



THE PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY EMAIL DIGEST

May 5, 2011

<http://www.paleosoc.org/>

Spring Greetings!

A lot of exciting things have been happening within the Society in these last few months. The Society held its annual Student Grant competition, Mid-Year Council meeting, and various Section meetings. Planning for the Annual meeting continues and we are assembling a dynamic program for Minneapolis that will include 14 Topical Sessions, our annual Awards Reception (moved to Tuesday evening this year) and our free short course---"Corals and Reef Evolution: Crises, Collapse and Changes." In the coming weeks and months we will be having our annual Sepkoski Grant competition as well as a second year of our Outreach and Education Grant program. In addition, a new issue of *Priscum* will be available soon, and our Distinguished Lecturer program will be funded for another year. Please read on for details on these and other important developments within our discipline.

-----Lisa Park (Boush), Secretary, The Paleontological Society

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IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- GSA Abstract Submission is now open. Deadline for submission is July 26.
<http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2011/>
- GSA Registration--opens in early June. Early registration deadline: 6 September
- Outreach and Education Grant Deadline—May 31
- Distinguished Lecture Program—first come, first served
- NOTE—Due to the Yom Kippur holiday, the **2011 Annual Awards Reception and Business Meeting** will be on **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11 at 5:30 instead of Saturday, October 8.**

PS OUTREACH AND EDUCATION GRANT SOLICITATION

The Paleontological Society works to increase the public's awareness and understanding of paleontology by enhancing formal and informal educational opportunities. The Paleontological Society Outreach and Education Grant provides support to our members for programs and activities involving educational outreach and community engagement.

Potential fundable projects include, but are not limited to, field trips to fossil sites and/or museums for teachers and pre-college students, educator training and curriculum development, participation in local community initiatives, development of educational materials for classroom use, and website or other online material development. The subject matter covered by outreach proposals may fall within any subdiscipline of paleontology/paleobiology. Particularly encouraged are projects that (1) include opportunities for undergraduate students to become involved in paleontological outreach to younger students or the public, (2) create new educational "apps" or other technologies, and/or (3) produce educational materials that could be distributed more widely through the PS website.



Amount of Grant

The Paleontological Society will issue four grants of \$2500.00 each.

Eligibility

Applicants must be members of the Paleontological Society at the time of application. Graduate student applicants should provide documentation of a professional member's willingness to serve as advisor for the project.

Application

Applications for a PS Outreach and Education Grant must include:

1. A project proposal, three to five pages in length, single-sided, which must include

- a project title
- names and contact addresses of participating personnel
- a brief synopsis of the project
- target audience (e.g., grade level, in-service teachers, the public)
- project description
- goals of the project
- expected outcomes (including how they will be assessed)
- timeline
- a discussion of the significance to the science education community.

2. A detailed, itemized budget with justification of the uses of the PS Education & Outreach funds. We cannot pay overhead or indirect costs. Matching funds from other sources are strongly encouraged.

3. A one page CV of each of the project personnel.

Deadline

Deadline for submission is May 31, 2011.

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION REPORT

The Southeastern Section had a number of very successful activities at the SE GSA meeting in Wilmington, N.C., in March, including a symposium on significant fossil sites in the region, two topical sessions, and a post-meeting field trip. Thank you to all of the presenters, organizers, session chairs, and field-trip leaders who made this possible, particularly those of the host institution, the University of North Carolina at Wilmington! The Paleontological Society booth was open for business both days, resulting in sales (8 publications) and new members. As something new, we had a raffle for student members consisting of a drawing for a P.S. book of their choice, resulting in 2 additional new members. Three students were given \$200 travel grants (4 new members), and four students won \$50 awards for their posters. Thanks to all of the judges who helped with this. At the business meeting, incoming section Chair Tony Martin lead a discussion of possible activities at next year's meeting in Asheville, North Carolina, getting us off to a good start at preparing for another successful year.

Submitted by Ronald Lewis, Southeastern Section Chair

MID-YEAR COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

PS Council held their Mid-Year meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on March 19, 2011. Council approved the nominations for Officers for Society elections in August. They also approved holding the Outreach and Education Award competition and increasing the award to include money to accommodate the taxes charged to the recipient. Council also approved an increase for the Distinguished Lecture program to \$1200/speaker for the 3 speakers in the program, with a minimum of \$400/trip for each. Both journals will be using DRYAD for supplementary information and Council approved an increase in membership fees by \$5 for regular and retired members (spouses and students will stay the same).

STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT AWARDS

The 2011 Student Research Grant competition for 2011 has closed and we are pleased to announce the results of this important program. The committee received 89 proposals this year. Each proposal was evaluated by three committee members using a rubric, and proposals plus their accompanying recommendation letters were ranked by mean and bootstrapped mean scores. Three proposals received an additional, fourth review because of an unusually



wide range in scores. The committee then double-checked the borderline proposals qualitatively, and unanimously approved the final ranking.

The Paleontological Society was able to fund 29 applicants (33%). All 89 applicants were notified individually by email on or before April 25, 2011. The list of Awardees and their project title can be found below. The Paleontological Society gratefully thanks the hard work of the dedicated committee members--Nicole Bonuso, Kate Bulinski, David Polly, Matthew Powell, Sara Pruss, Jocelyn Sessa, and David Sunderlin.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR AWARDEES AND GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR RESEARCH PROJECTS!

MAPS Outstanding Student Research (3 awards)

Marie Hoerner --Dynamics of the Great American Biotic Interchange from Stable Isotopes, Hypsodonty, and Microwear (U. of Chicago)

Rachel Brown--Dietary Ecology of Coastal Coyotes (*Canis latrans*): Marine-Terrestrial Linkages from the Holocene to Present (U. of California, Santa Cruz)

Jonathan Mitchel--Ecological controls on morphological evolution: Phytosaurs as a case study (U. of Chicago)

Richard Osgood Award (1 award)

Kelsey Feser--Delineating the unique effects of different anthropogenic agents on benthic community structure, St. Croix, USVI (U. of Cincinnati)

Kenneth E. & Annie Caster Award (2 awards)

Joshua Lively--The Phylogeny and Paleobiogeography of Cretaceous Baenid Turtles (U. of Utah)

Eric Taylor--Variation in Muscle Attachment Sites on the Hind Limb of Alligator mississippiensis (U. of Utah)

N. Gary Lane Award (3 awards)

Sarah Werning--Bone histology and growth in the largest marsupial mammal, *Diprotodon optatum* (U. of California, Berkeley)

Kenneth O'Donnell--The paleoecology of phytoplankton at the Ediacaran-Cambrian transition and the radiation of modern phyla (Virginia Tech)

Paige Kercher--Determining the effect of ocean acidification on brachiopod shell calcite (U. of California, Davis)

Allison R. "Pete" Palmer Award (2 awards)

Zhenzhu Wan--Carbon Isotopic Composition and Water-Use Efficiency of Early Devonian to Early Carboniferous Land Plants (U. of Cincinnati)

Melissa Light--Palynological reconstructions of early Eocene environmental and biotic perturbations in the Wind River Basin, Wyoming, USA (Miami U.)

James M. & Thomas J. M. Schopf Award (1 award)

Michael Meyer--When the worm turned: New insights into Ediacaran trace fossils through microchemical analyses (Virginia Tech)

Robert J. Stanton & James R. Dodd Award (1 award)

Dana Friend--Geographic mosaics of variation in predation intensity by naticid gastropods and the evolved defenses in their bivalve prey: a test of the hypothesis of coevolutionary alternation (U. of North Carolina, Wilmington)

Steven Jay Gould Award (3 awards)

Andrew Zaffos--Many niches as one: Ordination axes and morphologic variability (U. of Cincinnati)

Shari Hilding-Kronforst--Lifestyles of the Hantkeninids (Texas A&M U.)

Sarah Allen--The Taxonomy, Paleoclimate, and Paleoecology of a flora from the Eocene Bridger Formation, Southwestern Wyoming (U. of Florida)



Ellis L. Yochelson Award (4 awards)

Mary Kosloski--Ecometrics and risk assessment: using a taxon-free technique to assess ecological effects of the Plio-Pleistocene extinction on Busyconine whelks (Cornell U.)

Ian Winkelstern--Reconstructing mid-latitude SST and seasonality in the western North Atlantic during Pliocene warm and cool climate states (U. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)

Sharon McMullen--Sequence stratigraphic controls on fossil assemblages in the Middle Jurassic Sundance Formation, Wyoming, USA (U. of Georgia)

Andrew Beard--Reconstructing the habitat variability of an enigmatic bivalve from the Permian of Eastern Australia and Tasmania (Syracuse U.)

Arthur J. Boucot Award (1 award)

Carolyn Levitt--Bone histology and growth of Chasmosaurine Ceratopsid dinosaurs from the Campanian Kaiparowits Formation, Southern Utah (U. of Utah)

Steven M. Stanley Award (1 award)

Shubhabrata Paul--Selectivity of the Late Neogene extinctions in Florida (U. of South Florida)

Harry B. Whittington Award (1 award)

Amelinda Webb--Comparing abundance and biovolume in modern and fossil coral reefs: Applications for conservation paleobiology (Yale U.)

Kenneth E. & Annie Caster Award (3 awards)

Natalie Dastas--Palynomorphs of the Clayton Formation, Southeastern Missouri, as Indicators of Time and Deposition Through the K-Pg Mass Extinction Event (Brooklyn C. CUNY)

Matthew Demski--Ordovician-Silurian Boundary Interval in the Williston Basin of Manitoba, Canada: Bio-, Litho-, and Chemostratigraphy and Faunal Turnovers (U. of Manitoba)

Cory Redman--Assessing the role of trophic structure in extinction patterns during the Cretaceous-Paleocene Mass Extinction (Texas A&M U.)

G. Arthur Cooper Award (1 award)

Denise Weide--Freshwater diatoms as proxy for winter monsoon intensity in Lac Ba Be, Vietnam (California State U., Long Beach)

Richard K. Bambach Award (1 award)

Simon Darroch--Spatial Fabric of the Ordovician-Silurian Extinction; Developing Predictive Models for Biodiversity Loss (Yale U.)

Rodney M. Feldmann Award (1 award)

Zachary Kita--New stable isotope record of ecological change in the late Neogene of the western Great Plains (U. of Nebraska, Lincoln)

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE PROGRAM

The Paleontological Society is proud to support the Distinguished Lecturer Program, with the goal of bringing outstanding scientists to colleges, universities, and public events to speak about cutting-edge paleontological research, evolution, and the nature of science. The long history of life on our planet offers countless opportunities to explore the mechanisms and fascinating consequences of evolution, extinction, and ecosystem change. The response of the world's biota to global climate change has become an important issue today, and paleontologists can provide an important perspective on this from research in the deep-time record. Through this program, we hope to increase the visibility of paleontological research and to communicate its unique insights to the community at large. We support three lecturers each year on rotating, two-year terms. Each is known as an excellent speaker who communicates the interest and importance of his or her work in paleontology especially well to both academic and



public audiences. Speakers offer talks appropriate to a general, non-specialist audience and talks geared to academic disciplinary fields. Current speakers are listed below, with their subject areas and contact information.

Peter Wilf (2010-2012) Pennsylvania State University (pwilf@psu.edu)

1. "Ancient Biodiversity at the End of the World: Paleogene Floras of Patagonia Rediscovered"
2. "Insect-Damaged Fossil Leaves Show How Food Webs Respond to Ancient Climate Change and Extinction"
3. "Fossil Angiosperm Leaves: Paleobotany's Difficult Children Prove Themselves"

Patricia Kelley (2010-2012) UNC at Wilmington (kelleyp@uncw.edu)

1. "Teaching Evolution with Integrity and Sensitivity"
2. "Evolution and Creation: Conflicting or Compatible?"
3. "The Arms Race from a Snail's Perspective: Evolution of the Naticid Gastropod Predator - Prey System"

Gene Hunt (2011-2013) Smithsonian Institution (hunte@si.edu)

1. "Understanding the Fossil Record of Evolution: From Darwin to Today"
2. "Climate Change and Body Size Trends in Deep-sea Ostracodes"

The Distinguished Lecturers have agreed to make themselves available on an expenses-only basis; no honorarium is required. The Society provides up to \$400 toward speaker travel to give lectures. The host institution is expected to cover on-site expenses, including meals and lodging. Travel support is currently available on a first-come, first served basis, but this process may be amended if demand is high. To request a speaker, contact that individual directly. If you have questions about this program, please feel free to contact me at lcivany@syr.edu.

Linda C. Ivany
Councilor-at-Large, The Paleontological Society

SHORT COURSE AND TOPICAL SESSIONS FOR 2011 GSA MEETING

PS Short Courses. The upcoming short course is entitled "Corals and Reef Evolution: Crises, Collapse and Changes" and is being organized by George Stanley. It will be from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday, October 8, 2011.

NOTE--Due to the Yom Kippur holiday, the 2011 Annual Awards Reception and Business Meeting will be on TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11 at 5:30 instead of Saturday, October 8.

PS-Sponsored Sessions at National GSA Meeting, 2011. The PS representatives on GSA's Joint Technical Program Committee for 2011 are Matthew Clapham and Caroline Stromberg. There will be 14 topical sessions with Paleontological Society sponsorship—

T50. Applications of Bio- and Chemostratigraphy to Sequence Stratigraphy

(Alicia C.M. Kahn, Douglas McCarty, Miriam E. Katz)

T51. Phanerozoic Palynology: Applications to Stratigraphic, Paleoenvironmental, and Paleoclimatic Research

(Francisca E. Oboh-Ikuenobe, Lanny H. Fisk, Debra A. Willard)

T52. Species and Speciation in the Fossil Record

(Warren D. Allmon, Margaret M. Yacobucci)

T53. The Triassic: Turning Point for Phanerozoic Life

(David J. Bottjer)

T54. Multidisciplinary Approaches to Studying the Causes and Consequences of Mass Extinction: Geochemistry, Paleoecology, and Paleoenvironments

(Marc Laflamme, Simon A.F. Darroch)

T55. New Horizons in Precambrian Palynology and Paleobiology

(Paul K. Strother)

T56. From Organic Detritus to Coal: Tracing the Terrestrial Decomposer Community in Permineralized Peat, Lignite, and Coal

(Jen O'Keefe, Anne Raymond)

T57. Hard Substrate (Sclerobiont) Community Ecology and Evolution through Mass Extinctions

(Paul D. Taylor, Mark Wilson)

T58. Whole Organism Paleoecology: Exploring Ecology through Time



(Amelinda E. Webb, William Ausich)

T59. New Ideas on Studying Exceptionally Preserved Fossils: What to Do Next?

(Jih-Pai Lin, Alison Olcott Marshall, Craig P. Marshall)

T60. Lessons from the Living: Paleontological Investigations Using Modern Analogs

(Daniel I. Hembree, Jon J. Smith, Brian F. Platt)

T61. Phylogenetic Approaches to Paleobiology: Diversity, Rates, and Trends

(David W. Bapst, Emily A. King)

T62. Frontiers in Foraminiferal Research: Implications for Interpreting the Past, Understanding the Present, and Predicting the Future

(Pamela Hallock, Susan T. Goldstein)

T66. Advances in Terrestrial Paleoclimatology and Paleoecology: Geochemical Techniques and Examples Using Inorganic and Organic Molecules in Fossil Soils, Plants, Invertebrates, and Vertebrates

(Celina Suarez, Samuel Matson, Aisha Al-Suwaidi, Patrick Wheatley)

DETELON UPDATE

2-4 Feb 2011 a Science Planning meeting was held at the National Museum of Natural History, with about 35 participants (pretty good, considering the winter storms that week). The goal of the meeting was to develop a Science Plan for DETELON (Deep-Time Earth Life Observatory Networks).

The goal of DETELON as a program to address integrative problems of Earth history in a coordinated fashion to provide better tools towards predicting the behavior of the Earth-Life system. Given current concerns at NSF, it is initially focused on deep-time climate change. It is intended to provide an avenue for larger, interdisciplinary deep-time research programs of 5-10 PIs over 5-10 years for field based work but with significant analytical and modeling components.

After the meeting a Science Plan writing group (Doug Erwin, Dave Bottjer, Catherine Badgley, Tom Olszewski, Paul Koch, Anne Raymond, Dena Smith and Philip Gingerich) met for 2 days, and began drafting the plan, which was submitted to NSF in April.

DETELON has already been mentioned in the forthcoming NRC report and in other activities. But success in this sort of effort will require sustained pressure from the community, including PS Officers, in engaging with NSF staff, giving talks at NSF, organizing sessions at GSA, etc. Bottjer and Erwin are developing a DETELON executive committee and hoping to turn over leadership of this initiative to that group.

Doug Erwin
Past-President

NSF UPDATE

There are a few important developments that researchers applying to the National Science Foundation for support should be aware of in the coming year. First, NSF now has a Data Management Policy (DMP) requirement for all submitted grants. Information on requirements related to the DMP can be found on the NSF website. Further, new funds will be available in FY12 for projects related to the Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability (SEES) initiative. There will be a NSF sponsored workshop entitled: "Navigating NSF—New Programs and Best Practices" that will be held on Sunday afternoon. This workshop will be focused on all career level scientists and will have specific information about new and continuing programs at NSF.

Program Officers, Sedimentary Geology and Paleobiology (SGP)/EAR/GEO/NSF
-Rich Lane
-Lisa Park Boush
-Paul Filmer

REQUEST FOR PRISCUM BOOK REVIEWS

Do you have any ideas for content for the *Priscum* newsletter? If so, please contact Phil Novack-Gottshall at pnovack-gottshall@ben.edu. We are interested in including a wide range of content of possible interest to members of our Society. Consider anything from a short description of a future GSA symposium or field trip you are planning to



an op-ed sharing a cantankerous viewpoint on a topical issue, an idea for a regular *Priscum* feature, or memorable photos of fossils or fieldwork. Because we are currently in the process of transferring books for possible review, we are also making a special plea for volunteering short (~400-800 words) reviews of recently published books you have read that might have bearing, even tangentially, on the wide world of paleontology. Informative, informal, and engaging reviews are especially encouraged!

Thanks,
Phil Novack-Gottshall, *Priscum* Editor

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The contact person to process your request is---

Bryan Hibbard
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NEW MEMBERS ONLY ACCESS ON PS WEBSITE

With your Member ID, you now can access the Members-Only portion of our website. To get there, go to the PS homepage and select Membership pull down menu, then Member Services (On line), and then click on the Members Only button. Services provided here include Membership Directory, Address Changes, Book Discounts and coming soon---Treatise Online access.

<http://rock.geosociety.org/membership/paleo/>

NOTE---if you would like to not have your information listed in the directory or not receive email blasts, you can go into the Members Only area and change those preferences using the Address Changes option.

CALL FOR NAPC HOST SITE

There still is a need for a host site for the upcoming North American Paleontological Conference. If you are interested in hosting this important meeting, please contact Philip Gingerich at gingeric@umich.edu.

GSA MANAGEMENT TRANSITION

As of January 1, 2011, the PS has migrated some of its management duties to the Geological Society of America. If you have any feedback on the services provided to you as a member regarding these services, please contact Lisa Park at lepark@uakron.edu.

As always, if you do not wish to receive these monthly updates, please email the PS Secretary, Lisa Park at lepark@uakron.edu and you will be removed from the list. If you would like to have something posted on the digest, please contact the Secretary. Note that suitability of submissions will be evaluated before posting.

Lisa E. Park
Secretary, The Paleontological Society