
Professor Vaughn Bryant (awarded 2005)
Professor Alfred Traverse (awarded 2005)
Professor Bernard Owens (awarded 2011)
Dr. John E. Williams (awarded 2013)
Dr. Paul W. Nygreen (awarded 2013)

AASP Board of Directors Award recipient
Dr. Robert T. Clarke (awarded 1994)
Dr. Thomas D. Demchuk (awarded 2014)

Teaching medal recipients
Professor Aureal T. Cross (awarded 1999)
Professor Alfred Traverse (awarded 2001)
Professor Bill Evitt (awarded 2006)
Professor Vaughn M. Bryant (awarded 2013)

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)
Dr. E. Reed Wicander (awarded 2014)

AASP-TPS NEWSLETTER

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Volume 48, Number 2
JenO'Keefe, Interrim Editor

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POSITION OPEN - PLEASE SEND LETTER OF INTEREST TO PALYNOLOGYLEXINGTON@GMAIL.COM

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AASP INTERRIM NEWSLETTER 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 **August 15.** All information should be sent by email. If possible, please illustrate your contribution with art, line drawings, eye-catching logos, black & white photos, colour photos, etc. **We DO look forward to contributions from our membership.**

A message from our president

29. May 2015

It is somehow surreal to be writing this somewhere over the Atlantic, some 1700 km from land. The Midyear Board of Directors Meeting in Liverpool was a success, and we look forward to sharing the society's new website we have been working on with you in the Fall. We have a few "for the future" updates to share with you as well. We are all looking forward with great anticipation to the Annual Meeting in Baltimore on 1-4 November 2015. Pete McLaughlin, Lucy Edwards, and Deb Willard have gone to amazing lengths to build an amazing program for us! Now it is your turn to ensure the meeting is a success! See pages 6-8 for updates and registration details. The 2016 Meeting will be in Houston, TX; in 2017 we will be in Keyworth, Nottingham, UK; in 2018 we will be in Calgary, Canada, and in 2019 the meeting will be in Ghent, Belgium. I hope that you are all as excited about the upcoming locations as we are – they reflect the truly *international* nature of our organization!

The board has approved an excellent slate of candidates for this years' elections. Please see pages 19-25 for the candidates' bios. The election will run from July 15-August 15, 2015. Additionally, we will be voting on the by-law changes that appeared in the December 2014 Newsletter. Be sure to go back and re-read those prior to the election.

How many of you read the March AAPG Explorer article, "Seismic Killed the Paleo Star?" David Jarzen pointed it out to me and suggested I read it. Dave, perhaps you were trying to push my buttons? I was aghast at the insinuation that micropaleontology is not being taught in the United States, and was being taught in vanishingly few places world-wide. Wait a minute…I follow a LOT of professors of micropaleontology on Twitter… That there aren't any students studying micropaleontology , and especially not palynology. What, wait a minute! I know of a LOT of micropaleontology students, and especially palynology students around the world! I suspect the problems they attempted to point out are twofold: 1) it is true that many micropaleontology powerhouses no longer exist where they once did (we've moved, folks!), and 2) as a discipline, we are terrible about tooting our own horns!

Our vibrant scientific community is not dead – it is growing. In the US alone, active graduate programs can be found in many places, including LSU, Missouri S&T, UT Knoxville, UW Madison, and U Maine, to name a few. Exciting hotbeds of undergraduate research can be found, too, including at Colby College and Morehead State University. Similar growth, much of it in previously unexpected places, can be found almost everywhere around the globe.

I encourage each of you to present and to have your students, our "Palynology Stars", present talks or posters in one of the AASP-TPS sponsored sessions in Baltimore! It is time to show the world that we are not a dead science, not even close!

- Jen O'Keefe

MANAGING EDITOR'S REPORT

It's the time of year when the impact factors of journals are updated. The latest assessment gives *Palynology* an impact factor of 0.922, a slight reduction from the 2013 figure of 0.949. This is based upon 47 cites of recent items divided by 51 recent items. This puts us 135/200 in the Plant Sciences category, and 34/49 in the Palaeontology category (previously 124/199 and 32/49). The five year impact factor is somewhat better at 1.093 based on 106 cites divided by 97 items. We are disappointed at the reduction in the one-year impact factor, but anticipate a significant increase next time around.

Part 2 of *Palynology* volume 39 was issued earlier this month and contains seven articles, an obituary and two award citations. Part 3, for November 2015 is finalised, and includes six papers (see below). This issue will go to the printers in the fall and includes a superb 56-page paper on the dinoflagellate cyst *Wetzeliella* and its relatives by Rob Fensome and three colleagues.

We are doing well for copy these days, and some of volume 40 (2016) is earmarked. Volume 40 will have a modern dinoflagellate theca, against a (very tasteful) red background, on the front cover. I would like to use a Devonian or Carboniferous spore for the cover of the 2017 volume; any offers or suggestions are very welcome.

News from Taylor and Francis is that Andrew Kelly recently replaced James Cleaver as Managing Editor of the T&F portfolio which includes *Palynology*.

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22 June 2015

Papers to be published in *Palynology* Volume 39, Part 3 (November 2015):

1. Williams, G.L., Damassa, S.P., Fensome, R.A. and Guerstein, G.R. *Wetzeliella* and its allies – the 'hole' story: a taxonomic revision of the Paleogene dinoflagellate subfamily Wetzelielloideae.
2. Machado, G. and Flores, D. An effective method for the observation and documentation of highly mature palynomorphs using reflected light microscopy.
3. Villota, A., León-Yánez, S. and Behling, H. Mid- and late Holocene vegetation and environmental dynamics in the Llanganates National Park, Anteojos Valley, central Ecuadorian Andes.
4. Olivera, D.E., Zavattieri, A.M. and Quattrocchio, M.E. The palynology of the Cañadón Asfalto Formation (Jurassic), Cerro Cóndor depocentre, Cañadón Asfalto Basin, Patagonia, Argentina: palaeoecology and palaeoclimate based on ecogroup analysis.
5. Zonneveld, K.A.F. and Pospelova, V. A determination key for modern dinoflagellate cysts.
6. Thomas, M.L., Pocknall, D.T., Warny, S., Bentley, S.J., Droxler, A.W. and Nittrouer, C.A. Assessing palaeobathymetry and sedimentation rates using palynomaceral analysis: a study of modern sediments from the Gulf of Papua, offshore Papua New Guinea.

2015 Annual Meeting Update

The 2015 Annual Meeting of AASP – The Palynological Society will be held in Baltimore, Maryland, USA from Sunday, November 1 through Wednesday, November 4, with pre-conference events, including a field trip, on Saturday, October 31 and a post-conference field trip on Thursday, November 5. As in 2006, AASP will meet as part of the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting. In addition to a fine roster of AASP-sponsored technical sessions and field trips, we are planning two social events and both incoming and outgoing board meetings. Conference registration, housing, and abstracts will be handled by GSA through their website, http://community.geosociety.org/gsa2015/home.

Co-locating the AASP Annual Meeting as part of the GSA Annual Meeting brings the benefit of opportunities to participate in technical sessions, field trips, and informal gatherings with earth scientists from a wide array of disciplines. GSA has more than 200 topical sessions planned, in addition to large number of discipline sessions. A nice change made by GSA is a longer lunchtime break than in their previous annual meetings, this year from noon to 1:30 each day. “Charm City” is a great venue for a conference, and the popular and historic Inner Harbor area and nearby Chesapeake Bay provide a scenic backdrop for visitors. The Inner Harbor and nearby areas host a variety of eateries, pubs, attractions, and activities, including the National Aquarium, Fort McHenry, Federal Hill, and numerous museums, with harbor water taxis available to transport visitors to surrounding neighborhoods. GSA is securing housing in a number of hotels near the Convention Center in the Inner Harbor area which puts these options a short distance from attendee lodging. The housing site is already open, and you can book your rooms online at http://community.geosociety.org/gsa2015/attendeeinfo/accommodations/reservations.

AASP is hosting a number of interesting topical technical sessions on diverse topics. It is important for members to note that all AASP/TPS-2015 abstracts will be submitted through the normal GSA submission process, which has an associated (and completely inflexible) deadline of August 11. Currently, all of the proposed sessions but one (on geological mapping) are listed as oral. Sessions with a small number of submissions may be converted from oral to poster sessions, whereas sessions with a large number of submissions will have a poster session added (i.e., we anticipate posters and oral presentations for T146). If you want to present a poster, make sure you choose “poster” on the abstract submission form. AASP is the lead sponsor on four sessions, all of which have co-sponsorship:

1. T144. 200 Years and Going Strong: The Role of Paleontology in Geologic Mapping (Posters) [AASP - The Palynological Society; Paleontological Society; SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology)]

2. T146. Palynology [AASP - The Palynological Society; GSA Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division; Paleon-tological Society]

3. T155. Timing of the Origins and Evolution of Unicellular Eukaryotes [AASP - The Palynological Society; Commission Internationale de la Microflore du Paleozoique CIMP (International Commission of the Palaeozoic Microflora); Paleontological Society]

4. T205. Integration of Microfossils and Sedimentology in Stratigraphic Analysis [AASP - The Palynological Society; SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology); Cushman Foundation for Foraminiferal Research; GSA Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division]

In addition, we have signed on as co-sponsors for three other sessions:

5. T12. From Peat to Coke: Honoring the Legacy of William Spackman [GSA Energy Geology Division; AASP - The Palynological Society; Paleontological Society]

6. T143. What Makes a Juicy Rock? Global Climate Events and Deposition of Organic Rich Shales through Time [Geochemical Society; GSA Energy Geology Division; AASP - The Palynological Society]

7. T190. Paleoecological Patterns, Ecological Processes, Modeled Scenarios: Crossing Temporal Scales to Understand an Uncertain Future [GSA Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division; AASP - The Palynological Society; Canadian Association of Palynology; GSA Limnogeology Division; Paleoceanography/Paleoclimatology Discipline; SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology); Paleontological Society]

Our most important near-term task is to promote these sessions so they have a full roster of interesting presentations. We enthusiastically encourage AASP members to consider submitting an abstract to one of these sessions, and to promote these sessions to colleagues working in allied fields who could help enhance interdisciplinary connections by offering a talk or poster.

AASP has also proposed two field trips that have been accepted for the GSA trip roster. On Saturday, October 31, Debra A. Willard of the USGS, with colleagues Christopher Bernhardt, Cliff R. Hupp, and Wayne Newell, will lead GSA Field Trip 410, “Coastal and Wetland Ecosystems of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Applying Palynology to Understand Impacts of Changing Climate, Sea Level, and Land Use.” This full-day trip is estimated to cost US$100 and has four planned groups of stops.

1. Patuxent River Park, Jug Bay Natural Area, Black Walnut Creek Nature Study Area, visiting Tidal Marsh and Cypress Swamp and the Marsh – Forested Wetland Gradient
2. George Washington Birthplace National Monument to visit Bridges Creek Landing, which illustrates impacts of both climate and land-cover changes on surficial deposits. The George Washington Birthplace Memorial House and Gardens are at this stop
3. Westmoreland State Park, visiting Fossil Beach, Westmoreland Cliffs, Forested Wetland, and Upland Site
4. Ingleside Vineyards tour and tasting

On Thursday, November 5, Pete McLaughlin of the University of Delaware’s Delaware Geological Survey, and Heather Quinn of the Maryland Geological Survey, will lead GSA Field Trip 438, “Cretaceous Stratigraphy and Palynology of the Maryland Coastal Plain.” This full-day trip has four planned groups of stops.

1. Stancill’s Quarry, at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay near Perryville, northeast of Baltimore, a great Potomac exposure; and
2. Elk Neck State Park, a location with bayside bluff outcrops that include Potomac Formation and nice bay views from above, south of the town of Northeast, Maryland, and also northeast of Baltimore.
3. Maryland Dinosaur Park, in the Arundel Clay Member of the Potomac Group southwest of Baltimore;
4. Largo, Maryland area for Upper Cretaceous localities

The trip cost is expected to be US$120 for professionals; and thanks to funding by ExxonMobil, up to 5 students may register at the discounted fee of US$65.

Social events planned for Baltimore include a Sunday night Ice Breaker and a Wednesday afternoon Business Luncheon. The AASP 2015 Ice Breaker will be held at the Pratt Street Ale House, conveniently located close to the Convention Center and Inner Harbor on Sunday, November 1, beginning at 7 pm. We tentatively plan to offer a selection from the hors d'oeuvres menu and a cash bar; our next announcement will include arrangements on ticketing (either our own AASP sale or an option on GSA registration). The Business Luncheon has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 4, the last day of the conference, from 12:00 PM to 2:30 PM. Registration can be made via the GSA registration system, with the luncheon listed as GSA ticketed event #38118 at a cost of $50 for professionals and free for students. Students, please contact the society secretary, Dr. Stephen Stukins, to be registered for the luncheon.

The scheduled Board of Directors meetings include the Outgoing Board Meeting at 6:00 PM on Saturday, October 31 and the Incoming Board Meeting on Wednesday, November 3 at 05:30 PM. These meetings are being scheduled through GSA and will take place in the Convention Center or the nearby Hilton.

The planning committee for AASP-TPS-2015 is Pete McLaughlin (Chair), Lucy Edwards, and Debra Willard. We will include a final schedule and more details on the scheduled AASP events in the fall newsletter, after the program is finalized.

AASP -TPS will support travel for students presenting at the Baltimore Annual Meeting

Procedure for Travel Grant Application: Amount of travel award is variable based on need. The committee has been allotted $1500 to divide among successful applicants.

The application should include the following:

1) one paragraph justification for the request, plus a description of the research to be presented (plus the abstract submitted for the presentation)
2) outline of the requested amount and how the funds would be used;
3) applicant's email and postal addresses;
4) all of these to be forwarded by the applicant's advisor who includes a brief explanation of how attendance at the Annual Meeting will benefit the student.

Travel Grant Applications are due on August 15, 2015.

Travel Grant Applications should be submitted to the chair of the awards committee who will make recommendations after consultation with the committee:

Martin B. Farley
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Geology, Old Main 213
University of North Carolina at Pembroke
Pembroke, NC 28372

Student travel & meeting registration funding opportunities through the Geological Society of America http://community.geosociety.org/gsa2015/funding

GSA International Travel Grants
Application Deadline: 10 July 2015

GSA International is offering travel grants to help support the participation of international scientists and students at GSA 2015 in Baltimore, Maryland, USA. Travel grant funds are limited; grants will not cover the full cost to attend the meeting but are intended to help offset the combined cost of registration, housing, and travel.

Applicants do not need to be members of GSA or of GSA International to apply (although it is preferred). Applicants must be residing outside of North America and presenting at the GSA meeting.
To Apply

Applicants who intend to submit an abstract will be considered for travel grants, with the expectation that you will submit your abstract on time and be presenting at the meeting. You will be asked to provide a title and author list for the abstract you plan to submit.

GSA International management board members intend to let applicants know about their status (successful or not) by 24 July 2015, which allows a 90-day window for processing travel visa documents.

If you have questions, please contact Nazrul I. Khandaker, Secretary and Coordinator of International Travel Grants and Awards Program for GSA International.

Section Travel Grants
Application deadline: 28 September

GSA Sections offer travel grants to help students attend the annual meeting. Click here to check the eligibility requirements for your Section. The application deadline is 28 September.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Student travel grant checks will not be distributed during the Annual Meeting. Per the normal process, recipients will be required to check in during the meeting at the Annual Meeting Office, show identification, verify their address and sign the check-in sheet to receive their check. The checks will be mailed to the recipient following the Annual Meeting. If a recipient does not check in at the Annual Meeting Office, their grant check will be voided. If this presents a hardship, contact William Cox no later than Thursday, 30 September to discuss alternative payment arrangements.

Student Volunteers - http://community.geosociety.org/gsa2015/students/volunteers

Earn FREE meeting registration when you volunteer to work at the meeting for ten hours, PLUS a US$25 stipend for every five hours worked, PLUS get an insider's view of the meeting! Volunteer 15 hours and get a free Abstracts with Programs volume.

How to Sign Up:
1. Make sure you are a GSA Student Member in good standing. Join GSA (if not already a member).
2. Sign up as a student volunteer
3. Lastly, register for the meeting (click the "I am a Student Volunteer" button).

Student Volunteer Office Hours

Advice for Student Presentations for Wilson Award for Baltimore!

Martin Farley with assistance from Reed Wicander

Here is some advice on making ef fective oral presentations, in other words, how to communicate effectively.

Give a talk on only a few main points. It is unlikely that you can discuss effectively the results of an entire thesis in a single talk. Creating an effective talk is often a process of throwing out material that cannot be covered. Figure out what the important points are (3 to 4 at most) that you want the audience to take away from your presentation.

An effective way to begin a talk is to give the conclusi ons first (or at least very early). This means you are not giving a mystery presentation during which the audience has to guess what point you are trying to make. You then repeat the conclusions at the end. This idea has a history dating back at least to an essay by Eugene Shinn in the 1986 edition of AAPG's advice on making presentations "Figuratively Speaking," although knowledge of it is not widespread. (The 2000 edition of this book, if available, has many helpful suggestions on design of illustrations for talks.)

Generic advice to speakers often suggests making eye contact with the audience. In a completely dark room, this is impossible. In some venues, you can start your talk with the lights up, make some eye contact, and then have the lights turned off. Howe ver, you can still partially face the audience as you speak, and look away from the screen occasionally. You should always avoid talking directly tothe screen, rather than your audience, particularly if you are using a laser pointer to highlight items on the screen. Make some contact with the audience during your talk, even if you can't see them.

Make illustrations on slides as large as p ossible, particularly if there are some details within the image. If this means dispensing with space devoted to organizational logos, then you should do so. Powerpoint allowsyou to move titles to the side, change their color so they're visible over unimportant parts of the illustration, or otherwise alter them to give the illustration importance. Landscape orientation illustrations work best. Figures with labeling suitable for paper publication are almost always too small to read on a slide.

Avoid busy slide backgrounds. This includes most of the canned versions supplied with presentation programs like Powerpoint. These distract the audience. You can make a very simple master slide with an uniform dark blue background and then put your text and illustrations on top of that.

Don't fill slides with text that you read aloud. The audience can read faster than you can speak, will reach the end of the slide before you do, and quickly lose interest in your talk. Outline the points you want to make on the slide and expand on them verbally.

Avoid fancy slide transitions. Although they may seem fun, they distract the audience from concentrating on your talk.

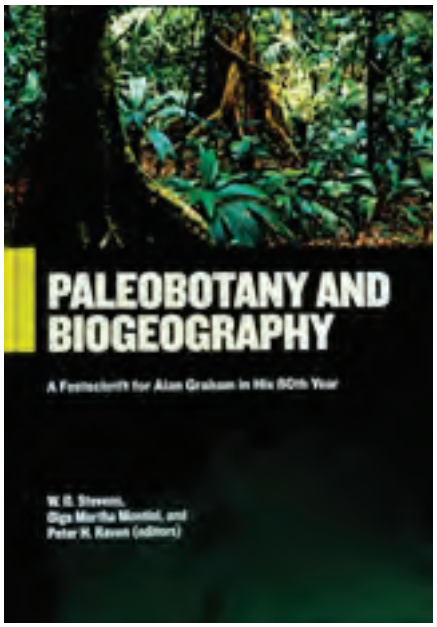
Use scale bars for photomicrographs, so the scale estimation remains the same no matter the size of the projected image.

Never apologize for the quality of an illustration. It draws attention to the issue and many people would never notice. It also makes it look like you waited until the last minute to prepare your talk, and shows lack of respect to the audience. I once had a poster up all day at AAPG with an obvious boundary fault in it and I was ready to explain at some length why it was there. However, even though hundreds of people looked at the poster, not a single one mentioned it.

If you have time for acknowledgments, you shouldn't thank anyone who is a co-author on the paper (e.g., your advisor). You present on behalf of all the authors on the abstract and as you would not thank yourself for your own help, you do not acknowledge the help of co-authors either.

Formally, in an oral session, the session chair is in charge. The chair decides if there is time for questions at the end of a talk. Therefore, you should not end your talk by asking "Any questions?" because that presumes you control the session. There may be no time for questionsthrough no fault of yours, for example, if the session is running behind schedule. A good phrase to end a talk with is "Thank you."

Practice your talk more than once. Leave some time to allow for pauses. For example, you may have to stop talking to twist around to aim the laser pointer at a screen located in the most inconvenient possible place from the speaker's point of view. You will not be able to know this until you see the venue.



Paleobotany and Biogeography. A Festschrift for Alan Graham in his 80th year.

W.D. Stevens, Olga Martha Montiel, and Peter H. Raven (editors). Missouri Botanical Garden Press, St. Louis, Missouri, 404 pp. ISBN 978-0-915279-97-5, 2014. Price: US$ 80.00.

A book review by David M. Jarzen,
Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland, Ohio

A festschrift is defined as a book honoring a respected person, especially an academic and presented during his or her lifetime. The festschrift of this review honors an academic and mentor with whom I have shared an important part of my life. At first I shied away from doing a review as I thought I may be somewhat biased, and my review would reflect too strongly my admiration for Dr. Alan Graham. But as the volume is written by Alan Graham's colleagues and clearly demonstrates the influence of his work on their work, I reconsidered and present this review.

The volume opens with a very fine review of the life and work of Graham written by the volume editors. The biographical sketch covers well the "life and times" of Alan, with occasional anecdotes to lighten the mood and reveal the struggles and successes of Graham's career. The sketch discusses the long-term research program exploring and developing a clear picture of the neotropical floras of the western hemisphere through his series of publications, "Studies in Neotropical Paleobotany." This series has spanned 32 years, with the first installment (I am proud to say) being that of Graham and Jarzen (1969), which covered the Oligocene communities of Puerto Rico. It was these papers more than many others which propelled the career of Alan Graham and set the stage for so many other research careers. For a more detailed and enjoyable reading of the academic career of Alan Graham the reader is referred to Graham (2014), in which his words and humor are perhaps at their best.

Fourteen chapters, presented by 56 contributors, comprise the bulk of the text. The chapters cover plant macrofossils, microfossils, phytoliths, neotropical biodiversity, and biogeography. Chapter 1 presents the work of Barreda & Palazzesi who quantitatively describe the shift in plant diversity, via the spore-pollen record of the Early to Late Miocene in Patagonia. Calvillo-Canadell et al. (Chapter 2), describe a new leaf species of *Inga* (Fabaceae) from the Eocene of Mexico. This find suggests an earlier exchange of neotropical taxa between the Americas earlier than proposed in previous work. Other studies which cover a single taxon include those of DeVore et al. (Chapter 3) on a new genus and species of Oligocene/Eocene involucres (*Catahoulea grahamii*); an extinct Legume flower and pollen (*Eocaesalpinia herendeenii*) from the Eocene of Tennessee (Dilcher et al.); permineralized fruits of *Oreomunnea* (Juglandaceae) in the Lower Miocene Cucaracha Formation of Panama (see Graham, 1988); the biogeographic history of the conifer species *Abies bracteata* from the

from the western regions of the United States (Leopold & Zaborac-Reed); a beautifully illustrated paper on the fruits (permineralized endocarps) of *Melia yakimaensis* (Meliaceae) from the Miocene flora of Washington State (Pigg et al.); and in Chapter 14, Winterton et al. discuss the fossil history of the legume genus *Dussia*, and conclude that the taxon migrated between Central and South America before the closing of the Isthmus of Panama. The Late Miocene Vasa Park flora from King County, Washington State, is presented in Chapter 5. The Dillhoffs et al. have covered the macrofossil, microfossil and phytolith occurrences of this flora of bryophytes, ferns, gymnosperms and angiosperms. From these data, the authors have determined MAT with the assemblage preserved in flood over bank deposits associated with conglomerates. This paper nicely illustrates the collaboration of macro- and microfossil evidence supplemented with information gained from the study of phytoliths.
Flantua and her five coauthors (Chapter 6) discuss the use of pollen studies to determine the nature of biome and species distribution and their responses to changes in climatic patterns since the last glacial maximum in the northern Andes mountains. It is a fine study of plant migration in time and space.

Chapter 8 is by far the largest part of the book, and presents a palynological look at the last 20 million years in Panama. Jaramillo et al. (thirteen authors total) looked at 282 samples involving 496 morphotypes. The study clearly indicates that Early Miocene plants had crossed the Central American Seaway earlier than mammals. The plant diversity has increased over the past 10 million years or so. Jaramillo et al. included as a part of their chapter a review of the work Alan Graham has done in Panama. Eleven plates with 399 color illustrations of the palynomorphs accompany the paper and add to the usefulness of the study.

Magallón et al. (Chapter 10) have examined the tropical lowland rain forests of Mexico and demonstrate a development from within Laurasia and not from elements from the south until later in their development. See also Gentry (1982).

Beryl Simpson (Chapter12) has tackled by herself the question as to the reason(s) for the uniqueness of the southern South American flora. Through a study of 106 molecular phylogenies, combined with other data, Simpson proposes that the combination of geology and climate factors since the end of the Cretaceous resulted in selection and evolution of native plant groups, which adapted to cooler conditions and incorporated colonization of temperate elements from outside the region. The paper includes excellent graphics of land mass configuration and plant migrations into southern South America from the Late Cretaceous to the Pleistocene.

A paper by Stockey et al. (Chapter 12) extends the coverage of this book to the far northern reaches of North America, in a study of the paleobotany and paleoecology of the Paleocene Munce's Hill flora (Alberta, Canada). This low diversity flora has nonetheless provided valuable data relating to the nature of Paleocene floras of the Western Interior of Canada, through several type material occurrences, and range extensions of other important taxa.

The festschrift covers a variety of approaches to the study of Late Cretaceous, Paleogene and Neogene studies in North America. The many contributors have acknowledged Alan Graham's impact on their own research, and have gathered here in one book a tribute to the work and influence of a fine man, solid thinker, and mentor to many of us. Knowing Dr. Graham as I do, I suspect we will need another festschrift in a few years.

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Congratulations to the winners of the 2015 Undergraduate Student Awards!

University of Southampton, UK - Ian Harding

Our recipient this year is **Ben Callow**. Students eligible for the prize at Southampton must achieve the best mark for the palynology coursework in the Microfossils, Environments and Time module, which is a mock Petroleum Consultancy Exercise.

The micropaleontology students receive an incomplete dataset collected by a now defunct services company from a borehole drilled in an unknown part of the world, and using microfossil occurences have to 1) Date the units penetrated; 2) Make some palaeoenvironmental interpretations of certain units; 3) Identify potential source rocks from palynofacies and thermal maturity data; 4) Identify reservoir; 5) Work out what odd structure is present in the lowermost part of the hole; 6) Work out the reasons for three spikes in the downhole thermal maturity data; and 7) Locate the borehole. Ben received the highest mark on this exercise in his class of 47, and will begin the MSci year of his degree next term.

Morehead State University, USA - Jen O'Keefe

Our recipient this year is **Morgan Black**, a second year undergraduate student in our BS Geology degree program. Students eligible for the prize had to not only complete the palynology third of the Micropaleontology course with an average of 85% or better, but also choose to complete a palynology presentation and paper for their midterm and final projects.

This year's winner successfully learned to process, make, and examine palynology slides, and to photograph palynomorphs; completed a midterm review on chitinozoa; completed a final review on the utility of Sporormiella (and other dung fungal spores) as indicators of megaherbivory; and was the leader of the palynology team for their poster presentation on the "Boudreaux Bend Beds" at Morehead State's celebration of Student Scholarship. Morgan achieved a very impressive score on these endeavors.

This summer, Morgan will be spending 8 weeks at the American Museum of Natural History as a Micropaleontology intern. Next fall she will be continuing her palynological study of the "Boudreaux Bend Beds" and plans to present preliminary paleoecological results in Baltimore.

University of Portsmouth, UK - Tony Butcher

Our recipient this year is **Charlotte Fielder**, a second year undergraduate student on our BSc (Hons) Palaeontology degree. The criterion upon which we've chosen to award the prize each year is the highest grade in a palynofacies report that the students complete, that is based upon light microscopy and SEM analysis of Eocene material from the south coast of England.

Charlotte earned an impressive score for this report (the highest grade ever awarded for this assessment), due to her diligent approach to the work and producing a truly excellent presentation, interpretation and discussion of the data.

Both Charlotte and I would very much like to thank AASP-TPS for providing academic institutions with the opportunity to award this prize to our students.

Undergraduate "Paleo Stars" in Palynology

Don't Like Palynology? Colby College Undergraduates say "Kiss my Grass!"

Colby College has had a well-kept secret for a long time - it has been an undergraduate Quaternary palynology powerhouse since 1982, when Bob Nelson joined the faculty. This year's cohort is no exception. Taking GSA in Vancouver by storm with their distinctive *Poaceae*-themed t-shirts, Bob (far left) and his students (from left to right) Trevor Thomas '16, Emily Mininberg '15, Matt Lipman '15, Tak Sasajima '16, Bruce Rueger (faculty), Mary Furth '15 and June Li '16, presented exceptional work on the palynology and paleobotany of cores through Archaic Period sediments from Turner Farm.

Following the GSA meeting, this talented group continued evaluation of the plant macrofossils in the cores from Turner Farm. They found that elderberries and raspberries apparently were readily available in quantity between 2000-3500 radiocarbon years bp, though they had been silent in the pollen record. This work and the pollen work at Turner Farm and an inland site at Fresh Pond, completed by a team of previous student in 2009-2010, may also have provided an answer to one of the long-standing questions about the Turner Farm site: was it a seasonal encampment, or year-round residence? All charcoal at the site was determined to be of hardwoods, yet the pollen indicates that the local forest was predominantly conifers. The inland site produced more hardwood (particularly birch), suggesting that firewood was brought out to the site from inland.

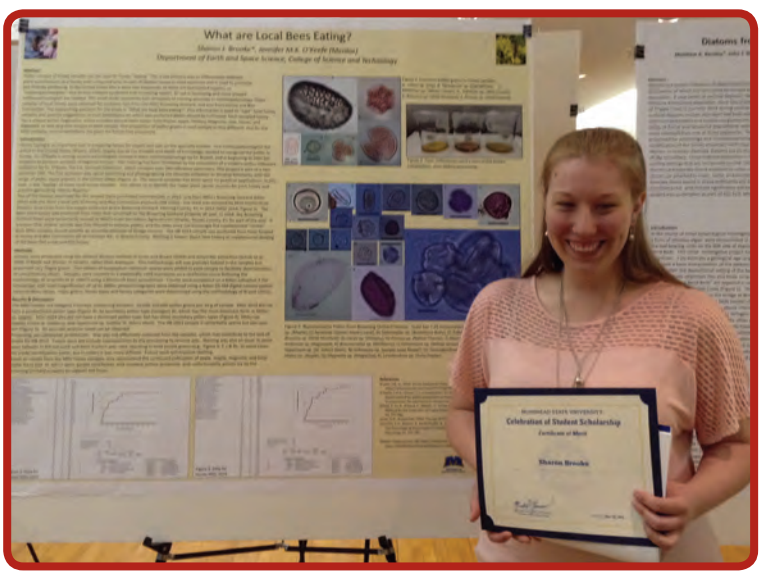
At the time of writing, some of the students in this remarkable team will have graduated, while others have moved on to other projects, most notably to projects in the Karoo Basin with AASP-TPS member Bob Gastaldo, who joined the faculty at Colby College in 1999. Wherever they go next, they are among the shining stars of undergraduate palynology!

What are Local Bees Eating?

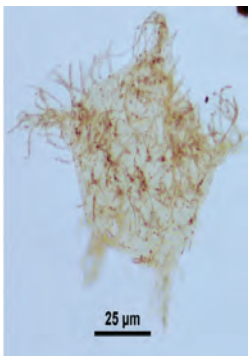
'Well, they seem to prefer *Toxicodendron* over clover, which might explain why Dr. Jen can't eat MSU honey.'

In April, Sharon Brooke was awarded merit at the Morehead State University Celebration of Student Scholarship for her work in melissopalynology. Her project, characterizing the pollen contained in samples of honey from the university orchard's hives, revealed that for the time in question, the bees seem to prefer nectar from a variety of sources, ranging from wild mustard and ragweed to tulip poplars and apple blossoms.

Sharon will continue her work in melissopalynology next year, and hopes to find a graduate program for fall 2016.



Graduate "Paleo Stars" in Palynology



Palynology Research at Missouri University of Science and Technology (Missouri S&T)

Ph.D. student Robert Haselwander (above, left) is studying the pollen and non-pollen palynomorphs and sedimentology of several man-made and natural lakes in southern Missouri, USA, in order to fill the need for Holocene paleoclimate data in the region. Another objective is to understand the origins of these lakes, which include Blue Pond, considered as the "oldest natural lake in Missouri." A second coring expedition to Cypress Pond, near Cape Girardeau, is planned for this summer. Ph.D. student Walaa Awad's (above, right) is researching the biostratigraphic and paleoenvironmental implications of dinoflagellate cysts in the Paleocene/Eocene interval of sedimentary sequences in West Africa. Her results confirm several new species and the widespread distribution of the warm water dinoflagellate *Apectodinium* (above, center) during the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM).

Kate Griener Wins Dissertation Award!

by Valerie Derouen

Congratulations to **Dr. Kate Griener** who was selected to receive the Distinguished Dissertation Award at the 40th Annual College of Science Honors Convocation held on April 28th, 2015. Each year doctoral dissertations are screened from every department and separated into two categories: arts, humanities, & social sciences and science, engineering, & technology. Three nominees from each category are chosen based on the quality of their presentation and for the exceptional scientific impact they have made in their disciplines.

Griener won with her dissertation entitled "Changes in Climate and Moisture Availability in the Antarctic Eocene, Oligocene, and Miocene: Evidence from Palynological and Stable Isotope Geochemical Analyses of the SHALDRIL and ANDRILL Cores."

She published three peer-reviewed papers from her Ph.D. research:

Griener, K.W., Nelson, D.M., Warny, S. 2013. Declining moisture availability on the Antarctic Peninsula during the Late Eocene. *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* 383, 72-78. DOI:10.1016/j.palaeo.2013.05.004

Griener, K.W., Warny, S., Askin, R., Acton, G., 2015. Early to middle Miocene vegetation history of Antarctica supports eccentricity-paced warming intervals during the Antarctic icehouse phase. *Global and Planetary Change* 127, 67-78. DOI:10.1016/j.gloplacha.2015.01.006

Griener, K.W., Warny, S., in press. *Nothofagus* pollen grain size as a proxy for long-term climate change: an applied study on Eocene, Oligocene, and Miocene sediments from Antarctica. *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology.*

Kate and her family at the Honors Convocation. Picture by Barb Dutrow.

Her research is also featured in a permanent exhibit at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. The "Earthquake" exhibit displays some of the plant fossils Griener and Warny found in Antarctica, that attest to previous connections to South America. One of the SEM pictures taken by Griener and Warny at LSU made the cover of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science (PNAS).

Griener recently graduated from LSUMNS Curator of Palynology, **Dr. Sophie Warny**'s lab in the Department of Geology and Geophysics and she currently works as a Geologist at BHP Billiton in Houston. She is to be commended for working on her publication revisions despite the demand of a new career out of state.

Exhibit created at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, CA using Griener's dissertation research.

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LSU Museum of Natural Science

Two CENEX Students Hired as Biostratigraphers by the Oil and Gas Industry in the US and in Turkey

by Sophie Warny

AAPG, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists just published an article in their March 2015 newsletter entitled "Seismic Killed the Paleo Star". They start their article by stating "Comparing the critically endangered species of the Black Rhino or the Amur Leopard to a paleontologist is not necessarily a far-fetched analogy. The paleontologist is a dying breed in the oil and gas industry. This fact is not new, but it is quickly reaching a critical point. Retirement lies just ahead for the small pool of micropaleontologists still employed by major energy companies or who work as independent consultants."

The Center for Excellence in Palynology (CENEX) at LSU is one of a handful of university programs that is still training biostratigraphers (paleontologists who use microfossils to provide age control of deposits). Programs such as ours are always endangered when a state is facing budget cuts. This said, we are happy to report that in the past 7 years, all of our graduated students have been employed by the oil and gas industry in the US, in London, and in Turkey, confirming that we are serving a very important niche, providing critical training here at LSU for the U.S.

Isil Akyus

Isil, her husband and Dr. Sophie Warny at Isil's graduation.

Isil Akyus, who just finished her MS in Palynology from my lab, was hired as a biostratigrapher with the Turkish Petroleum Institute. Isil published her MS thesis in the journal *Palynology*. Her paper can be downloaded at http://sites01.lsu.edu/faculty/swarny/bio/ under Akyuz et al. 2015.

THESIS TITLE

Palynology of the Turonian Ferron Sandstone Member, Utah, USA: identification of marine flooding surfaces and Milankovitch cycles in subtropical, ever-wet, paralic to non-marine palaeoenvironments

ABSTRACT

The Upper Cretaceous Ferron Sandstone Member of the Mancos Shale Formation in Utah includes coal, and gas deposits and is an important outcrop analogue to study reservoir characterization of fluvial-deltaic petroleum systems. Numerous sedimentological and sequence stratigraphic studies of the Notom fluvial-deltaic wedge have been conducted recently, however palynological analyses had not previously been undertaken. Here we present palynological data from one hundred twenty eight samples collected in the Notom wedge of the Ferron Sandstone Member outcropping in south-central Utah. The purpose of this study is to use palynological analysis to refine the broader depositional environments, evaluate the climatic setting, and to build a biostratigraphic palynological framework. The dominance of terrestrial palynomorphs, especially the high yield of moisture-loving cryptogam spores, indicates a primarily ever-wet depositional environment characteristic of hydromorphic floodplain paleosols formed in subtropical to tropical climates. Although dinoflagellates are rare, four intervals with occurrences of marine cysts indicate periods of increased marine/tidal influence associated with previously identified flooding surfaces within Milankovitch-scale parasequences of the largely non-marine stratal succession. These flooding surfaces confirm correlations from regional high-resolution sequence stratigraphic studies and allow correlative marine parasequences and systems tracts to be extended within floodplain-dominated

stratal successions. The presence of *Nyssapollenites albertensis* pollen place the interval studied within the *Nyssapollenites* albertensis Interval Zone (Nichols 1994), constraining the age of the Ferron Sandstone Member to the latter part of the Cenomanian and the early Coniacian. This largely agrees with bentonite and ammonite-derived Turonian age proposed in previous studies.

Marie Thomas, who is defending her PhD in Palynology in my lab on May 8th was hired as a biostratigrapher with Hess in Houston. Marie published the first chapter of her thesis in the journal *Palynology*. Her paper can be downloaded at http://sites01.lsu.edu/faculty/swarny/bio/ under Thomas et al. 2015.

THESIS TITLE

Holocene Palynology of the Gulf of Papua, Papua: New Guinea: Using Modern Palynomorph Distribution to Better Constrain Paleoenvironmental Changes.

ABSTRACT

The Gulf of Papua (GoP), Papua New Guinea (PNG), has one of the world's highest discharges of sediment to the ocean. Multiple NSF (National Science Foundation)-funded MARGINS Source-to-Sink cruises were conducted here from 2003 through 2005 to better understand how sediment is created at its source, transported, and deposited at its sink. Although much work has been done on the data collected during these cruises, palynological analysis has never been conducted on the hundreds of available cores and sediment samples. Palynology can aid our understanding of sedimentary processes at continental margins in two main ways: 1) palynomorphs are transported as part of the sediment, and thus reflect sediment source and depositional environment; and 2) palynomorphs can enhance our understanding of climate and sea level change, because their distribution changes in response to climatic fluctuations. The first phase of this project examined the modern distribution of palynomorphs and palynomacerals (wood, charcoal, resin, cuticular material, and structureless organic matter (SOM) found in palynological preparations) in order to examine the connection between modern depositional regimes in the GoP and the species assemblages recovered. Statistical analysis of palynomaceral assemblages indicates a correlation between their distribution and bathymetry, sedimentation rate, and distance from shore. In particular, wood and cuticular material is found closer to shore and in areas with higher sedimentation rates, while SOM increases in abundance with increasing distance from shore and lower sedimentation rates.

Characteristic palynomaceral assemblages appear at certain major depositional environments (clinoform topset, bottomset, and foreset, and continental slope/deep xvi ocean). Palynomorph assemblages also indicate a clear correlation with bathymetry, sedimentation rate, and distance from shore. Major groups found in palynological slides reflect the composition of vegetation on mainland PNG (mangroves, tropical rainforest, lower montane/montane vegetation, swamps, and scrub/savanna/grassland). Reworked palynomorphs also provide an indication of sediment source (e.g., from the Ok Tedi mine on the mainland), but this is complicated, because many ages of reworking (e.g., a mix of Cretaceous, Paleogene, Neogene, and Recent palynomorphs) are found in samples. The second phase of this project included a paleoenvironmental reconstruction of the last ~14.5 kyr in the GoP. Three long cores (MD-50, MV-41, MV- 46) were selected for this analysis. Changes in palynomorph assemblages allow delineation of four major climate intervals from 14.5 kyr to present, including the Bølling-Allerød Interstadial (14.5 to 12.5 kyr BP), the Younger Dryas (12.5 to 11.5 kyr BP), Meltwater Pulse-1B (11.5 to 10.5 kyr BP), and the Holocene (10.5 kyr BP to present). Results indicate that mangrove pollen and marine indicator taxa clearly delineate the end of the transgression between 5 to 6 kyr BP Palynomorph data and oxygen-18 isotopes from MD-50 also indicate an increase in El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) activity at approximately 5 kyr BP.

Marie was a recipient of the AASP Student Dissertation Award.

President-elect: Iain Prince

I originally studied Physical Geography at the University of Hull, UK. During this time I completed a dissertation into the Palynology of Tufa Barrage Systems in the White Peak of Derbyshire (palynology of the last 12K years) which was eventually published in the journal Holocene. This project stimulated me to study palynology farther. I completed a PhD into the palynology of the Upper Cretaceous Chalks at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, mainly studying dinoflagellates. On completion of this in 1996, I began work as a consultant in Geochem, Chester concentrating on the Tertiary of the West of Shetlands. In 1997 I moved to Aberdeen to begin with RPS Consultants (concentrating on Tertiary/Cretaceous) of the North Sea/Mid Norway. In October 1998 I started work in Stavanger with Statoil. Initially this work was mainly concentrated on the North Sea/Mid Norway and West of Shetlands but within a few years I looked at offshore Venezuela, Angola, Brazil. I completed many exploration projects but also managed the first offshore use of both micro and palynology and horizontal drilling within Statoil. I was also a keen user of TacsWORKS especially fuzzy C means. From 2003-2006 I was Advisor in Biostratigraphy, responsible for a group of 7. With Statoil's acquisition of Encana's GoM assets in 2005 I began working on the Gulf of Mexico eventually transferring to the new Houston office in 2007. Opportunities outside of Statoil beckoned in 2008 and I transferred to Shell as Team leader of a Biostratigraphy team in Holland and Houston, initially in Holland before returning to Houston in May 2008. Subsequently in 2010 I became Global Head of Biostratigraphy in Shell with oversight of approx 19 biostratigraphers located in Houston, Holland, Aberdeen, Stavanger, Nigeria, Miri and Australia. Our team in Houston looks after the America's with projects ranging from Alaska to Argentina nbut with a heavy emphasis on the Gulf of Mexico. Whilst traditionally a stronghold of nannofossils and foraminifera, palynology is increasingly being used especially in the Paleogene Wilcox Formation and the Lower Miocene. In Holland, the team manages projects in Africa (excluding Nigeria), Europe (excluding North Sea) and Far East.

If elected, my year as president coincides with the Nottingham meeting; the area in the UK I was born in.

President-elect: Karin Zonnefeld

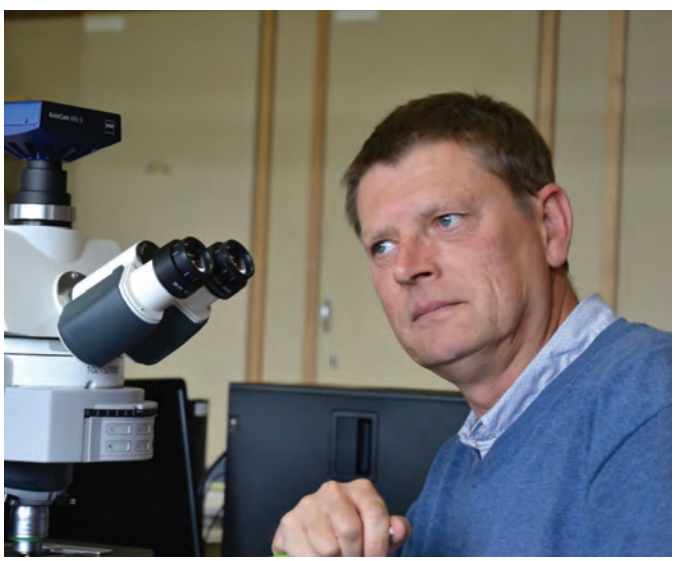
I started my career in Marine Palynology at the Laboratory of Palaeobotany and Palynology, Utrecht University. At that time the field of marine palynology had just started at the "LPP-Utrecht" with very enthusiastic skilled palynologist like Henk Brinkhuis, Pim Brugman, Han Leereveld and others. Despite the budget cuts that stroke the field of palynology hard in the late 80's, these people managed to create a very stimulating working and learning atmosphere. Not at least by finding al kind of financial resources that enabled the institute to invite top-palynologists from all over the world to come to Utrecht to teach and discuss with students and staff members.
I studied dinoflagellate cysts of both Miocene and modern coastal sections. After I discovered that oxidizing sediments during preparation is an effective way to destroy the majority of your marine palynomorphs, I found beautiful preserved dinoflagellate cysts, pollen and spores and completely fell in love with them. A passion that never faded since.

At the LPP I got in contact with Barrie Dale, resulting in a very inspiring one year stay at his institute at the University of Oslo to study cyst-theca relationships. After my PhD I moved to the Geoscience Department of the University of Bremen, first as assistant professor, than as permanent staff member. Recently me and my group moved to the research center MARUM where I am senior scientist leading the Marine Palynology division.

Since my initial studies I dedicate my research activities to use the present as key to the past and further develop the tool of marine palynology for paleo-environmental, -oceanographic and climatic studies both in industry and academia. Hereby my team and I focus on a) the ecology of cyst forming dinoflagellates, notably their geographic distribution and seasonal production captured by sediment traps, b) organic geochemical structures of marine palynomorphs, their selective preservation, its usability to reconstruct deep ocean ventilation and use as stratigraphic and environmental markers in exploration industry and coastal ecosystem sustainability studies, c) the use of organic geochemical, isotopic and elemental components of marine palynomorph walls and calcareous dinoflagellates as palaeoceanographic proxies and d) the use of palynology to establish detailed climatic and environmental land-sea correlations to determine to what extent anthropogenic and natural factors force environmental change.

Throughout my scientific career I have been intensely involved in the teaching of BsC, MsC and PhD students. Over the years I am active in promoting the research field palynology at schools and for the general public. I have been the scientific, financial and international coordinator of the International Graduate College “proxies in Earth Sciences” where in three research phases groups of about 20 PhD students of different scientific disciplines worked on joint research questions. Currently I am the scientific and logistic coordinator of the international “ANTEM” consortium that studies the Anthropogenic and natural forcing of the Eastern Mediterranean climate during the last 5 millennia and am scientific coordinator of several local, national and international interdisciplinary research projects currently being carried out at the MARUM. Furthermore I coordinate the international projects “Atlas of modern dinoflagellate cysts” and “online key for modern dinoflagellate cyst determination”. Over the years I have been principal scientist on several research cruises on both smaller and larger research vessels with my next cruise being scheduled in November 2015.

In executing these teaching, research and interdisciplinary activities I have become more and more enthusiastic about the strength, usability and wide possibilities of the research field palynology. Especially the current technical developments open many new fascinating possibilities. If elected I would like to further support as much as possible the societies efforts to promote the integration of these new techniques in current and new application fields. Furthermore, by remembering the inspiring discussions with palynologists in my own student years, I would like to support as much as possible the society efforts to communicate with students, scholars and the general public.



President-elect: Stephen Louwye

I started studying geology at Ghent University (Belgium) in 1979 and received a BSc degree in 1982. My first steps into the field of palynology were under the guidance of Jacques Verniers who supervised the research for my MSc degree in 1983 and 1984. Jacques took me to the deep time of the Silurian world to study Chitinozoans and basin architecture. After finishing my Masters degree, I climbed up the stratigraphic ladder for my PhD research where Upper Cretaceous dinoflagellates and acritarchs became my new research subjects. After years of analyzing very abundant and diverse Cretaceous dinocyst assemblages under the guidance of Jan De Coninck, I was awarded a PhD from Ghent University in 1989.

My postdoctoral work between 1990 and 2000 focused on several topics: Quaternary sea level variations as recorded in the southern North Sea Basin, mapping of late Quaternary deposits, Cenozoic dinoflagellate cyst taxonomy, and Neogene dinoflagellate cyst biostratigraphy and paleoecology of the North Sea Basin and the North Atlantic realm. The emphasis I laid on these varied research areas resulted from my belief in integrated geological and paleobiological studies based on a multidisciplinary approach, in which palynology plays a key role.

I was appointed professor at Ghent University in 2001 and I'm now responsible for several paleontology related

courses at the undergraduate and graduate level: Paleobotany 1 & 2, Micropaleontology and paleoenvironment reconstruction, Advanced micropaleontology, and of course... the '101 System Earth'. Palynology and paleobotany are fascinating and captivating research subjects and I always try to pass on my enthusiasm for the discipline to my students.

My current interests are integrated Cretaceous, Neogene and Quaternary studies relying on dinocyst stratigraphy, sedimentology and organic geochemistry. Currently at the Paleontology Research Unit, four PhD students are working under my supervision on topics as diverse as marine and terrestrial palynomorphs from the Neogene of Porcupine Basin (off southwest Ireland), late Quaternary dinocysts from Vancouver Island (co-supervision with Vera Pospelova and Kenneth Mertens), late Quaternary non-pollen palynomorphs from Lake Chala in Tanzania, and Paleocene–Eocene dinocysts from Landana in Angola. At national level, palynology is doing well in Belgium with some eight ongoing PhD research projects, and several master projects (keep in mind that Belgium is a very, very small country...).

As a member of the board of Geologica Belgica (i.e. the Belgian Geological Society) I organised the 3rd international Geologica Belgica symposium in 2009 and I'm also serving as editor of Miscellanea Geologica, the monthly newsletter. I'm currently the secretary of the National Commission for Paleogene and Neogene Stratigraphy of Belgium. As a member of several paleontological and palynological societies, I served on the board of AASP as Director-at-Large during 2009-2010, which was both an interesting and stimulating experience. I'm honoured to be nominated as a candidate for President-Elect.

Secretary: Stephen Stukins

After studying a B.Sc. in Geological Sciences at University of Leeds I undertook the M.Sc. in Micropalaeontology at University College London in ’05-’06. It was at UCL I first discovered palynology and went on to use it in my final project studying the onset of the Toarcian OAE from the Yorkshire coast under the supervision of Susanne Feist-Burkhardt and Andrew Henderson.

I then ventured on to the University of Aberdeen for my Ph.D., supervised by David Jolley, Duncan McIlroy (Memorial University of Newfoundland) and Adrian Hartley. This research project, funded by Statoil (UK), took me to Argentina where I studied the palynology and sedimentology of the Middle Jurassic of the Neuquén Basin from its stunning outcrops.

Following my doctorate I worked for PetroStrat Ltd in Conwy, North Wales, where I trained and worked on Mesozoic sections from West Africa and various sectors of the North Sea. Then the opportunity arose to join the Natural History Museum, London, where I have been since January 2012. During my time at the NHM I have been able to broaden my involvement in palynology and micropalaeontology, such as: exploring ways to promote and digitise the John Williams Index of Palaeopalynology; hosting The Micropalaeontological Society conference on the past, present and future of the IODP; and instigating new research proposals for working with the museum collections and on material collected during numerous field visits.

I currently teach Applied Biostratigraphy on the Petroleum Geoscience M.Sc. courses at Royal Holloway University and Imperial College London. In the last few years I have also supervised several students from the University of Birmingham and Imperial College London who have used the former British Petroleum Collection or the John Williams Index of Palaeopalynology as sources of research material.

I would like to add how much I have enjoyed being involved in the association for the past year as the newly created Secretary. Thomas has slowly been easing his grip on the role he's done so successfully for so long, but I am looking forward now to making it my own especially with the new website on the horizon.

Treasurer: Rebecca Hackworth

Rebecca Hackworth is currently working within the Energy Technology Center as a biostratigrapher at Chevron Coorporation based in Houston, Texas.

Rebecca received her B.S. degree in Geology (2001) from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge where she became introduced to foraminifera. This interest in foraminifera sent her to the cold mid-west where she received her M.S. degree in Geology (2003) from the University of Wisconsin- Madison. Her research focused on the stable isotopic stratigraphy and foraminiferal biostratigraphy during the latest Miocene Stable Isotope event (~7.7 Ma). After completing M.S. degree, she embarked on a journey into the world of palynology, returning to Louisiana State University to start a Ph.D. with Dr. John Wrenn. John not only introduced her to palynology, but together they explored the fascinating world of silicious plant microfossils, phytoliths. In addition, working with John enabled her to become familiar with the extensive wealth of resources available at the Center for Excellence in Palynology (CENEX). Her research involved a multidisciplinary approach (i.e. pollen, phytoliths, MS, and stable isotopes) to investigating the latest Holocene vegetational and hydrological changes documented at Catahoula Lake, Louisiana.

During her Ph.D. she interned as a palynomorph biostratigrapher at BP in 2008, where she received training and exposure to gulf coast Cenozoic and Mesozoic dinoflagellates, spores, and pollen. Upon completing her Ph.D. in 2009, under the advisement of Drs. Sophie Warny and Brooks Ellwood, she began her career at BP. She worked for British Petroleum for 5 years within the GoM exploration and production teams before accepting the position at Chevron in 2014.

Rebecca has been a member of AASP since 2005. She had previously served as AASP Director at Large from 2011 to 2013 and has managed the AASP online Facebook page. Rebecca looks forward to serving as AASP treasurer with the understanding that she has some rather large shoes to fill.

Managing Editor: James Riding

James B. Riding is a palynologist with the British Geological Survey (BGS), based in Nottingham, UK, and specializing on the Mesozoic and Cenozoic. After studying geology at the University of Leicester, Jim persued an interest in palynology which developed as an undergraduate. This started with the famous MSc course in palynology at the University of Sheffield directed by Roger Neves and the late Charles Downie. He left Sheffield for BGS, which was then known as the Institute of Geological Sciences, joining the Palaeontological Department run by the legendary Carboniferous palaeontologist and geologist W.H.C. (Bill) Ramsbottom in the Northern England office, based in Leeds, West Yorkshire. Here,

he worked closely with Ron Woollam on the Mesozoic palynology of onshore and offshore UK; much of the work in those days was on the North Sea. The Leeds office was closed, and Jim and colleagues relocated to the BGS headquarters at Keyworth, immediately south of Nottingham. He was awarded a PhD by the University of Sheffield for a thesis on the Jurassic dinoflagellate cyst floras of northern and eastern England. His current palynological interests are wide-ranging and include the Mesozoic-Cenozoic palynology of the world (especially Europe, Australasia, Antarctica, west Africa, the Americas, Russia and the Middle East), paleoenvironmental palynology, palynomorph floral provinces, forensic palynology, preparation techniques, the history of palynology and the morphology, systematics and taxonomy of dinoflagellate cysts. The British Antarctic Survey, a sister organisation to BGS, have used Jim as a consultant palynologist for many years, and he visited the Antarctic Peninsula for fieldwork during the Austral Summers of 1989 and 2006. The most recent field season was spent on Seymour Island. The European Union has recently funded two collaborative projects involving Jim on research into the Jurassic palynology of Russia and southern Europe. Jim undertook a one-year secondment in 1999-2000 to the Australian Geological Survey Organisation (now Geoscience Australia), Canberra, Australia where he worked on the taxonomy of Australian Jurassic dinoflagellate cysts with Robin Helby and Clinton Foster. The work emanating from this was published in 2001 as Memoir 24 of the Association of Australasian Palaeontologists. Jim was awarded a DSc by the University of Leicester in 2003. He served as a Director-at-Large of AASP between 1999 and 2001, was President in 2003, and became Managing Editor in 2004. He has previously served as Secretary and Treasurer of The Micropalaeontological Society (TMS). Jim is currently the Secretary-Treasurer of the International Federation of Palynological Societies (IFPS).

Director-at-Large: Katrin Ruckwied

I started studying Geology and Palaeontology at Darmstadt University of Technology/Germany in 1997, convinced that I would become a volcanologist. However, during a 2 day course with Susanne Feist-Burkhardt and Annette Goetz I fell in love with palynology. In 2002 I finished my MSc. thesis “Palynofacies and dinoflagellate cyst stratigraphy of the Upper Cretaceous Col de Braus section, Southern France” under the supervision of these two awesome ladies. I then followed Annette to Halle University to start my PhD entitled: ”Palynology of Triassic/Jurassic boundary key sections of the NW Tethyan Realm”. Since 2007, I have worked for Shell as Biostratigrapher, where I not only generate and interpret palynological data sets, but also use different micropaleontological fossil groups. Until 2011, I worked for Shell in the Netherlands, working on projects including Kazakhstan, Libya, Tunesia, Algeria and South Africa. The collaboration with the South Africa Exploration Team resulted in the Shell South Africa Lecture Series, were I lecture, together with Iain Prince and Annette Goetz, in a 1 week course on palynology to students and industry at Rhodes University/ SA since 2012. In 2011, I transferred to Shell Oil Houston working a wide variety of hydrocarbon plays from Cretaceous Unconventional Shale prospects to Gulf of Mexico Miocene. I still continue to do some research on the Permian deposits of the Karoo Basins in South Africa. I would truly value the opportunity to contribute to the success of AASP and I’m convinced that it would be great fun to work together with a group of wonderful enthusiastic people in the board.

Not sure about voting "yes" for the Bylaw Changes?
Vote instead for a new webmaster and new newsletter editor.

Director-at-Large: Niall Paterson

Niall Paterson is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Bergen, Norway, and has been a member of the AASP since 2006. Niall's current research focuses on the Middle to Late Triassic palynology of the Svalbard Archipelago and Barents Shelf, Arctic Norway. Niall graduated from the University of Glasgow in 2005 with a 1st Class BSc. (Hns.) in Earth Science. Later in 2005 Niall commenced a PhD project at Trinity College Dublin entitled, "Palynostratigraphy and palynofacies analysis of Upper Devonian and lower Mississippian strata of Eastern USA". After completing his PhD Niall joined ExxonMobil Exploration in 2009 and was employed as a palynologist within the Biostratigraphy Core Team. In this role Niall gained experience in Silurian to Miocene palynology from numerous sedimentary basins in South America, Europe and south-east Asia. In 2013 Niall joined the University of Bergen and began research on the Late Triassic palynology of the Norwegian Arctic. Since arriving in Norway, Niall has participated in two field expeditions to Svalbard led by the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate, and has co-supervised four MSc. students. Niall has received several awards including the 'Palaeontological Association Student Award' (2004), the 'Ethel Currie Prize for Palaeontology and Stratigraphy' (2005), and was joint-winner of the 'AASP - L.R. Wilson Best Student Paper Award' in 2006. If elected as Director-at-Large Niall will bring a combination of experience in aspects of both industrial and academic palynology to the role.

Webmaster: Fabienne Marret-Davies

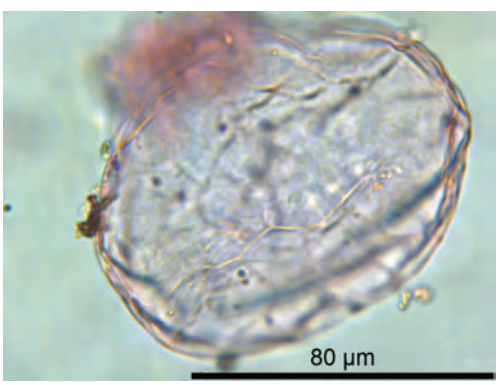
I am a palaeoecologist/palaeoceanographer using proxies (pollen, spores, organic-walled dinoflagellate cysts and other NPPs) enabling to understand land-ocean interactions from long- to short term timescales, from the poles to the equator. While studying a licence in Earth Sciences at the University of Luminy, in Marseilles (France), I had the pleasure to meet with Raymonde Bonnefille, Annie Vincens and other famous scientists from the Laboratoire de Géologie du Quaternaire. Annie introduced me to the world of African pollen and, although I did not have to study palynology (while doing a Geology Masters), I was hooked. I was then offered to study for a PhD with Prof Hans-Jurgen Beug (Gottingen, Germany), on African Quaternary climate, but before going there, I studied a D.E.A. in oceanography at the University of Bordeaux I (Talence, France), under the supervision of Jean-Louis Turon, who taught me extensively about Quaternary organic-walled dinoflagellate cysts. It is with this background knowledge that I started my PhD studying Quaternary marine palynology in the Gulf of Guinea, under the supervision of Prof Beug and Dr Lydie Dupont. I obtained my PhD in 1994, at the University of Bordeaux I, and went to Montreal, Quebec to carry out post-doctoral research with Prof Anne de Vernal. This is when we started to look at the Southern Ocean for the modern dinocyst distribution and developed the first database for this part of the word. In 1997, I had a research contract at the School of Ocean Sciences of the University of Wales (Bangor) and I fell in love with the place (and later with my now Welsh husband). After a couple of years of back and forth between Montreal and Menai Bridge, I settled in North Wales in 1999 where I carried out research projects funded by EU money (Marie Curie fellowship) and other

grants. It was in 2005 that I joined the Department of Geography at the University of Liverpool and I am currently a Reader, teaching climate change and palynology (amongst other subjects of course) and researching all aspect of ecology and palaeoecology of Quaternary dinoflagellate cysts as well as land-ocean interactions. A recent research project was to investigate the timing and amplitude of the reconnection of the Black Sea to the Mediterranean at the beginning of the Holocene. I am also very keen at extending the dinocyst databases that we have been using for reconstructing past oceanographic conditions, and from time to time, discovering new species. I have been a member of AASP since in 1994, being one of the Director-at-large (2013-2015), but also at the APLF (Webmaster,2005-2013), SGF, QRA (Publicity officer and Webmaster 2009-2011) and TMS where I was the Chair of Palynology (2010-2015) and currently one of the Special Publication Editors (2015-present). I am also an Associate editor at The Holocene and an editorial board member for Palynology, Marine Micropaleontology and Revue de Micropaléontologie. I co-organised with Jane Lewis and Lee Bradley the DINO9 conference at the University of Liverpool in August-September 2011, which I barely managed to attend before giving birth to my daughter Gwen on the 4th of September 2011. I am extremely honoured for the nomination of Webmaster and am looking forward to contribute to the success of this thriving association.

Newsletter Editor: Jen O'Keefe

Jen O'Keefe, an Associate Professor of Geology and Science Education at Morehead State University, is an active member of several professional societies, including AASP – the Palynology Society, the Geological Society of America (GSA) and the International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrography (ICCP). Jen received her M.S. from Texas A&M University and Ph.D. from The University of Kentucky; both studies examined the paleoecology of Paleogene peat-forming systems. These studies led to her current interests in fungi in the fossil record and changes in angiosperm wetland communities since the Cretaceous. Jen teaches traditional face-to-face and online, asynchronous courses in Geology at Morehead State University and has several undergraduates learning palynology and organic petrography under her guidance.

Jen is no stranger to service, presently serving as chairman of the GSA Energy Geology Division, and is our current president. Two of her mentors, Vaughn Bryant and James Hower, are master science communicators, and instilled the love of sharing science and happenings within the scientific community in her. Stepping into the role of Interrim Newsletter Editor in Spring 2015 has been a good challenge, and one she has thoroughly enjoyed. Taking on this role for AASP-TPS for the near future will help her continue to communicate events and news from palynologists and about palynology.



What am I?
Send your guesses to
palynologylexington@gmail.com.

CONSIDER HELPING OUR MISSION

AASP Foundation Century Club

WHAT ?

The Century Club of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists Foundation is an organization founded by the Trustees of the Foundation in order to provide persons with the opportunity to support the publishing activities of the AASP Foundation.

WHY ?

1. To develop an established level of giving that will continue to provide a solid financial base for the Foundation.
2. To provide unrestricted funds to support the various publishing activities of the Foundation.
3. To provide a meaningful organization and method of recognition of dedicated "friends" of the AASP Foundation.

HOW ?

Your tax-deductible contribution of $100 or more to the AASP Foundation entitles you to belong to the Century Club. The **2015** "membership" drive is on now. Your contribution may be made by personal check or by a pledge which is ***payable on or before*** **DECEMBER 2015.**

JOIN !

To join the Century Club just complete the attached Contribution/Pledge Form and mail to the address listed below.

The AASP Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit, public organization. That means that contributions to the AASP Foundation are fully tax-deductible from your U.S. Federal income tax return. Also, many employers have a matching gift program whereby they match your personal gift to not-for-profit organizations. It is well worth the effort to explore this possibility concerning your gift to the AASP Foundation.

2015 AASP Foundation Century Club Contribution Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

_____

Mail to:

Robert T. Clarke, Treas.
AASP Foundation
3011 Friendswood Drive
Arlington
Texas 76013

Contribution enclosed: $ _____ I wish to pledge: $_____

JOINT MEETING
TSOP - AASP - ICCP

The Society for Organic Petrology, AASP-The Palynological Society
and the International Commission for Coal and Organic Petrology

September 18 – 23, 2016

Houston, Texas USA

FIRST CIRCULAR

We are pleased to present the initial announcement regarding this first historic joint meeting of these three related geological, geochemical and biological scientific societies. The purpose of this joint meeting is to bring together a diverse group of scientists to discuss the close relationships between organic petrology and palynology, to foster thoughtful discussion and address issues that may be of benefit to furthering the respective sciences. Key themes to be addressed during joint activities include palynofacies and source rock assessment.

The venue for this meeting will be the historic Magnolia Hotel in downtown Houston. The Magnolia was built in 1926 as the former Post-Dispatch Building. It was re-purposed in 2003 as The Magnolia Hotel, and further underwent a significant upgrade in 2009. The hotel is centrally located in downtown within walking distance of excellent restaurants and pubs. Over the past several years downtown Houston has undergone a major revitalization with many new office buildings, exciting arts and entertainment venues, and several world-class restaurants. We believe the downtown will provide exciting possibilities for every need and want.

The meeting will begin with TSOP and ICCP technical sessions and commission meetings on Monday and Tuesday, sessions for all three societies on Wednesday, and sessions and commission meetings for ICCP and AASP on Thursday and Friday. Each of the societies will have ample opportunity to conduct their needed business meetings. Social activities are also being planned accordingly, although a couple of evenings will be open to allow members to enjoy the nightlife of downtown Houston. The Conference Dinner for all attendees is being planned for Wednesday evening and will showcase views of the area skyline.

Houston is a significant transportation hub and the international airport (IAH) is serviced by all major airlines from Europe and Asia. Both airports (IAH and HOU) are serviced by the major US-based airlines. Transportation to and from the hotel area from both airports is available via taxi, shuttle, and MetroBus. Further information on fares and routes will be distributed in later circulars. Our current negotiated room rate at The Magnolia hotel is US$179/night (single occupancy). Double- and triple- occupancy will be priced accordingly. This room-rate includes a complimentary hot breakfast, a late afternoon happy hour (complimentary beer/wine), a complimentary bedtime cookie buffet, and free internet.

The local Organizing Committee consists of Thomas Demchuk (ConocoPhillips), Jen O'Keefe (Morehead State U.), Thomas Gentzis (Core Laboratories) and Joe Curiale (Chevron). Over the next several months we will do our best to keep the societies and membership informed of new events and deadlines. In the very near future we will be soliciting ideas and potential speakers for our joint technical sessions. We look forward to a great joint meeting in September of 2016.

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

ADVANCED COURSE in Jurassic-Cretaceous-Cenozoic ORGANIC-WALLED DINOFLAGELLATE CYSTS

Morphology - Stratigraphy - Palaeoecology

When: September 13th-19th, 2015

Where: Heidelberg, Germany

Costs: Academic €400; Consultant €800; Industry €1200

Pre-registration: email your name and affiliation to info@lpp-foundation.nl

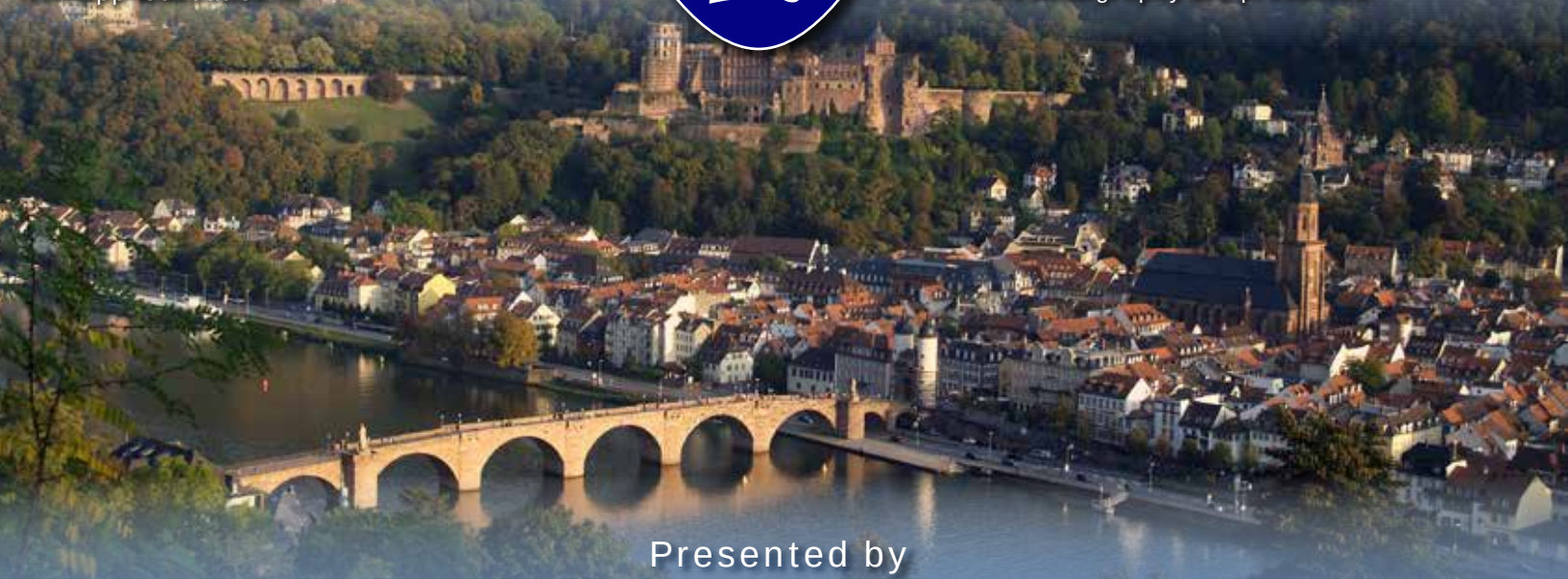
More info: info@lpp-foundation.nl; www.lpp-foundation.nl

Heidelberg Dinocourse 2015

The course takes place in Heidelberg, Germany, which is close to the large international airport of Frankfurt.

An excursion will bring you to the UNESCO world heritage Lake Messel quarry, an Eocene crater lake deposit.

Following the course, we have organised a special workshop in which the latest developments on Arctic and Nordic dinocyst biostratigraphy are presented.



Presented by

Peter Bijl, Appy Sluijs (Utrecht University, NL); Martin Head (Brock University, Canada); Jörg Pross (Heidelberg University, Germany); James Riding (BGS, UK); Poul Schiøler (GNS, NZ)

With contributions from:

Rob Fensome, Graham Williams (GSC Atlantic, Canada); Martin Pearce (Evolution Applied, UK); Roel Verreussel, Dirk Munsterman, Alexander Houben (TNO, NL); Henk Brinkhuis, Francesca Sangiorgi (Utrecht University, NL)

Local coordinator: Jörg Pross (Heidelberg University, Germany)

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LPP Laboratory of Palaeobotany & Palynology Foundation

Brock University

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CIMP Meeting 2015

The next CIMP meeting will be held in Bergen, Norway in September, 2015.

This meeting is intended to bring together specialists in Palaeozoic palynology in order to present their work and to discuss various topics that are relevant to a wide range of scientific disciplines, but that cannot always be accommodated in larger, non-specialized, general conferences.

Some of the questions that will be addressed are: What is the current taxonomic status of Paleozoic organic-walled microfossils (acritarchs, chitinozoans, spores, scolecodonts and others)? What are the recent advances in our understanding of the biological affinities of acritarchs and chitinozoans? What are the best approaches to understanding global changes of palynological assemblages? How can we raise awareness of the societal impact of our science? What are the recent advances in industrial applications of Palaeozoic palynology? We think that this is an opportune time for the Paleozoic palynology community to reaffirm its role in the many and varied fields of modern Earth Science.

In order for people to take part in the optional one-day excursion in the Oslo area on Wednesday, September 16th, we recommend flying into Oslo Tuesday night. The excursion will be led by Professor Hans Arne Nakrem from the Natural History Museum in Oslo and he will guide us in the Lower Paleozoic sedimentary rocks of the Oslo area. The excursion will end at the Gardermoen/Oslo airport in time to catch a flight to Bergen, enabling us to take part in the ice-breaker in Bergen the same evening.

Thursday and Friday September 17 and 18th are devoted to talks and posters.

There will also be a gala dinner (additional charge) on Friday, September 18th.

The University of Bergen is a city campus and distances are short so it is easy to get around in the city. The University campus will provide a nice venue for the event, as will Bergen's seven mountains surrounding the city center. Bergen provides many tourist sites, including the fish market and Bryggen wharf, the latter on the UNESCOs heritage list. The conference dinner (which will be optional) will take place on Fløien, one of the seven mountains. A funicular will take us there.

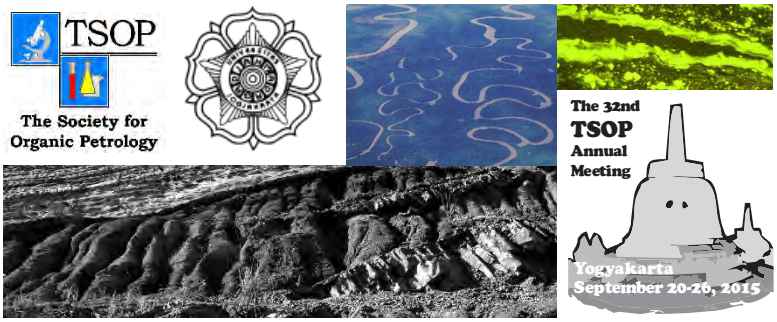
We will offer on Saturday, September 19th, an optional, full day excursion to Finse, the highest point on the railway between Bergen and Oslo. Professor Atle Nesje will be our guide and take us to the glacier to look at glacially derived deposits, glacial processes, and the glacier itself. We will thus be able to see the effects of recent glaciation and use that to compare to the many Paleozoic periods in the geological record when ice-sheets covered parts of the globe. Thus, this optional trip will combine scientific relevance with a beautiful tourist activity. In the distance we will also see the Hallingskarvet thrust sheet occurring as an elongate cliff on top of Lower Paleozoic rocks. We will return to Bergen late the same evening, enabling people to plan for their return flight any time during Sunday.

All information regarding costs and logistics will be available by March 15th, 2015 and payment will be online. We will do our best to keep registration fees as low as possible, especially for students and researchers who are in need of financial support to participate.

Registration date and abstract deadline will be May 10th, 2015.

We hope to see all of you in Bergen next September!

The Organizing Committee: Gunn Mangerud, Gilda Lopes (co-organizers), Marco Vecoli (past CIMP president), Reed Wicander (CIMP president).



Call For Papers

3rd Circular

On the Edge: Hydrocarbons in the Tropics

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE EXTENDED TO:

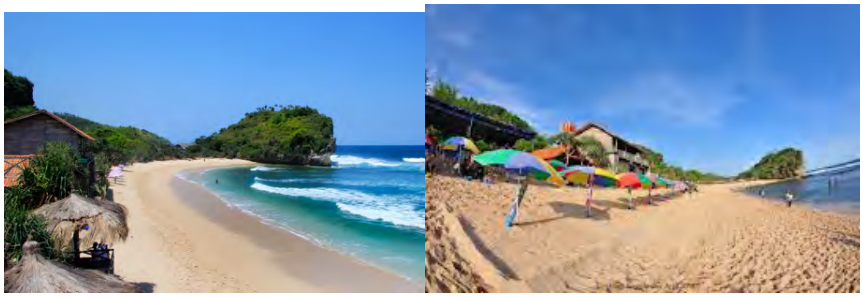
22nd June, 2015

We are extending the date for submission of abstracts until the 22nd of June to give a little bit more time to everyone. All other formatting and page limits still apply.

Remember that early registration discounts will end on the 31st of July. This date won't be extended. So remember to register early, some events like workshops and field trips may fill up quickly.

The June TSOP Newsletter will detail what other activities participants – or their partners – can get up to if they have some extra time.

- Indrayanti Beach
  Enjoy walking along the beach, swimming , and lazing away time in a shady gazebo.



- Affandi Museum
  Affandi is one of three people considered to be Indonesian Maestro Painters; there is a small entrance fee and if you want to take the pictures inside the museum there is another small fee as well – but well worth it!. Open daily from Monday to Saturday from 09.00 until 16.00.

  … And there is more – see the June TSOP Newsletter!

Remember to check out the meeting updates on: **http://tsop2015.ugm.ac.id/**

The Organizing Committee says:
'See you in Yogyakarta!'

DINO11: Bordeaux it is!!!

UPCOMING DINO11th in Bordeaux, France

The upcoming Dino11th meeting will be held in Bordeaux in 2017. After Tübingen, Egham, Zeist, Trondheim, and Liverpool, this town will thus be the 6th European metropolis (since 1978) to welcome dinoflagellate specialists from both the modern and fossil realms. Apart from its famous vineyards, Bordeaux is a strategic paleo(environmental) center with rapid access to internationally referenced geological sites (Aquitanian and Burdigalian stratotypes, Campanian/Maastrichtian GSSP, K/T boundary, Quercy phosphorites, dinosaur tracks), and to aquatic ecosystems of exceptional interest (Bay of Arcachon, Gironde estuary, Bay of Biscay, Aquitain lakes...)

Collegially co-opted by the french "Dinos" community (see involved people below), and with the support of the APLF (Association des palynologues de langue francais), the host will be the EPOC laboratory from Bordeaux University. This lab (http://www.epoc.u-bordeaux.fr/index.php?lang=en&page=accueil) mixes micropaleontological and biological approaches to study modern and past environment evolution throughout times.

Involved people from the EPOC group (local organization): Frédérique **Eynaud**, Laurent **Londeix** (paleoclimatogy team/ biostratigraphy and paleobiodiversity) & Yolanda **Del Amo** (Ecology and Biogeochemistry of Coastal Systems) with the help of Marie-Hèlène **Castera**, Linda **Rossignol** & Jean-Louis **Turon**.

French partners:

- UMR CNRS/MNHN/UPMC 7207 Centre de recherche sur la paléobiodiversité et les paléoenvironnements, Université Pierre et Marie Curie (Edwige Masure)

- CNRS UMR 8217 Géosystèmes, Université Lille 1, UFR des Sciences de la Terre, 59655 Villeneuve D'Ascq cedex (Thomas Servais),

- Laboratoire Domaines Océaniques (LDO), IUEM, Place Nicolas Copernic, Technopôle Brest-Iroise, Université de Bretagne Occidentale, 29280 Plouzané (Aurélie Penaud),

- ECOSYM « Ecology of Marine Coastal Systems » Laboratory - UMR CNRS **Montpellier II University**, CC 093 – Place E. Bataillon – 34095 Montpellier cedex 05 (Mohamed Laabir),

- Observatoire Océanologique de Villefranche sur mer, **Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Laboratoire d'Océanographie de Villefranche, CNRS UMR 7093 -BP 28, 06234 Villefranche-sur-mer –France (Rodolphe Lemée).**

Frédérique Eynaud, Laurent Londeix

INTERNATIONAL 2ND WORKSHOP ON THE TAXONOMY OF PLIOCENE TO MODERN *SPINIFERITES* AND *ACHOMOSPHAERA*

Image courtesy of Audrey Limoges

Ghent University - VLIZ
Belgium
6-8 July 2015

Taxonomy and morphological variation
Phylogeny and evolution
(Paleo)-ecology
Biostratigraphy

Organizing committee:
Kenneth Mertens
Stephen Louwye
Pieter Gurdebeke
Willemijn Quaijtaal

Contact information: kenneth.mertens@ugent.be

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