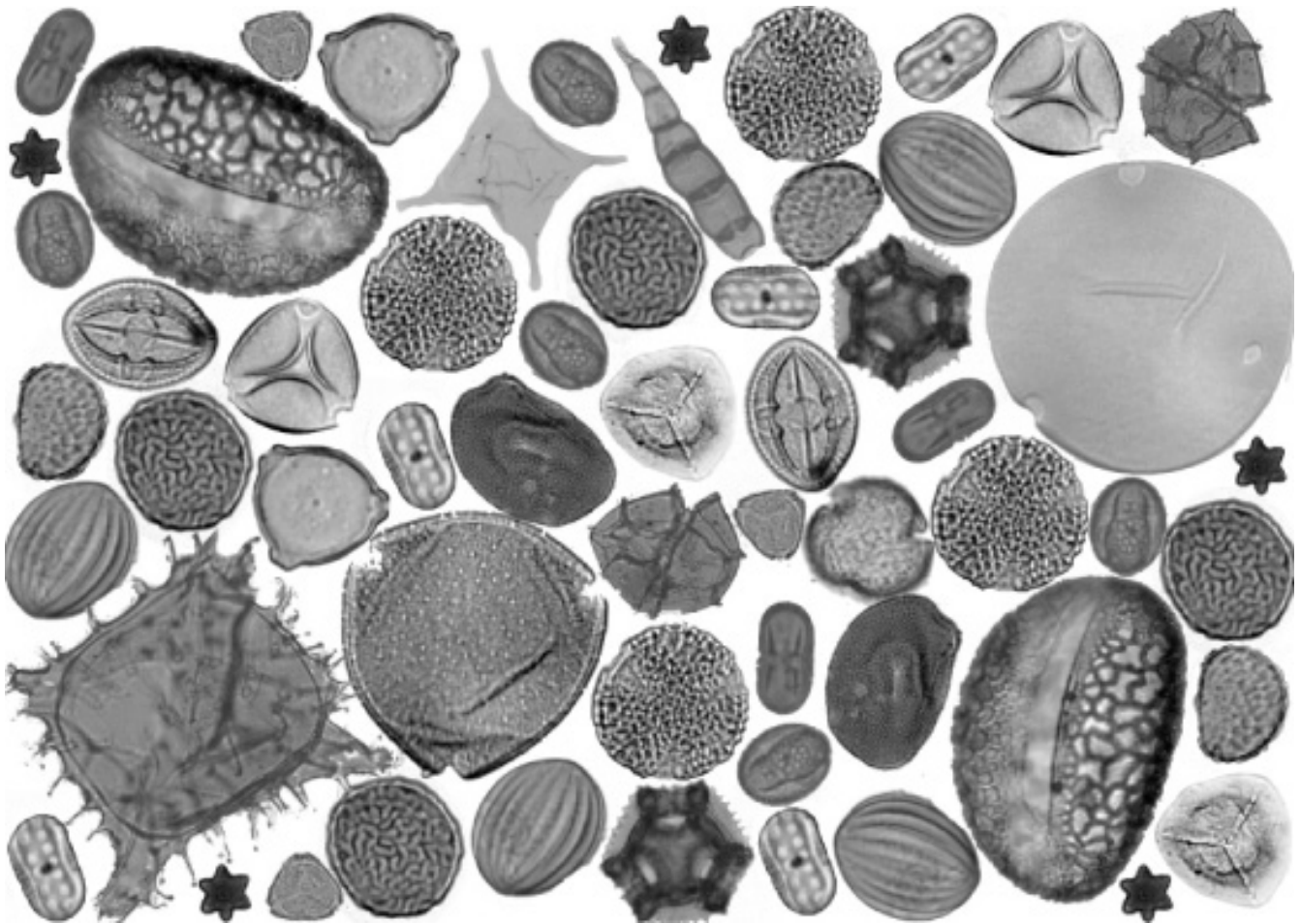


AASP – The Palynological Society

Promoting the Scientific Understanding of Palynology since 1967



NEWSLETTER September 2024
Volume 57, Number 3

Published Quarterly



AASP – TPS NEWSLETTER

Published Quarterly by AASP – The Palynological Society

September 2024, Volume 57, Number 3

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AASP

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 200 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* (quarterly), 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-TPS 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)
Professor Vaughn M. Bryant (awarded 2016)
Professor David Batten (awarded 2018)
Dr. Robert Fensome (awarded 2024)
Dr. James Riding (awarded 2024)

AASP-TPS 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)
Professor Bernard Owens (awarded 2011)
Dr. John E. Williams (awarded 2013)
Mr. Paul W. Nygreen (awarded 2013)
Professor Norman Norton (awarded 2016)
Professor George F. Hart (awarded 2020)

AASP-TPS Board of Directors Award recipient

Dr. Robert T. Clarke (awarded 1994)
Dr. Thomas D. Demchuk (awarded 2014)

AASP-TPS Medal for Excellence in Education

Professor Aural T. Cross (awarded 1999)
Professor Alfred Traverse (awarded 2001)
Professor Bill Evitt (awarded 2006)
Professor Vaughn M. Bryant (awarded 2013)
Professor Geoffrey Clayton (awarded 2016)
Professor Sophie Warny (awarded 2021)
Professor Francisca Oboh-Ikuenobe (awarded 2023)

AASP-TPS 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)
Professor Reed Wicander (awarded 2014)
Professor Fredrick Rich (awarded 2016)
Dr. James B. Riding (awarded 2016)
Professor Martin B. Farley (awarded 2019)
Professor Jennifer O'Keefe (awarded 2023)



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Jan Hennissen, Editor

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Vladimir Torres: 2024– 2025
James Riding: 2024–2025
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AASP WEBMASTER

Fabienne Marret, aaspwebmaster@gmail.com, website: <http://www.palynology.org>

AASP NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jan Hennissen, aaspnews@gmail.com, Keyworth, UK

AASP NEWSLETTER GRAPHIC DESIGN (From December 2021 Issue)

Filipe Barreira, Laboratório Nacional de Energia e Geologia (LNEG), S. Mamede Infesta, Portugal

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 December 1, 2024.** 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 members.**

A Message From Our President



Please Join us in North Africa !

Dear friends,

As President of the AASP-The Palynological Society, one of my main goals was to focus on making sure that we offer our member a high-quality, unique experience at our annual meetings. Our meetings are the primary ways all of us members and non-members formally and informally gather in person and share ideas, meet new students and start new collaboration.

The conference in Montpellier was a huge success on all levels and we hope that our 57th meeting will be of the same caliber. While reviewing conference options, we noticed that we never hosted a conference in Africa.

Last year, it became clear to me how difficult it is for our members of African nationalities to obtain visa to attend our conferences in the United States or in Europe. So, it was an easy decision, we'll host our next meeting in a country rich in palynological training, Morocco.

The next newsletter will contain detailed information on the various sites, events, lodging

etc. The registration website should be open in December at the latest. Plan to submit your abstract in January or February at the latest to give us the chance to plan accordingly. We will keep you informed via We will keep you informed via emails all through this Fall semester.



Collections at L'institut scientifique in Rabat

Dates

57th Annual Meeting AASP-The Palynological Society

Rabat, Morocco

April 22-26th 2025

Note that this meeting will be earlier than usual to avoid having to walk around Rabat when temperatures are unbearably high.

Tentative program

We are finalizing the details, but at present, the plans are as follow to keep special events such as Ramadan and Easter in consideration:

Arrival in Rabat Tuesday April 22nd: **Icebreaker** on Tuesday evening.

-Wednesday to Friday April 23d to 25th: **three days of talks and posters**, various **board meetings, early career lunch, business luncheon** and **conference dinner**. The details will be provided soon.

- Saturday April 26th: **field trip**.



Field trips potentially include visits to the Palaeozoic basement rocks and the Miocene to Pliocene cover. Pictured is the Tortonian/Messinian GSSP in the Rabat Salé region.



Organizing Committee

Hamid Slimani (Department of Geology and Remote Sensing, Scientific Institute, University Mohammed V of Rabat, Morocco)

Nadia Barhoun, Naima Bachiri Taoufiq & Touria Hssaida (Department of Geology, Faculty of Sciences Ben M'Sik, University Hassan II, Casablanca, Morocco)

Ahmed El Hassani (Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology, Rabat, Morocco)

Sophie Warny (CENEX, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, US)



Managing Editor's Report

by Jim Riding

Part three of *Palynology* Volume 48, for 2024, was published during the last few weeks (see: <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/tpal20/current>). This issue runs to 242 pages, which is probably a record, and comprises 15 articles. These are 14 research articles plus an obituary for Geoff Norris; the contents are listed below.

This issue is very diverse in terms of subject material; one of the highlights is a beautiful piece by Alina Iakovleva and two co-authors on the marine palynology of the Paleogene of southern Armenia.

Part four, and hence Volume 48, is now full; the running order is with the publishers and this will be published in late October.

Issue 4 will have a single review article plus 10 regular research papers. This means of course that we are now starting to fill Volume 49, Part 1 (for 2025).

I offer my sincere thanks to my three fellow editors, the reviewers and all the authors.

Please keep the submissions coming in!

James B. Riding
Managing Editor, AASP – The Palynological Society
British Geological Survey
Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5GG, UK
E-mail: jbri@bgs.ac.uk
30th August 2024

The contents of *Palynology* Volume 48, Part 3 (August 2024)

Obituary

1. Head, M.J., Colmenares, O.A., Fensome, R.A. and Miall, A.D. Geoffrey Norris (1937–2023): a tribute. Article number 2347904, 7 pp.

Research Articles

2. Poliakova, A., Brown, A.G. and Alsos, I.G. Exotic pollen in sediments from the high Arctic Lake Tenndammen, Svalbard archipelago: diversity, sources, and transport pathways. Article number 2287005, 24 pp.

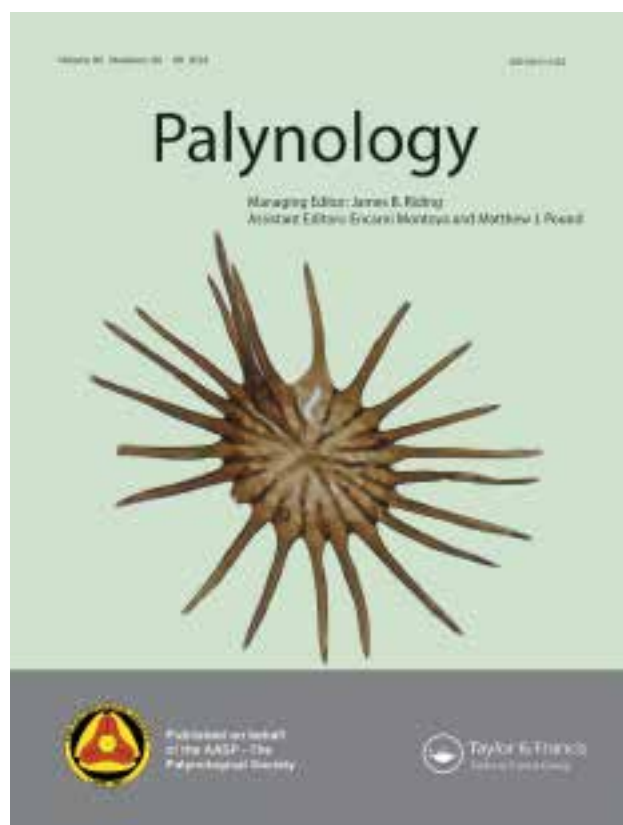
3. da Silva, C.B., Hautequestt, A.P., Matos, V.R., Mendonça, C.B.F., Gonçalves Lourenço Esteves, V., Freitas, L. and Gaglianone, M.C. Pollen sources used by the stingless bee *Schwarziana quadripunctata* in a coffee-growing landscape. Article number 2301441, 11 pp.

4. Mertens, K.N., Meyvisch, P., Gurdebeke, P., Pospelova, V., Matsuoka, K., Bilien, G., Gu, H. and Yamaguchi, A. New investigation of the cyst-motile relationship for *Votadinium spinosum* reveals a *Protoperidinium claudicans* species complex (Dinophyceae, Peridinales). Article number 2303170, 23 pp.

5. Warny, S., O'Keefe, J.M.K., Wymer, C., Powell, B. and MacFawn, D. The palynology of purple honey: Kudzu dismissed, aluminum-sourwood reaction and other sources behind color plausible. Article number 2317224, 12 pp.

6. Worobiec, G., Worobiec, E., Widera, M. and Słodkowska, B. *Cancellidium intergraniferum* (R. Potonié & S.C.D. Sah) G. Worobiec & E. Worobiec, comb. nov. from the Miocene of Poland, with remarks on the fossil history and palaeoecological potential of *Cancellidium*. Article number 2312277, 10 pp.
7. Pocknall, D.T. and Jarzen, D.M. Biostratigraphic analysis of a Late Pleistocene to Holocene section from Punta Pescador, eastern Venezuela. Article number 2329582, 12 pp.
8. Raafat, A. and Zakaria, A. Upper Cretaceous (Cenomanian) palynostratigraphy and palynofacies of the Shushan Basin, North Egypt. Article number 2314096, 19 pp.
9. Aggarwal, N. and Goswami, S. Tectonic inferences from palynology of Permian sequences of the Godavari Valley Coalfield, Southern India. Article number 2323730, 18 pp.
10. Martins, T.R.B., Baumgratz, J.F.A., Mendonça, C.B.F. and Gonçalves-Esteves, V. Palynology of *Huberia* (Melastomataceae: Cambessedesieae): diversity and taxonomic implications. Article number 2334063, 14 pp.
11. Chao, C.-T., Tzeng, H.-Y. and Tseng, Y.-H. Pollen morphology of Taiwanese Asparagaceae species: insights from scanning electron microscopy. Article number 2337676, 15 pp.
12. Çilden, E. and Özmen-Baysal, E. Comparative pollen morphology of the genus *Iberis* L. (Brassicaceae) in Turkey and its taxonomic implications. Article number 2341026, 14 pp.
13. Iakovleva, A.I., Zakrevskaya, E.Y. and Shcherbinina, E.A. Middle Eocene to earliest Oligocene dinoflagellate cysts from southern Armenia: biostratigraphy and palaeoecology. Article number 2343902, 42 pp.
14. Barros, H.C., Ferreira, L.A.C., Silva-Almeida, A.G. and Rego, M.M.C. Larval diet of the carpenter bee *Xylocopa* (*Neoxylocopa*) *cearensis* (Hymenoptera: Apidae: Xylocopini) from the Delta do Parnaíba environmental protection area, Brazil. Article number 2341029, 11 pp.
15. Mezzonato-Pires, A.C., Teixeira, G.H.G.S.F., Mendonça, C.B.F. and Gonçalves-Esteves, V. Pollen morphology of the genera *Basananthe*, *Deidamia* and *Efulensia* of the tribe Passifloreae (Passifloraceae *sensu stricto*). Article number 2341025, 10 pp.

(242 pages)



AASP – TPS 50th Anniversary Jewelry Collection

Exclusive, Custom-made 50th Anniversary Jewelry

Limited-Edition and availability



Special thanks to John Firth and Ingrid Romero for palynomorph images.

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of AASP – The Palynological Society with a beautiful, sterling silver palynomorph necklace. The Society board worked with jeweler and designer, 'Science-inspired jewelry', to create these one-of-a-kind, unique necklaces in honor of our golden anniversary. There are a limited number available of two designs, a pollen grain ***Macrolobium multijugum*** (a) and a dinoflagellate cyst of ***Diphyes recurvatum*** (b).

Each necklace comes with a commemorative information card that includes a picture and description of the palynomorph. **The society is selling them now for \$60.00 OR one *M. multijugum* + one *D. recurvatum* for \$100.00.** This is a wonderful way to support AASP-TPS and is a great conversation starter!

Payment can be arranged by contacting the AASP-TPS Treasurer, Vladimir Torres, at vladimir.torres@exxonmobil.com.

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 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 2023. "membership" drive is on now. Your contribution may be made by personal check or by a pledge which is **payable on or before December 31, 2023.**

Join!

To join the Century Club, simply 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 registered in the United States. This means that contributions to the AASP Foundation are fully deductible on 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.

2024 AASP Foundation Century Club Contribution Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contribution Enclosed: \$_____ I wish to pledge: \$_____

Awards Committee News

By Marie Thomas

Society Awards Nominations for 2025

AASP–The Palynological Society has several awards that recognize outstanding service to the Society or to the discipline of palynology. The basic nomination procedure is similar for most awards (main letter of nomination accompanied by letters of support, which include documentation of the accomplishment). Details of the procedures for each award can be found at <https://palynology.org/student-support/professional-awards/award-procedures/>

The deadline for submission of society awards nominations is **March 1 of each year**. A complete list of previous winners can be found on the third page of this newsletter.

Distinguished Service Award

This award recognizes individuals who have generously supported the AASP–TPS with their work and resources over several years, and whose efforts have advanced the Society. Typically, recipients have held society office, participated in committees, or dealt with publications or meetings. There have been twenty recipients of this award, most recently Jen O’Keefe in 2023.

Honorary Life Membership

This is the oldest AASP–TPS award, with the first awards dating to 1975. This award is either bestowed upon individuals who have made a fundamental contribution to the discipline of palynology, or to people who have given devoted service to the AASP–TPS. Honorary Life Membership has been awarded to seventeen individuals, most recently to George Hart in 2020.

Medal for Excellence in Education

This medal recognizes leaders in palynological education. Nominees are expected to have considerable experience and accomplishment in aspects of academic education involving palynology. The medal has been awarded 6 times, most recently to Francisca Oboh-Ikuenobe in 2023.

Medal for Scientific Excellence

The Society’s highest award for achievement in the science of palynology is the Medal for Scientific Excellence. The official description lists “fundamental contributions to the development of the science of palynology” as the main criterion. Recipients should have a substantial research history in the field. The medal has been awarded fifteen times in the history of the Society, most recently to Robert Fensome in 2023 and James Riding in 2024.

Medal for Scientific Merit and Outstanding Promise

This newly established award recognizes individuals in their mid-career who have made important contributions to the science of palynology and who show the promise of continued excellence in the discipline. Typically, nominees will have no more than 15 years’ experience beyond their M.Sc. or Ph.D. graduation (excluding time spent in industry or on leave).

Society Awards for 2024

Medal for Scientific Excellence

AASP – The Palynological Society bestowed two Medals for Scientific Excellence at our 56th Annual Meeting in Montpellier, France. The first was awarded to **Dr. Robert Fensome**, a research scientist who has been with the Geological Survey of Canada for forty years, and the second was awarded to **Dr. James Riding**, an emeritus palynologist with the British Geological Survey where he worked for over forty years.

Dr. Robert Fensome

Rob was co-nominated in 2023 by Vânia Correia at the Geological Survey of Canada and Julia Gravendyck at the University of Bonn. Multiple society members contributed letters of support, including David Pocknall, James Riding, Martin Head, and Graham Williams. The Awards Committee (Marie Thomas, Annette Göetz, and Jan Hennissen) endorsed his nomination, and the entire Board of Directors were in support of Fensome receiving this award from our society.



The following letter from Julia Gravendyck details how deserving Dr. Fensome is of this award:

AASP – The Palynological Society bestows upon Dr. Robert A. Fensome

The AASP-TPS Medal For Scientific Excellence

For outstanding research on dinoflagellate cyst taxonomy, evolution, biostratigraphy and geological outreach.

Read out in Montpellier 26 June 2024 by Julia Gravendyck:

Robert Allan Fensome is still a very active research scientist with the Geological Survey of Canada in their Atlantic Division (GSCA) (part of Natural Resources Canada), in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. His career started with a B.Sc. from Nottingham University in 1973. 4 years later, in 1977, he graduated with a M.Sc, and in 1983 he graduated with a PhD, both under supervision of Bill Sarjeant at the University of Saskatchewan.

Before officially completing his PhD, Rob had already become a Research Associate, working with Geoff Norris at the University of Toronto in June 1981. The three-year period he spent in Toronto, was especially meaningful in his personal life. He met his incredibly supportive wife, Lorraine Thompson [who also joined us at ceremony in Montpellier].

In September 1984, Rob joined GSCA, and, similarly important, he married Lorraine in the garden of Geoff Norris' house. They celebrate their 40th anniversary this year. During his now 40-year tenure at the survey, Rob has focused on the study of Mesozoic and Cenozoic dinoflagellate cysts, particularly those from offshore eastern Canada.

His 1993 major publication "A classification of living and fossil dinoflagellates" remains a cornerstone in the field. Rob was a pioneer in looking at patterns of evolution among dinofla-

gellates. Proposing for example that the early Mesozoic expansion of this group was a real and significant evolutionary episode – as he explained to us in his keynote, yesterday [at the celebration in Montpellier]. Do you remember? ...the one where we learned all about sexy, and kinky, horny dinoflagellate cysts.

His contributions on dinoflagellates to compendia like the 3-volume AASP Foundation book: *Palynology: principles and applications* or to the Geological Time Scale (Gradstein, 2024) are essential reading for anyone venturing into the realm of fossil dinoflagellates. Rob, Graham Williams, and Bruce Tocher came up with the idea for the Foundation 3-volume AASP publication during a drive back to Nova Scotia from a meeting in the U.S in 1996. Rob and Graham even finally convinced Jan Jansorius and Colin McGregor to be the editors.

One of his most significant contributions is his tireless efforts in advancing dinoflagellate taxonomy and nomenclature. Dinoflagellate cyst taxonomy is (especially in comparison to terrestrial palynology) very well-organized, primarily thanks to the creation and continuance of *The Lentini and Williams Index of Fossil Dinoflagellates*. Rob has taken the lead in keeping this vital resource updated for the past 20 years and was instrumental in developing its digital counterpart, the DINOFLAJ database, with Andrew MacRae. Rob is adept in suggesting resolutions to difficult taxonomic problems, such as with the dinoflagellate-cyst *Wetzeliella* and *Sentusidinium* groups.

Similarly, he has become the expert in the nomenclatural rules encompassed by the International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi and plants (aka the Code). Rob led and co-authored several proposals to change the Code regarding conservation of names, for example for the Cenozoic genus *Selenopemphix*, and most recently has contributed to clarifications of the Code regarding dual nomenclature.

Rob has generously given back to the scientific community through his service on various committees:

- He is Former Chair and ongoing member of the Nomenclature Committee for Fossils under the auspices of the International Association for Plant Taxonomy (IAPT).
- He is one of the AASP Foundation Trustees in the role of Editor for the AASP Contributions Series.
- He is a Former President and ongoing member of the Canadian Association of Palynologists.
- He is a member of the Atlantic Geoscience Society (AGS), contributing extensively to its education, video, publications and geoheritage committees.
- He has been a co-editor of the journal *Atlantic Geoscience* since 2001.

Included in his vast range of outreach activities are the two award-winning books, *The Last Billion Years: A geological history of the Maritime Provinces of Canada* (the second edition was published in 2022) and *Four Billion Years and Counting: Canada's Geological Heritage* (published in 2014). In both, he was the coordinator (of over 100 scientists), co-editor, and co-author of most chapters.

Beyond his remarkable scientific record, Robert Fensome has generously shared his knowledge and expertise with both colleagues and the next generation of scientists. His profound impact on the academic journey of students is evident in the long list of those he has formally and informally advised, as both of us [Vânia Correia and Julia Gravendyck] can attest!

Let me [Julia] share with you my personal experience of how Rob has inspired, mentored and furthered my own career:

"During my PhD, I reached out to him and asked for help with nomenclature. Although we were

not connected in any way before, he freely and generously shared his time and knowledge with me and I was thrilled to find a fellow nomenclature enthusiast.

He can beautifully dissect a complex problem of entwined taxonomy and nomenclature, making it easy to follow; so much so, that I often can't understand why this thing seemed so cryptic to me in the first place."

So, he quickly became an important mentor to me. He is always a humble and encouraging supporter. Rather than overpowering me with his immense knowledge and experience, he shares a perfect dose of what he has to offer, to encourage my own voice. I always felt respected and valued for my ideas and critical thinking, establishing a deep level of trust and equality and nurturing my passion for nomenclature.

Without him, without you, Rob, I would probably not be here today.

I will be forever grateful, as surely so many others will be with similar experiences."

To wrap up, Rob Fensome's passionate dedication and superb legacy in palynological studies, with specialization in fossil dinoflagellates, taxonomy and nomenclature has played a pivotal role in shaping contemporary palynology.

His steadfast commitment to advancing scientific knowledge, nurturing the next generation of researchers, supporting the scientific community and developing outreach activities, makes him one of the greatest "Dino-stars" in palynology today and thus an incredibly well-deserving recipient of the 14th AASP-TPS Medal of Scientific Excellence.



Dr. Fensome receiving his plaque from Julia Gravendyck. Photo courtesy of Sophie Warny.

Dr. James Riding

Jim was co-nominated in 2024 by Vânia Correia at the Geological Survey of Canada and Julia Gravendyck at the University of Bonn. Multiple society members contributed letters of support, including Robert Fensome, Martin Head, Stephen Hesselbo, and Matthew Pound. The Awards Committee (Marie Thomas, Annette Göetz, and Jan Hennissen) endorsed his nomination, and the entire Board of Directors were in support of Riding receiving this award from our society.

AASP – The Palynological Society bestows upon

Dr. James B. Riding

The AASP-TPS Medal For Scientific Excellence

For outstanding research on Mesozoic dinoflagellate cyst biostratigraphy, taxonomy and evolution, and training in palynology.

Read out in Montpellier 26 June 2024 by Vânia Correia

James Brian Riding is currently an Emeritus Palynologist at the British Geological Survey (BGS), Keyworth, Nottingham, UK. Jim obtained a BSc with Honours from the University of Leicester in 1979, a MSc degree in Micro-palaeontology (Palynology) in 1981 and a PhD in 1986, both from the University of Sheffield. Later, in 2003, he received a DSc degree for an (already) long list of publications on palynology from the University of Leicester.

Jim started his career at BGS, in Leeds, in 1980 and during these 44 years he was involved in different Permian to Quaternary palynological studies and is especially dedicated to Mesozoic dinoflagellate cyst stratigraphy, taxonomy and evolution. His extensive body of research has been applied to biostratigraphical, palaeoenvironmental, and palaeogeographical studies, not only in the British regional context, but also on a global scale. This includes, for example,

research collaborations with the British Antarctic Survey on James Ross Island; with Geoscience Australia, Canberra; and in 2008 Jim was awarded a prestigious Research Councils UK Individual Merit project to study the global distribution of Jurassic dinoflagellate cysts.

*Jim became especially prolific on Jurassic dinoflagellate cysts, and in 1992, he published a massive work entitled *Dinoflagellate cysts of the Jurassic System*, which is still a key reference on Jurassic biostratigraphy. The great number of new dinoflagellate cyst species discovered by Jim makes him an authority on Jurassic dinoflagellate cysts. Also, through palynology, he identified and described major global palaeoenvironmental changes during the Early Jurassic, such as the Liasidium event, which he recognised an acme of the dinoflagellate cyst *Liasidium variable* during a brief warming event in the Sinemurian stage, and the palynological response during the Toarcian Oceanic Anoxic Event in different European basins.*



Furthermore, he led and collaborated in many detailed taxonomical reviews, for example on the Muderongia, Gonyaulacysta, Sentusidium, and Cyclonephelium groups (and more are in progress). In 2012 he started to compile and review the literature of Triassic, Jurassic and earliest Cretaceous dinoflagellate cysts, published initially in the AASP Contribution Series, followed by several updates, the latest in 2021.

Within his scientific interests are also the development of new palynomorph preparation methodologies, including the application of non-acid techniques, and in 2021 he published a major compilation entitled "A guide to preparation protocols in palynology". Forensic palynology is another Jim's "hobbies", as he worked on several criminal cases and developed research under this discipline. Additionally, as we all are familiar, he has taken a very

active role as managing Editor of Palynology, and we, as early-career palynologists, appreciate his helpful (and often funny!) editorials.

Probably one of his most outstanding scientific activities is training! That includes formal teaching, such as at the Universities of Nottingham (since 2003) and Derby (since 2023) but also informal teaching at different courses, particularly the Dinocourses (the latest hosted at BGS) and the Pollen and Spore courses. And not less important, the innumerable hours of informal training that he has spent with students of all academic levels that have come "knocking on his door", a door that is always open, as both of us can attest!

Vânia Correia: "I would like to share my view and personal experience with Jim:



Dr. Riding receiving his plaque from Vânia Correia. Photo courtesy of Sophie Warny.

"It is now about 11 years since I first contacted Jim Riding to ask him if he would be my PhD supervisor and dinoflagellate cyst mentor. I must confess, before I met him, I remember thinking that probably such a busy person would not have much time to train another PhD student, based in Portugal...

Obviously, I was absolutely wrong! Right after the PhD approval, he invited me to spend two weeks at BGS for intensive but exciting dinocyst training. He not only found time and patience to teach me all about dinoflagellates, but also shared his contagious enthusiasm on palynological laboratory techniques, collections and the importance of the classic publications. Since that time, I have admired his fertile mind, always looking for new scientific adventures, and his energy and commitment with all duties! His generosity, positive views, and excellent sense of humour, more than once brought light and confidence to some moments of doubt and confusion (still ongoing!).

I successfully completed my PhD and have been able to continue in palynology, not only because Jim was a very supportive and stimulating supervisor, which offered me solid scientific and ethical bases, but also because he made me feel part of a meaningful and dynamic community. For all this, and with whole my heart, I will be forever grateful."

*In conclusion, Jim Riding has built an outstanding and solid palynological legacy, in particular to the benefit of all who work on Mesozoic dinoflagellate cysts. His devotion to innovative research, as well as to training and guiding the next generation of palynologists, and his commitment to detail and quality as managing editor of *Palynology*, makes him other greatest "dino-star" of the contemporary palynology and an ideal 15th recipient for the AASP-The Palynological Society Medal of Scientific Excellence.*



2024 AASP-TPS Professional Awards Ceremony. Left to right: Julia Gravendyck, Rob Fensome, Jim Riding, and Vânia Correia, photo courtesy of David Pocknall.

2025 Student Research Awards

Call for Applications

AASP–The Palynological Society is pleased to announce its program of Student Research Awards. For 2025, there will be two awards of \$3000 (US) each, to support research in any area of palynology. Student Research Awards are to be used for costs directly connected to carrying out research, such as fieldwork and laboratory expenses, but not for travel expenses to attend a meeting. Typically, these awards are provided to students in the preliminary stages of their doctoral research, but MSc. and advanced undergraduate students may also apply.

Basis of awards: The qualification of the student, the novelty and imagination of the proposed project, and the likelihood of significant contribution to the science of palynology are factors that will be weighed in the selection process.

Application procedure

The application form can be downloaded from this webpage: <https://palynology.org/student-support/student-awards/student-research-grants/>

Part A of this form is to be completed by the student, and **Part B** by the student's faculty supervisor. Applications must be accompanied by a photograph of the student (.jpeg format) for publication in the society's newsletter.

Additional material will not be considered.

The applicant's supervisor must submit both parts A and B of the form to the Awards Committee Chair, either as Word document or as a PDF:

Dr. Marie L. Thomas
AASP–TPS Awards Committee Chair
aaspawards@gmail.com

Please ensure that you have completed both parts A and B of this application form.

The deadline for applications is **April 15, 2025**. Late or incomplete applications, as well as those that exceed the stated word limits in sections A or B will be disqualified. As per society awards policy only students who are registered AASP–TPS members are eligible to apply (<https://palynology.org/join/#join>). Applications from non-members will not be accepted.

Student Travel Awards – 56th Annual Meeting, Montpellier, France 2024

AASP-TPS is incredibly pleased to announce our society was able to support eight students' attendance to the annual meeting this summer! This is a record-breaking year for student travel support, so thanks to the board for supporting so many students. We hope they enjoy the conference, learn a lot, and meet many new palynology colleagues. The following list summarizes the winners, their universities, and their projects:

- **Jessica (Bela) McCoy** - Northumbria University - Chattian to early Miocene (27.82–15.98 Ma) vegetation and climate of the UK from the Mochras borehole AND Temperate to tropical palaeoclimates on the northwest margin of Europe during the middle Cenozoic (~34-16 Ma).
- **Danielle Noto** - Louisiana State University - Preliminary palynological results from IODP Expedition 401: A proxy for the Mediterranean-Atlantic gateway evolution
- **Sonia Clara Camina** - IANIGLA (Instituto Argentino de Nivología) - Chitinozoan-based paleogeographic patterns in the Lower and Middle Devonian. A review of the similarity coefficient methods.
- **Pjotr Meyvisch** - Ghent University - Using infrared spectroscopy to understand the macromolecular taphonomy of organic-walled dinocysts: a phylogenetic perspective, and implications on dinocyst ecological functions and affinity studies of organic microfossils.
- **Angelo Plata Torres** - University of Salamanca-University of Caldas - Palynology of the Cenozoic in the Colombian Caribbean.
- **Alex da Silva de Freitas** - Universidad Federal Fluminense - Holocene palaeoenvironmental dynamics in the Ilha Grande, Brazil, assessed by terrestrial and marine microfossils
- **Emily Ellefson** - Stanford University - Changes in Average Miospore Size Through the Silurian and Devonian.
- **Eiver Manzano** - Université de Lille - Netromorphs and related morphotypes in the middle Paleozoic.

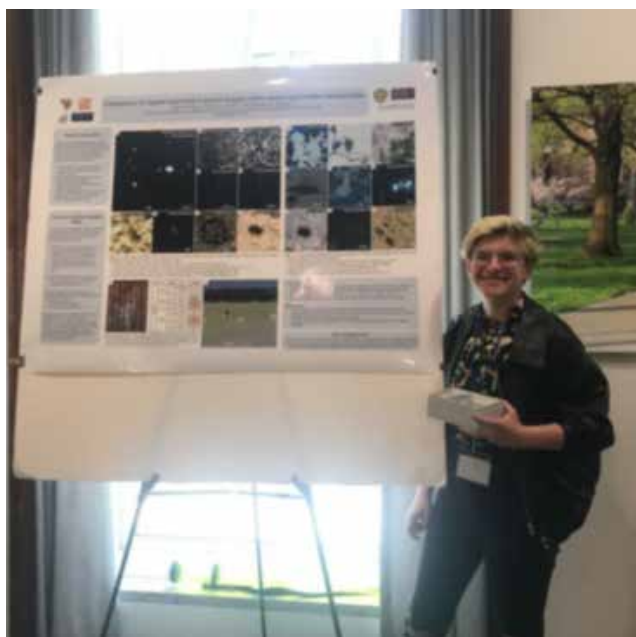
Danielle, Sonia, Pjotr, Angelo and Emily have already provided biographies and descriptions of their research which were published in the June issue of Newsletter (Volume 57, Nr. 2). The remaining biographies and abstracts will be published in the next issue.

2023 Student Travel Award Winner Updates

This quarter we also received an update from our 2023 Student Travel Award Winner Sarah Titta who is now a PhD student at East Carolina University.

Thanks to the help from my research advisors, Dr. Kathleen Benison and Dr. Martha Gibson, as well as the aid I received from AASP – The Palynological Society, I was able to design and present my research on biosignatures trapped within ancient and modern halite crystals originating from acid-saline environments.

After my poster presentation at the AASP meeting in June of 2023, I had the opportunity to give a presentation at the 2023 Geological Society of America Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Having this valuable research experience as an undergraduate student helped me get into the Integrated Coastal Sciences PhD program at East Carolina University.



After I complete my undergraduate degree in Geology from West Virginia University in the summer of 2024, I will be moving to North Carolina to attend ECU and continue my research under the guidance of Dr. Qubin Qin. I am looking forward to continuing my education, developing new skills, and learning more about coastal geosciences in the fall.

The progress I have made as a first-generation college student would not have been possible without the incredible support of my mentors throughout my time at WVU, and I hope my future research endeavors will present new opportunities to continue working with them!

Undergraduate Student Awards

To support the teaching of palynology at the undergraduate level and to encourage and reward student achievement, AASP–The Palynological Society offers the Undergraduate Student Award. Each award consists of one year’s free membership to the Society. This free membership includes access to digital issues of the Society’s publications, the journal *Palynology*, and the quarterly newsletter; discounted registration fees at Society meetings; and eligibility for Society awards.

The awards are made annually to students nominated by faculty members teaching courses with significant palynological content. One student with meritorious achievement in some aspect of the course can be nominated per year, per institution.

The following institutions have approved courses from which undergraduate students may be selected: University of Southampton, Louisiana State University, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, University of Portsmouth and Morehead State University.

Additionally, course instructors who are members in good standing of AASP–TPS, and who teach an appropriate course, may nominate their course using the Registration Format found below. This should be cut-and-pasted into a word document and sent to the Awards Committee Chair at: aaspawards@gmail.com.

Upon course approval, instructors may nominate a student to receive the award by sending the name, institutional address, and email address of the recipient to the Awards Committee Chair and Society Secretary (s.stukins@nhm.ac.uk) at any time of the year. Additionally, faculty must send the name of the winner, a paragraph about their achievements, and a photograph to the newsletter editor (aaspnews@gmail.com) for inclusion in the March (awards between July and December) or June newsletter (awards between January and June) each year.

Undergraduate Student Award, Course Registration Form

- Nominating faculty member:
- University/Higher Education Institution:
- Course Name:
- Course Description and level:
- Average number of students registered in the course annually:
- Number of hours of palynological instruction:
- Criteria used to determine the winning student:
- Date:

Congratulations to [Jake Greenidge](#) and [Jemma Cameron](#), undergraduate students of Tony Butcher’s at the University of Portsmouth, who both scored 82% in their palynology coursework! Both Jake and Jemma received Undergraduate Student Awards in July 2024.

Opportunity to Serve on the AASP-TPS Board



Nominations for Director-at-Large

AASP-TPS is looking for nominations for a **Director-at-Large** on the society's board. Any member can self-nominate. The position is for **2 years** and you'll help influence and run the future support for our science.

For any more information, please ask any current board member. Please direct your nomination to Francisca Oboh Ikuenobe ikuenobe@mst.edu by the end of September.

Other News...

Special issue on marine sedaDNA in J. Mar. Micropaleontol.

Submissions to a special issue on marine sedaDNA in the Journal Marine Micropaleontology are still open until Dec 31, 2024. The Virtual Special Issue (VSI) format allows fast publication of the manuscripts in regular journal issues, and manuscripts are subsequently gathered in the VSI per se, which increases their visibility internationally significantly.

Below is some brief information on the Special Issue, for more details please see: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/marine-micropaleontology/about/call-for-papers#the-invisible-complement-using-sedimentary-ancient-dna-sedadna-to-improve-marine-ecosystem-reconstructions>

The invisible complement: using sedimentary ancient DNA (sedaDNA) to improve marine ecosystem reconstructions

Sedimentary ancient DNA (sedaDNA) offers a novel approach to investigating past ecosystems—from the smallest bacteria to plankton and their predators. Knowledge about paleoecosystems can provide broad-scale biological context to paleoceanographic reconstructions from polar to tropical environments and over up to ~2Ma. However, sedaDNA research is complicated by the minuscule amounts of DNA preserved and limited reference sequences and genomes, making it difficult to detect rare species. This special issue seeks to bring together the latest research aimed at improving environmental reconstructions using sedaDNA techniques.

We encourage sedaDNA focused research as well as interdisciplinary studies that combine sedaDNA research with aspects of micropaleontology, biomarker, geochemical and/or modern DNA research. Technical (field, laboratory, computational optimisations, statistical tools) as well as (paleo)ecologically focused research articles are welcome.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

The Guest Editors: Dr. Linda Armbrecht, Dr. Heike Zimmermann, Prof. Dr. Stijn De Schepper, Dr. Xavier Crosta

For any inquiries please contact Linda Armbrecht via linda.armbrecht@utas.edu.au

Dr Linda Armbrecht
ARC DECRA Fellow in Antarctic Climate Change
E: linda.armbrecht@utas.edu.au
Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS)
College of Sciences and Engineering
University of Tasmania
imas.utas.edu.au

Upcoming Conference

The poster features a background image of a snowy, mountainous landscape with a body of water in the foreground. The title 'ArcSTRAT' is prominently displayed in large, bold, dark blue letters. Below it, the subtitle 'Arctic Ocean Stratigraphic and Paleoclimate Conference' is written in a smaller, dark blue font. The dates '22nd– 25th October 2024, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø' are centered below the subtitle. The poster is divided into two main columns of text. The left column lists 'Conference Topics' with four bullet points. The right column lists 'Keynote Speakers' with five names and their affiliations. At the bottom, there are several logos for partner organizations, a QR code, and a website URL.

ArcSTRAT

Arctic Ocean Stratigraphic and Paleoclimate Conference

22nd– 25th October 2024, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø

Conference Topics:

- Current Arctic stratigraphic framework
- Current knowledge of Quaternary climate evolution
- Developing an Arctic Ocean multi-stratigraphic toolbox
- Application of multi-stratigraphic and proxy toolbox

Keynote Speakers:

Matt O'Regan
Stockholm University
Sweden

Ruediger Stein
MARUM University of Bremen
Germany

Anne de Vernal
Université du Québec à Montréal
Canada

Renata Lucchi
National Institute of Oceanography
and applied Geophysics
Italy

Jutta Wollenburg
Alfred Wegener Institute of Marine
and Polar Research
Germany

Claude Hillaire-Marcel
Université du Québec à Montréal
Canada

Stijn De Schepper
NORCE Climate and Environment in Bergen
Norway

Geological Survey of Norway
Geological Society of Norway
The Research Council of Norway
UiT The Arctic University of Norway
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