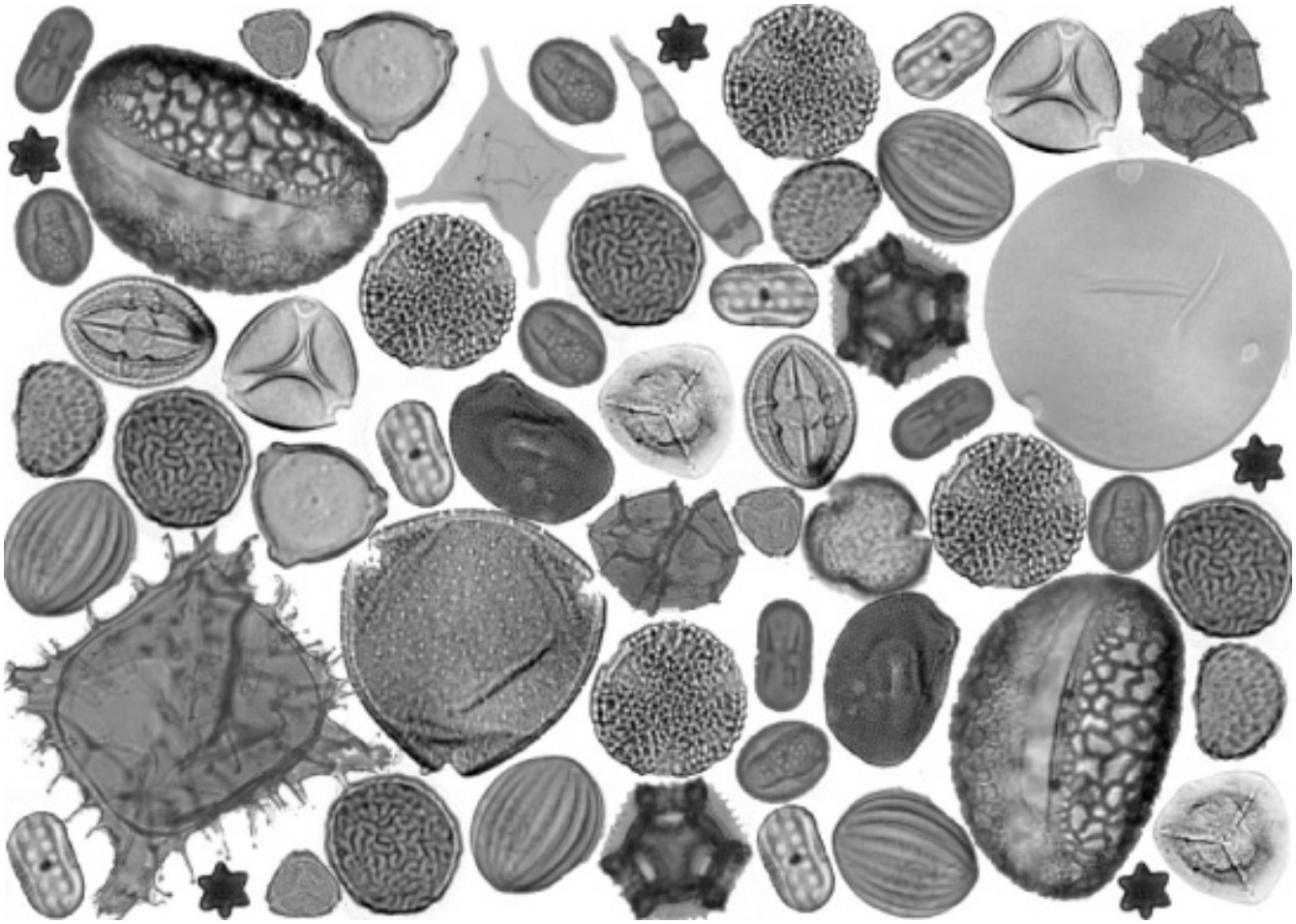
# AASP – The Palynological Society

Promoting the Scientific Understanding of Palynology since 1967



# NEWSLETTER

June 2025

Volume 58, Number 2

Published Quarterly

# AASP – TPS NEWSLETTER

Published Quarterly by AASP – The Palynological Society

June 2025, Volume 58, Number 2

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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 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)
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 Aureal 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)

# AASP – TPS NEWSLETTER

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Jan Hennissen, Editor




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 September 1, 2025. 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

Hi everyone!

If we have never met, I am Matthew Pound an associate professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences at Northumbria University, UK. I am the new president and my first order of business is to thank Sophie Warny for her time in the role. As all our past presidents will testify, it is an immense honour to head up AASP-TPS and a frequent source of stress! Sophie has done a fantastic job, our finances are in an excellent position and we have had two excellent annual meetings.

In 2024 we sampled la vie du sud in Montpellier and we have just enjoyed the tremendous hospitality of Rabat. Whilst I was not at this meeting – we had just welcomed our daughter into the world – it sounded like a fantastic first meeting in Africa. Thank you to Sophie and everyone on the organising committees for these wonderful events.

Looking ahead we have some exciting annual meetings coming. Our 58th annual meeting takes us to the southern hemisphere! We will hold a joint meeting with SAPP (Simposio Argentino de Paleobotánica y Palinología) in Trelew, Argentina. Now, I have only done some quick Googling (so forgive me if I have been misled) but Trelew sounds like a fascinating destination.

Part of the Patagonian – Wales connection - think penguins and high tea! Our venue, well I won't steal the organisers thunder, but let's just say it will be fossil-tastic. Keep an eye out for the 1st circular, plan your route down(up/across) and start editing those abstracts! [and yes I like an exclamation mark]

For those who engage/embrace/endure social media, a huge thanks to Steve Stukins for keeping us active in the networks. If you have anything to share over our official channels, whether that is job vacancies, news, or simply beautiful images, please let Steve know.

Finally, I would like to finish this message by reminding everyone that you are the lifeblood of AASP-TPS and whilst we are not in need of an urgent transfusion, more members are always welcome! So, please knock on doors, send some email reminders and social media those networks to recruit them. More members not only gives us more dynamic meetings, but gives us more funding to grant students. Ensuring the continuation of our society and our science through the 21st Century.

# Managing Editor's Report

## by Jim Riding

This is a quite a short report because of the relatively early publication of Part 2 of Volume 49. Part 1 was covered in detail in the last Newsletter, and Part 2 got less coverage.

The latter issue ran to 248 pages; it includes an Obituary for Keith Richards, the first 'Data Note' article in this journal by Matthew Pound and Jen O'Keefe, plus 14 research articles.

The latter are especially diverse this time with papers on nectar sources of Asian honeybees in India, recent vegetational changes in Lushan, China and Devonian eurypterid remains. The full list of articles is reproduced below.

The number of finalised papers, and items passing through the review cycle, continues to be very healthy indeed. Consequently, Part 3 of Volume 49 for 2025 is now full and will be published online during July this year.

Issue 4 is being filled at the time of writing this report. Please keep the manuscript submissions coming in!

James B. Riding

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19th May 2025

## The contents of *Palynology* Volume 49, Part 2 (May 2025)

### Obituary

1. Hooghiemstra, H., Hoorn, C. and Kroonenberg, S. Keith Richards (1959–2024) and his exploration of the tropics and the six million year history of the Caspian Sea. Article number 2460949, 8 p.

### Data Note

2. Pound, M.J. and O'Keefe, J.M.K. A global modern pollen and spore dataset. Article number 2431282, 9 p.

### Research Articles

3. Das, N., Mondal, R., Layek, U. and Karmakar, P. Nectar sources of Asian honeybees (*Apis cerana* Fabricius) in West Bengal, India: determined by pollen analysis of honey and bee crop nectar. Article number 2398052, 13 p.

4. Vaish, S., Arya, A.K. and Basumatary, S.K. Characterization and depositional pattern of the modern pollen and non-pollen palynomorphs in Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, India, and its implications for palaeoecology and palaeoherbivory analysis. Article number 2404423, 11 p.

5. Webber, K., McCoy, J., Rogers, A., Prendergast-Miller, M.T., Carel, T. and Pound, M.J. Pollen and microplastics in hedgehog (*Erinaceus europeaus*) faeces as a means to identify landscape use in urban and sub-urban

environments of the United Kingdom. Article number 2406867, 8 p.

6. Radaeski, J.N. and Borger, J. Bee–plant interactions identified by pollen analysis of honey from the stingless bee *Tetragonisca fiebrigi* (Schwarz, 1938) in southern Brazil. Article number 2411229, 10 p.

7. Reis, L.S., de Sá, C.Y.G., Guimarães, J.T.F., Yao, Q. and De Oliveira, P.E. Pollen atlas from bat guano deposits in southeastern Amazonia. Article number 2411220, 27 p.

8. Neumann, F.H., Gharbi, D., Ajikah, L., Scott, L., Cilliers, S., Staats, J., Berman, D., Moseri, M.E., Podile, K., Ndlovu, N., Mmatladi, T. and Peter, J. Ecological and allergenic significance of atmospheric pollen spectra from a Grassland-Savanna ecotone in North West province, South Africa. Article number 2411234, 27 p.

9. Jaramillo, C.A., D'Apolito, C., Da Silva-Caminha S.A.F. and Caballero-Rodriguez, D. A palynological zonation for the Neogene of the Solimões/Amazon basin, northwestern Amazonia. Article number 2413153, 27 p.

10. Caballero-Rodriguez, D. and Jaramillo, C.A. rGrapCor: a tool for graphic correlation. Article number 2415910, 6 p.

11. Trivedi, A., Nag, A. and Farooqui, A. Modern pollen signatures and vegetation dynamics in Northwestern Himalaya, India. Article number 2415913, 15 p.

12. Heidarian, M. Pollen micromorphology and ultrastructure between two isolated species of *Colchicum* L. in Iran. Article number 2422104, 7 p.

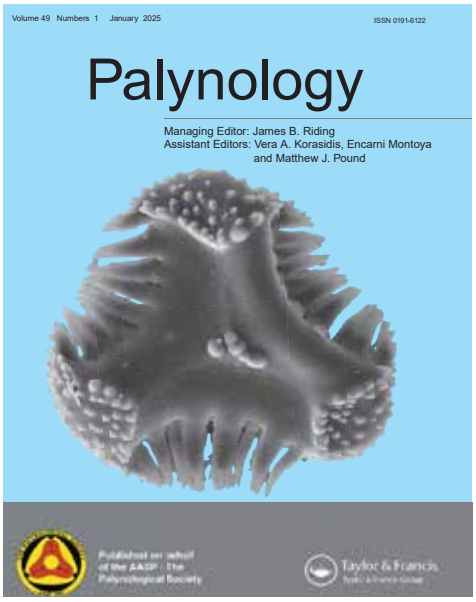
13. Cheng, D., Duan, Z., Li, Q., Liu, Z., Yan, Y., Zhou, L. and Zhang, Z. Vegetation changes of Lushan, China between 1959 and 2020 based on pollen data. Article number 2428378, 11 p.

14. Marinho, E.B., Somner, G.V., Mendonça, C.B.F. and Gonçalves-Esteves, V. Palynotaxonomy of Neotropical species of ***Paullinia*** L. (Sapindaceae). Article number 2428398, 20 p.

15. Pandey, A., Tripathi, S., Kumar, B., Singh, P., Singh, H., Shukla, A.N. and Garg, A. Spore morphology of *Adiantum* species from the Indian subcontinent using LM and FESEM: palaeoecological analysis and phylogenetic delineation. Article number 2427638, 23 p.

16. Makled, W.A., Al-Auqadi, R.S., Al-Juboury, A.I., El Garhy, M.M., Alarifi, N., Omar, N. and Mahmoud, A. Eurypterid setae and cuticle fragments from the Ora Formation (Upper Devonian) of Iraq. Article number 2445034, 26 p.

(248 pages)



# The 57th Annual Meeting Report

## by Sophie Warny

## Our first meeting in Africa was a scientific and cultural gem!

The recent annual AASP-TPS meeting just took place from April 22nd – 26th, 2025 in the beautiful city of Rabat in Morocco. I wouldn't have been able to make this conference happen without the incredible leadership on site by Professor Hamid Slimani (Department of Geology and Remote Sensing, Scientific Institute, University Moham-med V of Rabat, Morocco) and his group of graduate students who worked tirelessly for months.

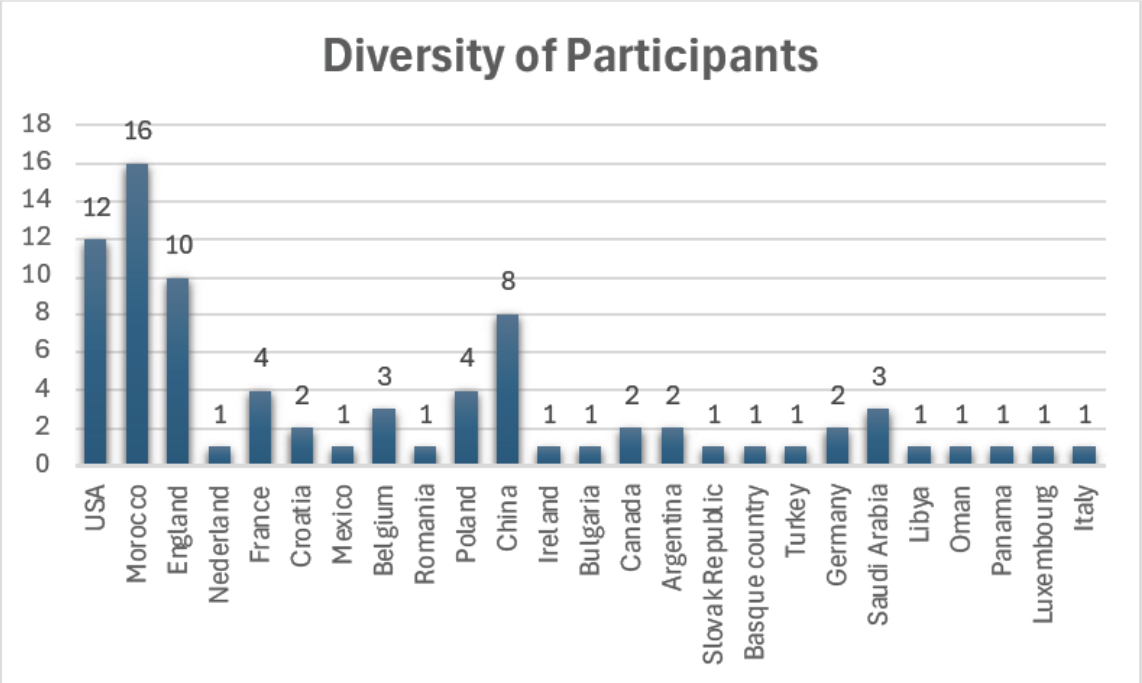
I also want to ex-press my sincere gratitude to Pr. Touria Hssaida (Department of Geology, Faculty of Sciences Ben M'Sik, University Hassan II, Casablanca, Morocco), who, with her colleagues Pr. Nadia Barhoun and Pr. Naima Bachiri Taoufiq, provided important logistical help.

Finally, thanks are extended to Pr. Ahmed El Hassani (Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology) for handling the conference field trip. About 72 palynologists from around the world participated onsite in Rabat, and abstracts from 81 scientists were presented. We had a full schedule with 51 talks and 23 posters received. The book of abstracts was published and can be accessed here.

Ice breaker

The conference opened up on the evening of April 22nd by a wonderful ice breaker in the «Royal Club Nautique» in the nearby city of Salé.

We are very grateful to the President of the University Mohammed V in Rabat; Prof. Mohammed Rhachi, for loaning us two university buses. The finan-cial savings allowed us to use the funding provided by our sponsors to cater some incredible Moroccan delicacies.




The opening reception would not have been possible without the funding from our sponsors, especially Petrostrat, Hess and Ellington. Their support provided a fantastic venue for all participants to mingle, meet all friends and colleagues, and make new connections. From what we've heard, all had an amazing time and appreciated the fabulous Moroccan food and hospitality.

The conference was held in the auditorium of the Institut Scientifique of Rabat, from April 23-25, with three days filled with lectures and posters, organized in eightsessions;

1. Mesozoic and Cenozoic Dinoflagellate cyst research; 2. Palynological data, climate reconstructions and model simulations; 3. Human-environmental interactions and vegetation changes; 4. Paleozoic and Mesozoic palynology; 5. Applied palynostratigraphy; 6. General palynology and new frontiers in palynology; 7. Neogene vegetation and climate in the Mediterranean region and 8. The role of palynology in carbon sequestration efforts and energy transition.

The importance of hosting our conference in Africa was immediately felt as we had the honor of having both the director of the Institut Scientifique; Prof. Omar Hniche and the President of the University Mohammed V in Rabat; Prof. Mohammed Rhachi, carving time of their busy schedule to welcome us.

Various newspapers from the capital and a national TV network sent reporters to cover the conference.

*Conference co-organizers Hamid Slimani, Sophie Warny, and Ahmed El Hassani with, in the background, the Grand Theatre of Rabat, a new performing art center designed by Zaha Hadid.*

Links to one of the article and the TV interview can be found:

https://fr.hespress.com/420851-palynologie-lum5r-accueillie-la-57e-reunion-annuelle-de-laasp.html

https://fr.le360.ma/societe/rabat-abrite-le-premier-colloque-dafrique-sur-la-palynologie-science-de-la-vegetation-et-du-climat_LMI6DCJUGVHLHBMQ7B3Y4VHCEQ/

In addition to the local organizers, I want to express my gratitude to the board members who worked behind the scene; Dr. Vladimir Torres (who handles our finance), Dr. Stephen Stukins (our secretary who handles memberships, etc.) and Dr. Fabienne Marret (who helped me set up the conference website).

## Early Career (EC) Networking Dinner and Student Awards

Our society works really hard to make students and postdoctoral fellows feel welcome. We made sure once again to make the conference affordable for EC scientists. Over 30 EC scientists attended the dinner tailored for them to foster new collaborations.

This event was offered to all students and postdocs thanks to generous donations from Dr. Cameron Henderson from Labstrat, Dr. Vladimir Torres, Dr. Francisca Oboh-Ikuenobe, and Ellington. We are grateful for our board's student repre-sentative, (now Dr.) Shaan Heydenrich, for the organization of this wonderful event (pictured above).

In addition to the EC dinner, the society offered travel awards to 5 graduate students, and four students won poster and oral presentations awards. The 30+ graduate students and early career professionals definitely showed us that the future of palynology is in great hands.

We did not envy the job of the award committee as the bar placed by students in all talks and posters was very high, and a selection of winners was not an easy task. We are grateful to Dr. Marie Thomas and her team for handling dling all student travel scholarships and the various meeting awards.

This year, as Marie welcomed a baby boy in her family, she wasn't able to travel to Morocco, but as per her usual, she put together an excellent group of judges, led by Dr. Francisca Oboh-Ikuenobe (pictured below surrounded by this year's four winners).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aramco


*Dr. Francisca Oboh-Ikuenobe surrounded by this year's four student award winners.*

The judges reviewed all posters and talks given by students in order to select a top candidate and a runner up for the L.R. Wilson Best Student Paper Award and the Vaughn Bryant Best Poster Award. The Paper award is named after Leonard R. Wilson, University of Oklahoma, a pioneer in the field of palynology. Evaluation criteria include audibility, clarity, audience engagement, and pacing of the speaker, with emphasis placed on a clear statement of the problem, methods, and conclusions of the research.The prize includes a certificate, $250 cash prize, and a two-year membership in AASP-The Palynological Society.

The Vaughn Bryant Best Poster Award is named after Vaughn Bryant (Texas A&M University), who was a world-renowned palynologist, respected teacher, long-time leader and member of The Palynological Society, widely recognized as the pioneer of forensic palynolo-gy and melissopalynology in the US.

This year, Rafael Cabral won the L.R. Wilson Best Student Paper Award for his presentation, and Tom Green received the honourable mention. Sokaina Tadoumant won the Vaughn Bryant Best Student Poster Award, and Imad Tmimne received the honourable mention.

For additional details and future applications, see this link: [https://palynology.org/student-support/student-awards/student-travel-awards/](https://palynology.org/student-support/student-awards/student-travel-awards/)

## Conference dinner

The conference dinner was organized this year by the restaurant "Les Trois Palmiers". This site was selected to show another view of Morocco, its coastal area, with very pleasant views of the Atlantic coast. Transportation was once again offered by the President of the University. The weather, food, and service were perfect and all enjoyed making new connections.

## Post-conference field trip

To wrap up this full week, a post-conference field trip was organized by Dr. Ahmed El Hassani (Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology). He presented a geological overview of the Bou Regreg Valley, near Rabat.

More specifically, the field trip was organized to visit the northernmost part of the Western Moroccan Meseta. There, Paleozoic formations are exposed in an E-W oriented structural zone extending over fifty kilometres (picture below and to the left).

Three structural units were visited from north to south. Then Miocene marls and sandstones that cover these formations in angular unconformity were visited (pictured above). We thank all our members and non-members who spent this very special week with us.

We hope to see many palynology colleagues in 2026 in Trelew, Argentina, for the next meeting!

# The 58th Annual Meeting Update

## by Paula Narvaez

Dear colleagues and friends,

We are excited to invite you to the 58th Annual Meeting of the AASP–The Palynological Society, which in 2026 will be held jointly with the 19th Argentine Symposium on Paleobotany and Palynology (SAPP). The event will take place in Trelew, a city in northern Patagonia and home to the Egidio Feruglio Paleontological Museum (MEF), the host institution.

The MEF's recent expansion, has tripled the museum's exhibit space and added state-of-the-art infrastructure for academic and scientific events. The newly built MEF Convention Center will be the main venue, offering modern facilities in the heart of the city.

The Convention Center includes a main auditorium for over 800 people, several fully equipped breakout rooms, cutting-edge audiovisual technology, full accessibility for people with reduced mobility, and communal areas for networking and relaxation. Its downtown location offers easy access to accommodations, transportation hubs, and local restaurants.

The MEF itself is one of Latin America's most prominent scientific institutions, housing a world-renowned paleontological collection. Its permanent exhibitions trace the history of life on Earth—from its origins to the present—and feature iconic specimens such as the Patagotitan mayorum, the largest dinosaur known to date. In addition to its renewed galleries, the museum includes research labs, educational areas, and a visitor center with a museum shop and café.

Just across the street, the National University of Patagonia San Juan Bosco (UNPSJB, Trelew campus) has a long record in academic training and scientific research in southern Argentina. The institution hosts the Botany and Palynology laboratories, and the Trelew Herbarium, which will be available for visits during the meeting.

Thematic symposia, keynote lectures, and field trips to sites of paleobotanical, botanical, and geological interest are planned, offering opportunities for academic exchange in close

contact with the Patagonian landscape.

The event will also feature a set of initiatives aimed at strengthening engagement with the local community. These include educational programs, public exhibitions, and outreach activities designed to bring advances in paleobotany and palynology closer to a broader audience, fostering exchange between science and society in a regional context.

## About Patagonia and Trelew

Patagonia is a key region for the natural sciences in the Southern Hemisphere. Its mix of steppes, mountains, and well-preserved geological history makes it a reference area for paleontological research. Fossil sites across the region provide extraordinary records that are essential for reconstructing the evolution of ecosystems and biotas through time.

It is also a living territory of exceptional biodiversity, like the Magellanic penguins and southern right whales in the Atlantic coast.

Located in the center of this vast region, the city of Trelew has daily flights to and from Buenos Aires via the Almirante Marcos A. Zar International Airport, and additional air connections through the El Tehuelche Airport (in Puerto Madryn, 60 km north). Trelew also has a regional and national bus terminal, along with a wide range of accommodation, gastronomy, and services, making it a suitable location for scientific meetings of both national and international scale.

Hence, the meeting offers a unique opportunity to explore this region's natural and fossil heritage while engaging in academic exchange in paleobotany and palynology.

We look forward to welcoming you to Patagonia — for its science, its land, and its life.

The 58th annual meeting of the AASP–TPS and 19th SAPP Organizing Committee

# Awards Committee News

**By Marie Thomas**

## Society Awards Nominations for 2026

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).

# 2025 Student Research Awards

The Awards Committee received fourteen excellent applications from a diverse group of students for this year's student research awards. Due to the number of applications, the board was able to provide funds for a third research award, so three winners were selected.

We would like to extend our thanks to all the students who applied and their professors who supported them. It is encouraging for the future of palynology to see so many bright students doing such exciting research.

Congratulations to our three winners: Erik Tihelka from the University of Cambridge, Orin Lole Durbin from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and Marcos Amores from University College Cork. The committee was impressed by the thoroughness of their applications and novel research. The winners' biographies are included below.

## Erik Tihelka

University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK

**Project Title**: The microfossil record of life in the Ediacaran shallows

**Supervisor**: Nicholas Butterfield

**Biography**: My interest in palynology grew out of my lifelong passion for palaeontological fieldwork, namely searching for new sites preserving fossils that are interesting in terms of their regional significance, value for biostratigraphy, or unusual preservation. By virtue of being orders of magnitude more common than macrofossils, organic-walled palynomorphs and other microscopic fossils offer invaluable leads in prospecting for fossil deposits.

I was fortunate to develop a palynology-oriented doctoral project at the University of Cambridge, which is ongoing, and focuses on the palynological signatures of early life on land. During my studies I was lucky to carry out extensive fieldwork in the British Isles, China, Scandinavia, Central and Eastern Europe, and to learn different aspects of palynological techniques from many inspiring palynologists and palaeontologists.

To me, the most rewarding aspect of the search for microfossils are the occasional unexpected results, which spark unforeseen side projects.

**Research**: The Ediacaran Period marks a pivotal transition from predominantly microscopic Neoproterozoic life to the Cambrian explosion, which saw the rapid diversification of most extant animal phyla. Since their discovery 80 years ago, macroscopic Ediacaran fossils have sparked enduring debate—interpreted either as dead-end evolutionary experiments or precursors to Cambrian animals. A major challenge lies in their preservation, typically as molds, which obscures fine anatomical details crucial for determining biological affinities.

My research addresses this by focusing on a rarely explored mode of Ediacaran preservation: small carbonaceous fossils. These remains of cuticle, spines, and other durable structures, extracted via gentle palynological methods, retain anatomical features often lost in conventional fossilisation. By comparing these microfossils to Cambrian examples, we can more confidently assess the affinities of Ediacaran organisms. Although such metazoan-like microfossils have been reported from several late Ediacaran formations, they are rare and their interpretation as crown-group animals remains difficult.

During pilot fieldwork in South China, I recovered novel assemblages of exceptionally preserved carbonaceous microfossils of late Ediacaran age. In collaboration with local palaeontologists, I am developing a project to characterise this biota and its palaeoenvironmental context.

The generous support of the Palynological Society will enable crucial fieldwork, with the objective of looking for new deposits with well-preserved microfossils.

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## Orin Lole Durbin

Virginia Tech, USA

**Project Title**: Primary Producers in Terreneuvian cherts of the Yangtze Gorges Area, South China: Insights into the Cambrian Explosion

**Supervisor**: Shuhai Xiao

**Biography**: My first major exposure to palynology was during my degree at the University of Oxford. Although I had taken classes that included aspects of palynological study in the first couple of years, it was not until the final year of my degree that I got the opportunity to undertake research in this field firsthand.

As my master's research project, supervised by Dr. Ross Anderson, I conducted work on

the early Cambrian Kheseen Formation in northern Mongolia. The Kheseen Formation microbiota is primarily comprised of acritarchs, including embryo-like and acanthomorphic forms. My research project revealed an expanded acritarch microbiota, with several additional species being identified within the assemblage. I have had the privilege of presenting this work at Progressive Palaeontology (2024, Bristol), the GSA Southeast Section Meeting (2025, Harrisonburg), and the 3rd Geobiology Society Conference (2025, Banff).

Having completed my master's degree at the University of Oxford, I was interested in continuing to work on terminal Ediacaran fauna and the critical Ediacaran–Cambrian transition. Consequently, I began a PhD program with Professor Shuhai Xiao in the Geosciences Department at Virginia Tech in August 2024, focusing on these topics. During the first year of my PhD, I have continued to work on the Kheseen Formation, in addition to starting new projects involving early Ediacaran strata in southwest Mongolia and Ediacaran–Cambrian boundary sections in South China.

**Research**: The Cambrian Explosion represents one of the most transformative evolutionary events in Earth history. The widespread appearance of animals had profound impacts on ecosystem construction, sediment-organism interactions, and biogeochemical cycling,

which ultimately paved the way for the Earth systems we are familiar with today.

Phytoplankton communities similarly underwent a fundamental shift across the Ediacaran–Cambrian transition, with several new acritarch forms appearing in earliest Cambrian strata. It is currently unclear what role this phytoplankton radiation may have played in the coincident evolutionary radiation of animals. The aim of my research project is to seek evidence to further the understanding of the relationship between phytoplankton and animal fossils in the stratigraphy of the Yangtze Gorge Area, South China, in order to contribute to a broader understanding of this transitional period.

The early Cambrian chert deposits located in the Yangtze Gorge Area are an underexplored archive that has the capability to preserve both phytoplankton and animal fossils. Initially, I will focus on analysing these deposits using thin sections, which will provide me with an opportunity to quantify the diversity and abundance of preserved microfossils. This will allow for comparisons to be made with other records and enable an examination of the role of phytoplankton in South China during the Cambrian Explosion.

## Marcos Amores

University College Cork, Cork, Ireland

**Project Title**: Determining the influences of climatic and preservational conditions on terrestrial plant microfossil records

**Supervisors**: Chris Mays & Tracy D. Frank

**Biography**: I first got into contact with paleontological research during my B.Sc. in Biology and Geology at the University of Minho (Portugal), from which I graduated in 2020. I then applied to the Erasmus Mundus-funded PANGEA programme. At first, I didn't succeed; later got the fantastic news that a spot had been made available. This event changed my life, as it was during this programme that I decided to dedicate my career to the field of palynology after doing my thesis on the Cretaceous Aptian palynoflora of south-eastern Scania, Sweden. I graduated in 2022 with a M.Sc. in Paleobiology, jointly awarded by the University of Lille (France) and University of Uppsala (Sweden).

Since 2022, I have been part of the Earth System Change programme at the Research Ireland Centre for Applied Geosciences as a Ph.D. student. My research is focused on how plant communities in high-latitude regions recovered following the end-Permian mass extinction, approximately 252 million years ago. I recently published my first results in GSA Bulletin, which includes the first continuous continental record of plant recovery trends in eastern Gondwana throughout the entire Early Triassic. This record is tied to the global geologic timescale using high-resolution stable carbon isotope data. The study garnered media attention and led to me being invited to write an article in The Conversation.

Currently, I am exploring the drivers of vegetation change using geochemical tools such as X-ray fluorescence and hyperspectral infrared imaging. By applying these techniques to the fossil record, my goal is to reconstruct the climatic conditions that shaped life on land in the aftermath of a global extinction event. A key component of my research is focused on how the local climate and preservational conditions influenced the microfossil record of plant communities. A major challenge in studying past ecosystems is distinguishing real biological change from preservational biases. Depositional settings can affect the abundance and diversity of preserved plant microfossils. For example, the locality I am studying—the Sydney Basin—has a certain population of fossils in bluish mudrocks that shifts in oxidized, iron-rich mudrock "red beds", deposited only a few meters above. With support from the AASP Student Research Award, I am to compare samples of similar age and depositional setting withing the basin, to test whether the observed changes reflect broader climatic events or are simply due to preservation bias.

**Research:** A major problem plaguing studies of past plant community changes is that different local depositional settings skew the observed variations in plant microfossil ratios and abundances. Plant microfossils (and other organic matter) are prone to degradation, by virtue of their chemical composition, and should be underrepresented in sediments that have undergone heavy weathering1. This effect is particularly pertinent in continental strata, where oxidative soil formation processes lead to the post-burial loss of organic remains2. Extreme continental weathering can be marked by distinctive oxidized Fe-rich 'red beds'3.

My PhD focuses on the recovery stages following the end-Permian event (c. 252 Ma) at south polar latitudes. Recently, I published the first continuous continental record of paleofloristic trends for the entire Early Triassic4. Owing to the presence of red bed strata ca. 248 Ma, the relative contributions of global climate and local weathering on these trends are, however, not entirely clear.

The primary hypothesis I am testing is that changes to plant communities reflect global climatic events and not variations in post-burial preservation. The Sydney Basin provides the ideal 'natural experiment' to test the effects of weathering on the fidelity of continental microfloral signals, given the continuous lateral and vertical continental strata but discontinuous red bed formation. I propose that there are two ways to determine this for the study region:

A) Compare the organic microfossil contents from samples with different clay mineralogy and elemental signatures (as proxies of weathering5,6) that are temporally close to one another (for example, cm scale; Fig. 2). This would remove the variable of global climatic events being the broad driver behind changes in organic content.

B) Compare coeval microfossil and organic petrological samples from different parts of the same basin, but different states of weathering.

If there is a strong correlation between weathering proxies and organic microfossils (specifically, relative and absolute abundances of palynofacies groups, total organic carbon), then the trends in late Permian to Middle Triassic organic microfossil assemblages can be largely attributed to local taphonomic variations.

If, however, the correlation is weak or non-existent, then the observed changes in organic microfossil assemblages primarily reflect the ebb and flow of ecosystems in response to the global climatic changes that characterize this tumultuous interval in Earth's history.

Presently, I have obtained high-resolution elemental data (X-ray fluorescence) and mineralogical data (hyperspectral short-wave and thermal infrared, using HyLogger 3) from an additional core located in another part of the basin. The AASP Student Research Award would allow me to gather the remaining palynological data.

Since oxidized Fe-rich continental 'red beds' are common to several of the worst climate-driven extinction events (e.g., end-Permian, end-Devonian, end-Triassic events), the findings will refine our understanding of the terrestrial responses to these pivotal events in Earth history. Given the likely impact of these findings, I am intending on submitting the manuscript to Nature Geoscience. Finally, I hope to use this data as a foundation for a future postdoctoral project proposal.

# Conference Award Winners - 57th Annual Meeting, Rabat, Morocco, 2025

AASP-TPS gives two awards to students at the annual conference each year. The L.R. Wilson Award is presented to the student who gives the best oral presentation, and the Vaughn Bryant Award is presented to the student who makes the best poster.

The judging committee, led by Franca Oboh-Ikuenobe, selected a winner and honourable mention for each award at this year's conference. Many thanks to Franca and the other volunteer judges – Mike Zavada, Stephen Louwye, Martin Head, Charles Wellman, and John Marshall!

Rafael Cabral won the L.R. Wilson Best Student Presentation Award for his presentation, and Tom Green received the honourable mention. Sokaina Tadoumant won the Vaughn Bryant Best Student Poster Award, and Imad Tmimne received the honourable mention.

The students have provided their biographies, so the society can learn more about their work. Congratulations to Rafael, Sokaina, Tom, and Imad!

## L.R. Wilson Award

## Rafael Cabral

Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France

**Talk Title**: Assessment of modern pollen, non-pollen palynomorphs and vegetation relationships in the cultural landscapes of central Tunisia: a tool for enhancing palaeoenvironmental reconstructions in semi-arid environments

**Supervisors**: Vincent Lebreton, Yannick Miras & Dr. Ana Ejarque

**Biography**: Passionate about human-environment interactions and social-ecological systems, I pursued a Master's degree in Quaternary science and Bioarchaeology at the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France, where I completed a specialization in Archaeobotany in 2024.

I was introduced to palynology during my classes and was struck by its potential to restitute environmental dynamics and human impact on ecosystems. My interest gave rise to a first two months research project under the guidance of Profs. Vincent Lebreton and Jean-Michel Carozza, during which I conducted a preliminary study of a Holocene sequence of the Moknine sebkha (central Tunisia).

Whilst results confirmed the potential of the sequence, I noticed that signals of human impact were 1) faint before the French colonial era and 2) hard to untangle from little-understood climatic fluctuations during the Lower and Middle-Holocene (e.g., the last African Humid Period). There was therefore a need for a new approach to better interpret past se-

quences in the region, which I developed during a semester long Research Project funded by the Île-de-France Region in 2024. Under the guidance of Prof. Vincent Lebreton and Dr. Yannick Miras, I set out to acquire modern pollen and Non-Pollen Palynomorph (NPP) spectra to investigate the relationships between modern pollen, NPP and vegetation in the landscape mosaic of the Tunisian Dorsal. Through this, I aimed to identify weak signals of these relationships in semi-arid landscapes, which would be transposable to Holocene sequences.

This experience motivated me to continue developing new approaches to face the challenges posed by (semi-) arid environments in palynology. As such, I started a PhD at the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle under the supervision of Prof. Vincent Lebreton, Dr. Yannick Miras and Dr. Ana Ejarque in October 2024. My project focuses on the vegetation dynamics of central Tunisia since the transition between the local Capsian and Neolithic periods.

**Research:** In Tunisia, the transition between the Capsian (i.e., local hunter-gatherer Paleolithic) and the Neolithic (i.e., semi-nomadic pastoralism) periods and the related onset of human impact on the environment remain poorly characterized by archaeological and environmental data.

This PhD project is an exceptional opportunity to characterize the variability of vegetation in relation to climate forcings (e.g., African Humid Period and Holocene Rapid Climate Change), before identifying the major tipping points in landscape shaping during the Holocene.

I follow a high-resolution multi-proxy approach using pollen, NPP, charcoal, and sedimentological data on a continental sequence (Sebkha El Bhira, Kairouan Governorate) which will be compared with a marine sequence that will be collected in the Gulf of Gabès in 2025.

Landscape structure and diversity dynamics will be investigated through numerical and statistical analyses, including the first use for North Africa of the open-access data mining algorithm MobiPaleo to identify groups of indicators related to palaeoecological or land-use changes.

The sequences will be discussed in relation to modern spectra from the Tunisian Dorsal and Steppe regions, analyzed during my master's degree and the beginning of my PhD, providing modern analogues for the interpretation of fossil data.

So far, the calibration of the modern pollen rain and NPP signals to the vegetation has shown a strong potential to reconstruct past landscape homogeneity or heterogeneity, structure, connectivity as well as to characterize vegetation groups and agropastoral practices. Ultimately, my research will shed light on landscape shaping processes in the fragile social-ecological systems of the Eastern Maghreb and offer insight into these semi-arid environments' responses to climate and anthropogenic forcings.

## L.R. Wilson Honourable Mention

## Tom Green

University of Leicester, Leicester, UK.

**Talk Title**: A cryptic record of Cambrian loricate protists

**Supervisors**: Tom Harvey, Mark Williams & Brian Pedder

**Biography**: In 2021 I graduated with an MGeol integrated masters in Geology and Palaeobiology from the University of Leicester. Throughout my undergraduate degree I was involved in micropalaeontology projects working on a wide variety of material from conodonts to tree shrews. My Masters research project focussed on quantifying the morphological disparity of cuticular structures in Cambrian marine worms from the SCF and palynological records. Importantly my masters work introduced me to palynology. Following this, in 2022, I was awarded a PhD studentship at the University of Leicester, funded by the Natural Environmental Research Council (NERC). Throughout my PhD I have been lucky to conduct field work in Canada, lab work in Belgium and Ireland, and present my research in the UK, Germany and Morocco.

**Research:** My PhD research is on the palynology and SCFs of the early Cambrian Forteau Formation of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. Palynological processing of early Cambrian rocks yields abundant acritarchs: organic walled vesicular microfossils of unknown affinity but implicitly interpreted as the Cambrian phytoplankton. I am interested in the distribution of acritarch diversity across different palaeoenvironments and what it can tell us about the structure of the Cambrian plankton. I am also interested in which biological groups are hidden amongst the taxonomic grouping of acritarchs and using comparative morphology and geochemical techniques to identify them.

## Vaughn Bryant Award

## Sokaina Tadoumant

Sultan Moulay Slimane University, Beni Mellal, Morocco

**Poster Title**: Integrating Modern Pollen Distribution and Marine Sediments for Paleoenvironmental Reconstruction in Southern Morocco

**Supervisors**: Lhoussaine Bouchaou & Ilham Bouimetarhan

**Biography:** I completed my Bachelor's degree in Earth Sciences at Ibn Zohr University in Agadir, Morocco, followed by a Master's in Environmental Geosciences from the Faculty of Sciences of Tetouan. I pursued my PhD at Ibn Zohr University under the supervision of Dr. Lhoussaine Bouchaou and Dr. Ilham Bouimetarhan, where I investigated past climate variability in Northwest Africa through palynological and geochemical analyses of surface sediment and marine sediment cores off the offshore of Agadir. I am currently a postdoctoral researcher working on climate-ecosystem interactions and the resilience of the endemic Argan tree (*Argania spinosa*) in southwest Morocco.

**Research:** My research focuses on reconstructing past environmental and climatic changes in southwest Morocco using a multiproxy approach that combines palynology, geochemistry, and sedimentological analyses of marine and terrestrial archives. I aim to establish a land–ocean correlation to assess how ecosystems, particularly vegetation and the Argan biosystem, responded to Holocene climate variability and anthropogenic pressures.

By analyzing modern pollen distribution and its transport to marine sediments, I explore how changes in climate and land use have influenced vegetation dynamics. This work provides valuable insight into the resilience of semi-arid ecosystems and contributes to predicting future responses to climate change in vulnerable coastal and inland regions of Northwest Africa.

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## Vaughn Bryant Honourable Mention

## Imad Tmimne

Mohammed V University, Rabat, Morocco

**Poster Title**: Biostratigraphy and paleoenvironmental evolution of the Upper Miocene sedimentary deposits from the Salé region (Moroccan Atlantic Margin): Insights from palynological investigations

**Supervisors**: Hamid Slimani

**Research:** My research in palynology and sedimentary geology is led by Prof. Dr. Hamid Slimani, Laboratory of Palynology, Department of Geology and Remote Sensing, Scientific Institute, Mohammed V University of Rabat, Morocco. My goal is to contribute to the development of knowledge on sedimentary and fossil archives, and to promote these findings in both academic and applied contexts.

My PhD study focuses specifically on the Miocene formations from the Northern Morocco, with the aim of precisely dating these formations using dinoflagellate cysts and pollen. These microfossils, along with other palynomorphs from the organic content, allow for the reconstruction of the paleoenvironment, paleobiogeography, and paleoclimate recorded in the sediments of the various Miocene series in Northern Morocco. Regional and global biostratigraphic correlations, as well as comparisons with bioevents already identified in several parts of the world, will contribute to a better understanding of the Miocene geological history of Morocco and help refine the geological map.

# 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:

# Gesner Medal awarded to Graham Williams[1]

**By Rob Fensome**

*Graham Williams, photographed in the early 2000s by Henrik Nøhr-Hansen.*

Slightly modified version of the dedication letter read during the 51st AGS Colloquium, Dartmouth, 7 February 2025, by Rob Fensome:

It has been my great pleasure to nominate Graham Williams for the Atlantic Geoscience Society's Gesner Medal, the society's highest scientific honour. This is for two reasons aside from the fact that the honour is thoroughly deserving and long overdue. First, that Graham and I have been working together for over 40 years … would you believe … and I owe him an incredible debt of gratitude for his inspiration, mentorship and collegiality in many projects. And secondly, if it wasn't for Graham we perhaps would not be gathered here at the AGS Colloquium today, as Graham related in his talk on the early days of the Society this morning.

In the late 1960s Graham completed one of the earliest theses on Paleogene dinoflagellate cysts (or dinocysts), and his work and others under the direction of Charles Downie at Sheffield University in England did much to establish dinocysts as valuable biostratigraphic tools in Mesozoic and Cenozoic sedimentary rocks. And that value was rapidly becoming recognized in industry. So after graduation from Sheffield, Graham, with his wife Val and … at the time two children … headed to the bright lights of Tulsa, Oklahoma, to work for PanAmerican Petroleum, later Amoco.

There, he worked on the biostratigraphy of offshore eastern Canada. So, when, in 1971, the Geological Survey of Canada opened an eastern office, the Atlantic Geoscience Centre (now Geological Survey of Canada – Atlantic) in Dartmouth, Graham was a natural to become its first Mesozoic–Cenozoic palynologist.

*GSC Atlantic palynologists during the 1970s: from left to right, Graham Williams, Jonathan Bujak and Sedley Barss. These three co-authored the classic 67 wells GSC Paper in which they outlined the palynostratigraphy of 67 offshore eastern Canadian wells. Photographer unknown.*

During his early years at GSCA, Graham examined many offshore wells, culminating in a milestone multi-authored GSC Paper reporting on the palynological zonation of 67 wells in offshore eastern Canada, of which Graham had analyzed 44.

Graham has continued to be prolific in analyzing many more offshore sections and wells, developing paleoenvironment and evolutionary aspects as well as biostratigraphy. However, the importance of the latter to the geology of offshore eastern Canada cannot be overemphasized: we have vanishingly few radiometric dates from Mesozoic–Cenozoic strata in the region, so the age control that we have through up to 20 km thickness of strata is primarily due to biostratigraphy — and that in turn is disproportionately attributable to Graham's work and influence.

Throughout his career Graham has recognized the importance of taxonomy as the principal means of consistent communication between experts. In this vein, he began a collaboration with Judith Lentin in producing what has become the "Lentin and Williams" Index of fossil dinoflagellates, which is now in preparation for its ninth edition.

*"Lentin and Williams": Judith Lentin and Graham Williams at a gathering of Sheffield alumni around 1980. Photographer unknown.*

From the small booklet published in 1973, the 2019 edition has more than 1000 pages and includes 10,233 entries for genera and species. This remarkable work is a primary reason why dinocysts are so valuable in applied studies; it is almost universally cited in works on dinocysts, either in its original format or as the database DINOFLAJ, which Graham helped develop in collaboration with Andrew MacRae and myself.

*The team behind DINOFLAJ, the online database version of the Lentin and Williams Index: left to right, Graham, Andrew MacRae, Rob Fensome. Photo by Stephanie Longworth.*

Beyond dinocysts and palynology, Graham has also significantly contributed to major publications in eastern Canadian geology. He co-edited a major volume on offshore eastern Canada in the Decade of North American Geology (DNAG) series and was senior editor of the "Lexicon of Canadian Stratigraphy" volume for the Atlantic Region. He has also been deputy-editor of the Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences and a co-editor of Atlantic Geology. Graham has also shared his expertise, for example, in multi-authored textbooks and international courses on dinocysts.

Graham was integral in the founding of the Atlantic Geoscience Society[2], to which he has made many significant contributions, such as promoting the development first "geological highway map" of Nova Scotia, playing an inte-

gral role in the production of educational geoscience videos, as well as the EdGeo workshops for teachers in Nova Scotia and literally hundreds of classroom visits.

Perhaps a crowning achievement in outreach activities has been the production of two books on Maritimes and Canadian geology. Graham mooted the idea of a “popular” book on Maritimes geology at the 1996 AGS Colloquium in Antigonish, and thanks to his drive and leadership skills in gathering many contributors, the book "The Last Billion Years" became a reality in 2001, becoming a Canadian bestseller.

This success led to the larger undertaking to produce “Four Billion Years and Counting”, a book on the geology of Canada in 2014 and a second edition of "The Last Billion Years" in 2022.

Graham has always considered himself to be a member of the larger paleontological and geological community. Throughout his career he has contributed enormously to nurturing what was an emerging discipline, helping to shepherd it to maturity as an essential component of sedimentary basin studies. With prodigious energy and phenomenal power of concentration, he will work long days to finish his commitments, while always keeping a positive attitude and cheerful disposition. He has achieved excellence in every sense of the word, and his nomination for the Gesner Medal is surprising only in that it has been so long in coming.

*1. The award was proposed by Rob Fensome, seconded by Andrew MacRae and supported by Lynn Dafoe, Raquel Guerstein and Henk Brinkhuis.*

*2. Graham Williams was also one of the founding members of the Canadian Association of Palynologists and in 1979 and was a member of its first executive.*

# 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!

All jewelry can now be purchased at palynologyshop.org which is a tab on the AASP-TPS website (palynology.org).

# Obituary: Dr. Evan Joseph Kidson

**By Merrell Miller**

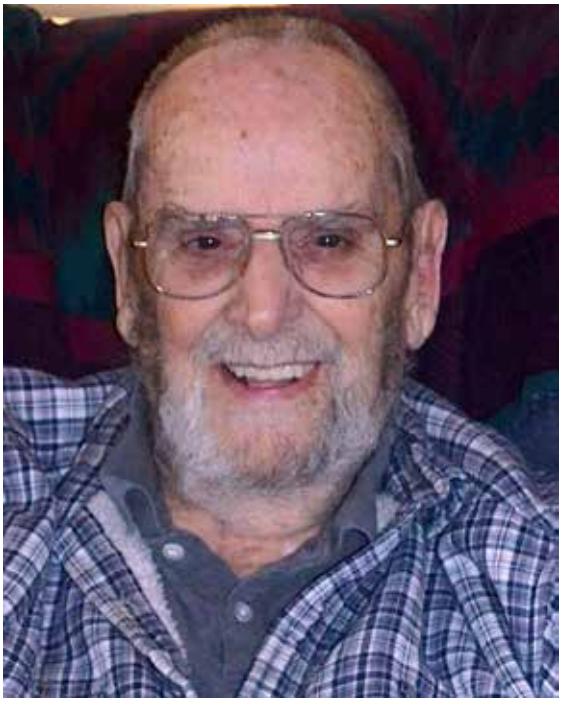
Dr. Evan Joseph Kidson, an esteemed geologist, passed away peacefully on Wednesday April 23, 2025, at the age of 95, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was born on March 15, 1930, in Syracuse, Kansas, to parents Evan Joseph Kidson and Minnie Frances (Williams) Kidson. Dr. Kidson's remarkable life was defined by dedication to his family, love for the natural world, and a ceaseless curiosity that fueled both his professional achievements and personal hobbies.

A Syracuse High School alumnus, Dr. Kidson's passion for plant life led him to Wichita State University, where he earned a Master's degree in Botany, whilst working as an electrician for Boeing. His thirst for knowledge was limitless, driving him to Michigan State University to obtain a PhD in Palynology. Dr. Kidson was also a Korean Veteran, having been inducted into the Army Reserves in 1951, and later served in the Army from 1953 to 1957.

Professionally, Dr. Kidson's knowledge led him to a fulfilling career at Amoco where he worked for 21 years as a Research Associate in the Biostratigraphic Research Group within the Geology Department. Retirement at the age of 58 marked the beginning of a new chapter, as he traversed the country in an RV, exploring the United States diverse landscapes.

Known for being remarkably handy, Dr. Kidson was a master of many trades including reading, gardening, woodworking, picture framing, and the culinary arts of BBQ and smoking meat. He also had a keen interest in the stock market and enjoyed the challenge it presented.

Dr. Kidson married the love of his life, Betty Jo Kidson. Their union was blessed by his two devoted children, Brenda Kidson Beller



(David) of Coweta, OK, and Roger Evan Kidson (Michele) of Carrollton, TX, and grandchildren—Holly Kidson (Aka Nnaji) of Carrollton, TX, John Evan Kidson of Carrollton, TX, Kathryn Kidson (Michael Brandt) of Pflugerville, TX, Monica Kidson of Woodbridge, VA, Rose Kidson of Norman, OK, Travis Beller of Broken Arrow, OK, and Jamie Beller of Tulsa, OK — who remember him as a beacon of wisdom and love. In addition to beloved wife, his parents, and five sisters, Bessie, Martha, Lois, Macel, and Ruth, preceded him in death.

Dr. Kidson leaves behind a legacy of intellectual contribution, and the warmth of a well-lived life. The impact he made on his loved ones and his field of research will forever be his enduring gift to the world.

# 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 2025. "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, 2025.**

## 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.

## 2025 AASP Foundation Century Club Contribution Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

# Upcoming meetings and lectures


The 13th *Climatic and Biotic Events of the Paleogene* conference will be held at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, and co-hosted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

*Share recent research on all things Paleogene!*

- **Climate States and Processes**
- **Stratigraphy**
- **Surface Processes**
- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
- **Marine Ecosystems**
- **Biogeochemical Cycles**

For more information visit our website **https://sites.google.com/view/cbep2026/home**. Please feel free to contact us with questions or suggestions by email to CBEP2026@si.edu.

Where science resides:
The Prince-Bishops Palace in Münster.
Photo: Westfälischer Hansebund e.V.

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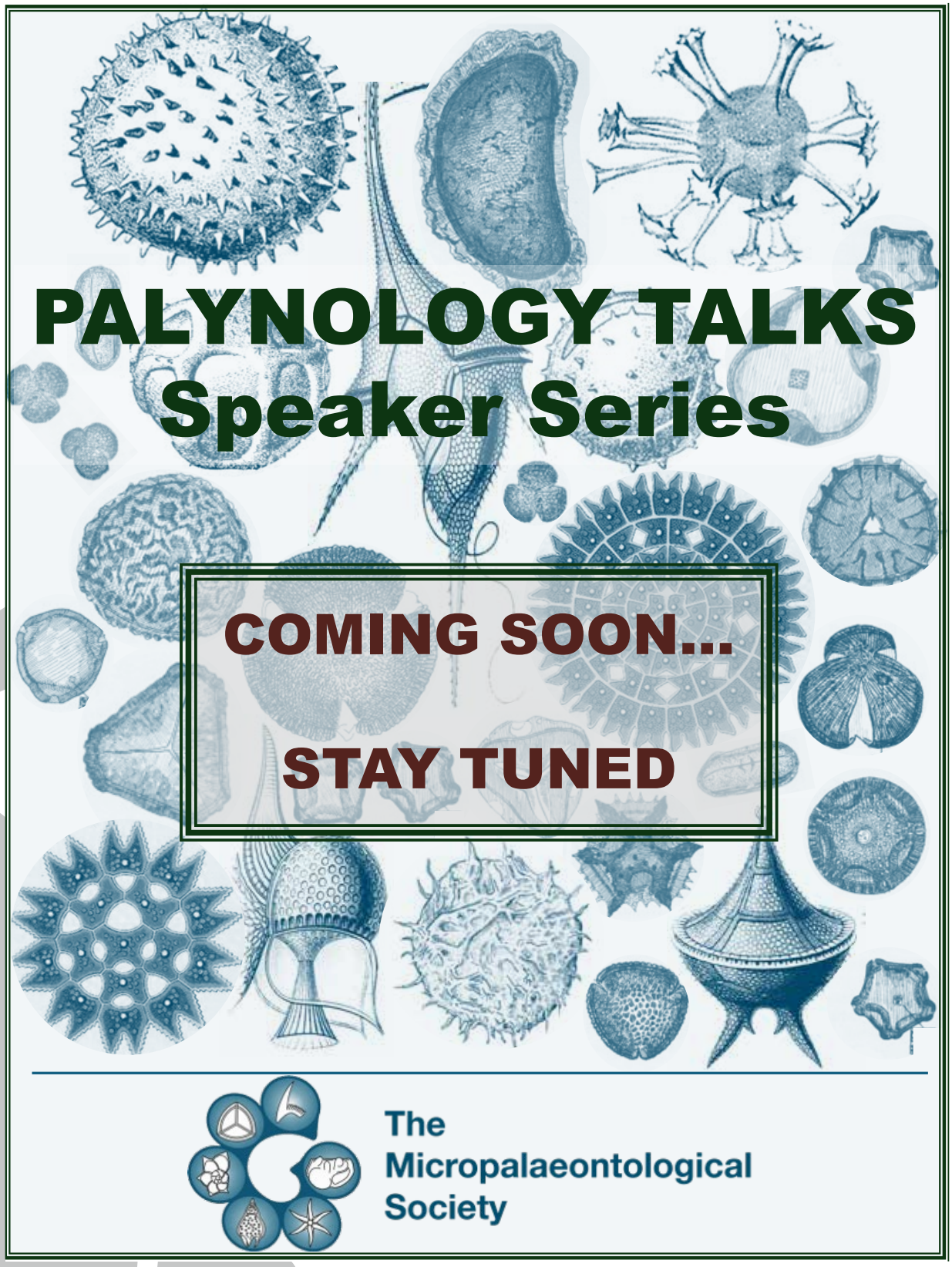
PALYNOLOGY CONFERENCE
MÜNSTER

20.–24. September 2026

Universität Münster

LWL-Museum für Naturkunde
Westfälisches Landesmuseum mit Planetarium

LWL
Für die Menschen.
Für Westfalen-Lippe.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