



**THE PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY
EMAIL DIGEST**

July 27, 2010

We are now beyond the half-way point of summer and hopefully, your field, meeting and laboratory activities are all going well! As July comes to a close and August nears, you will be getting your renewal notice for your PS membership. Please remember to renew as well as vote for the Council and other positions which you will find listed in the ballot with your dues statement. This is also an appropriate time to remind you all of some of the important things that the PS does for the paleontological community. For example, I was down on San Salvador Island, Bahamas in late June and had the pleasure of interacting with the Taphonomy and Paleoecology course that was being run by Thomas Rothfus and Michal Kowalewski. The participating students were all partially sponsored by the PS. In addition, I got a postcard from one of the 35 students that the PS sponsored to attend the IPC3 in London thanking me for the PS's support of her participation in that meeting. Two additional things that the PS has been involved with---the DETELON initiative and an Outreach Education Award are summarized in the items in this digest. It is these things as well as all of the other things that the Society does-- publishing our two journals and organizing our meetings that make the Society a vital part of sustaining our community of scientists. Remember, the Society serves you, but you are the Society! We thank you all for your participation and efforts that make our science relevant and exciting in the 21st Century.

-----Lisa Park, Secretary, The Paleontological Society

CONTENTS

- Position Announcements
 - Paleo Hosts for TV Series
 - Ecologist, William and Mary
- DETELON update
- PS Outreach Education Award
- Falls of the Ohio Festival

REPEATED ITEMS

- GSA Annual Meeting
- Funding for Distinguished Lecturer Program
- NAPC Host Site

CALL FOR PALEONTOLOGY HOSTS FOR TELEVISION SERIES

Engel Entertainment is an Emmy award-winning production company that produces programming for networks such as PBS, Discovery, History, National Geographic, A & E and many others. If you'd like more information, please visit our website www.engelentertainment.com.

We are currently seeking paleontologists to host a television non-fiction series. The series is being developed for a major cable network, and it will be an entertaining, exciting and revealing look into the uncovering of prehistoric life.



We would be very appreciative if you could circulate the following information to your contacts, colleagues and graduate students - we are keen to hear from as many paleontologists as possible!

WHO WE ARE SEEKING

We are looking for hosts from both genders and all ethnic and cultural backgrounds. As a character reference, our host would be in the mold of Jeff Corwin from The Jeff Corwin Experience, Don Wildman from Cities of the Underworld or Kari Byron from MythBusters. Ideally, we are seeking paleontologists who:

1. are between 30 and 40 years old
2. have a graduate degree (MS, PhD) in Paleontology or a closely related field
3. are fun, outgoing, adventurous, charismatic and comfortable on camera
4. are passionate about communicating with television audiences
5. enjoy the great outdoors, and don't mind getting dirty!

If you know someone who does not fit our age and qualification requirements but would otherwise make a fantastic host, we would love to hear from them. We would be happy to consider them provided they can demonstrate the equivalent professional experience AND possess the other qualities in abundance!

HOW TO RESPOND

If you or someone you know fits this description, we would love to hear from you! Please send us:

1. a brief resume (1-2 pages)
2. a short bio (1 paragraph) telling us why you think you would be great for the series – please include your name, age and contact phone number
3. a recent photograph of yourself (not wearing sunglasses or a hat)

Please email this information to euhua@engelentertainment.com by September 17, 2010.

TENURE TRACK POSITION IN ECOLOGY AT WILLIAM AND MARY

The Department of Biology at the College of William and Mary seeks applications for a tenure track position at the Assistant Professor level in ECOLOGY with significant contribution to the college's ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND POLICY program (ENSP). The position is open to applicants conducting research in any field or scale of ecology that adds to existing biological and environmental strengths at William and Mary. Preference will be given to individuals working on terrestrial systems. The ideal candidate will have the ability to integrate knowledge across diverse disciplines and levels of biological organization, and possess excellent communication skills that will inspire a bright and highly motivated student body ranging from introductory to graduate students. The successful candidate is expected to establish and maintain an externally funded research program involving both undergraduate and Master's degree students. Teaching expectations are one course per semester and will include an annual upper-division ecology course with a field laboratory component suitable to count towards the ENSP program, an introductory ENSP course on a rotational basis (probably once every three years), and ecology and quantitative courses of interest that would meet the needs



of the biology department. Postdoctoral research experience is required, and previous experience teaching undergraduate courses will be viewed favorably. Review begins November 1, 2010 and will continue until an appointment is made. Submit online a letter of application, curriculum vitae, statements of research plans and teaching philosophy, and a list of courses taken/taught relevant to the position as a single PDF document to www.jobs.wm.edu. Also arrange for three letters of reference to be sent directly to Ecology Search Committee, Department of Biology, The College of William and Mary, P.O. Box 8795, Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795. Information on the undergraduate and master's degree programs in the biology department and this position may be obtained at <http://www.wm.edu/biology>. Information about the environmental science and policy program can be accessed at: www.wm.edu/environment. The College is an EEO/AA employer.

DETELON UPDATE

The final report from the NSF-sponsored workshop on Deep-Time Earth Life Observatory Networks (DETELON) is now being reviewed by NSF staff, and should be posted soon on the PS website, and those of other paleontological societies. It makes a strong argument for the development of a broader program focused on critical intervals in deep earth history. These could include periods of rapid climate change, mass extinctions or biotic radiations – any event whose study really requires the efforts of not only paleontologists, but also geochemists, stratigraphers, quantitative modelers and others. DETELONs have been envisioned as field-based programs that would also require significant lag and modeling work to address the specific questions. This is a great time to be pushing such an initiative, as the program outlined fits into the GEOVision report issued last year by the Advisory Committee to the GEO division at NSF (<http://www.nsf.gov/geo/acgeo/geovision/start.jsp>). We also hope that this idea will be pushed by a National Research Council Committee that is currently preparing a report on NRC Panel on New Research Opportunities in the Earth Sciences commissioned by the National Science Foundation. If you haven't already participated in their on-line survey, I urge you to do so soon: <http://thenationalacad.nroes.sqizmo.com>

The economic conditions over the past couple of years have been challenging for many, and I expect that Washington will soon take action on the growing federal budget deficit. But at present NSF remains on course for substantial budget increases until 2017, so it is important for our community to articulate new, broad and transformative research ideas to NSF.

---Douglas Erwin, President, The Paleontological Society

PS OUTREACH EDUCATION AWARD

One of the principal goals of the Paleontological Society is to foster integration of research and education through support of programs, projects and activities that directly engage the science education community. The Paleontological Society Outreach Education Award is designed to provide support to our members for community engagement and outreach. Local and regional initiatives with a broad impact are requested. 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 award proposals may be in any field under the discipline of paleontology/paleobiology.



The Paleontological Society will grant 4 awards of up to \$2500.00 each.

These awards will be made directly to individuals and not to institutions. Awardees will be selected by a committee of the Paleontological Society based on the quality and feasibility of the proposed project. Only members of the Paleontological Society may apply. Consideration will be given to paleontologists of all levels and begins with graduate student research.

Applications for a PS Outreach Education Award 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
 - project description
 - goals of the project
 - expected outcomes
 - timeline
 - a discussion of the significance to the science education community.
2. A detailed budget with justification of the uses of the PS Education Outreach funds. We cannot pay overhead or indirect costs.
3. A one page CV of each of the project personnel.

Deadline for submission has not yet been set but will be announced soon. Submissions will be done electronically.

FALLS FESTIVAL ON SEPTEMBER 18 and 19, 2010

Falls of the Ohio State Park and the Falls of the Ohio Foundation announce the 16th Falls Fossil Festival on September 18 & 19. This site is one of the worlds' most spectacular naturally-exposed fossil beds! Explore our rich Middle Devonian patch reef packed with fossils on the floor of the Ohio River. Walk a bedding plane and see fossils as they lived – and died – 390 million years ago! Search the limestone for giant colonial coral, solitary “horn” corals up to four feet long, trilobites, large snails, and other phyla.

This show, held rain or shine, features outdoor vendors selling fossils, minerals, books, related items as well as food from the grill. Enjoy our fossil bed tours and special programs from knowledgeable paleontologists and geologists in the Interpretive Center. There is a geo-activity area for children with scheduled and on-going programs. Pick up literature from the dozens of fossil parks and museums across North America.

Collecting is prohibited at the Falls of the Ohio; however, a local quarry donates 30 tons each of fossil-bearing Silurian Waldron shale and Devonian Jeffersonville Limestone residuum. Dig for brachiopods, bryozoans, corals, crinoids, cystoids, snails, clams, and trilobites in Fossil Collecting Piles provided by local quarries. Search the mineral collecting pile from Rosiclare, Illinois for fluorite and more! We can direct your class to other localities to collect fossils or examine outcrops. This would be an ideal weekend field trip. We hope you will be able to join us!



Alan Goldstein
Interpretive Naturalist,
Falls Fossil Festival Coordinator
agoldstein@dnr.in.gov
Festival web site from our home page - <http://www.fallsoftheohio.org> or directly:
<http://www.fallsoftheohio.org/FallsFossilFestivalProgram.html>

Repeated Items

GSA ANNUAL MEETING

GSA Abstract Deadline and Registration

Abstract Deadline-- August 10

<http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2010/techprog.htm>

Registration is now open!

<http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2010/req.htm>

PS-Sponsored Sessions at National GSA Meeting, 2010.

The PS representatives on GSA's Joint Technical Program Committee for 2010 are Ellen Currano and Matthew Clapham. At this time, 15 topical sessions will have Paleontological Society sponsorship

T22. Exposing Myths and Misrepresentations of Climate Change and Evolution Science: Strategies and Case Studies for Geoscientists, Educators, Policy Makers, and the Press
Organizers: George T. Stone, Michael E. Mann, Andrew M. Buddington

T66. Geochronology of the American West: In Honor of the Careers of Bill Cobban and John Obradovich and the Roots of EARTHTIME
Organizers: S.A. Bowring, Kirk R. Johnson, Brad S. Singer

T70. Geochemistry and Mineralogy of Fossils
Organizers: Matthew J. Kohn, Dennis O. Terry, David Grandstaff

T77. Common Approaches to Investigating Patterns and Processes of Bioerosion across Substrates
Organizers: Anthony Walton, Ferran Garcia-Pichel/Elisabeth Chacon, Mark Wilson, Patrick Wyse Jackson

T111. Teaching Paleontology in the Twenty-First Century: Resources for Teaching Paleontology at the Undergraduate Level
Organizers: Margaret M. Yacobucci, Rowan Lockwood, Warren D. Allmon, Bruce J. MacFadden

T112. Paleontology, Paleobiogeography, and Stratigraphy of the Late Cretaceous North American Seas: A Tribute to Bill Cobban
Organizers: Richard A. MacKenzie, Corinne Myers



T113. Geological and Paleobiological Collections: Best Practices for Preservation, Access, and Use in a Changing World

Organizers: Ann Molineux, Tim White, Christopher Michael Holl

T114. Symbiosis as a Driver of Global Change in Ancient and Modern Earth Systems (Posters)

Organizers: Laurie Anderson, Annette Summers Engel

T115. The Precambrian-Cambrian Ecosphere (R)evolution: Insights from Chinese Microcontinents

Organizers: Christoph E. Heubeck, Maoyan Zhu, Shaoyong Jiang

T116. Links between Mesozoic Climate and Biodiversity

Organizers: Gregory D. Price, Richard J. Twitchett, Peter J. Harries

T117. Lagerstätte through Time: An Examination of Exceptional Preservational Pathways from the Terminal Proterozoic through Today

Organizers: James D. Schiffbauer, Marc Laflamme

T118. Filling the Hole: Sedimentary Geology and Paleontology of Caves and Karst

Organizers: Roy Plotnick, Ira D. Sasowsky

T121. The Western Interior Seaway Revisited (Posters)

Organizers: Dee A. Cooper, Roger W. Cooper

T143. Stratigraphic Standards: Where Have They Gone, What Should They Do, Where Should They Go?

Organizers: Arthur Donovan, Brian R. Pratt, L.E. Edwards

The PS is also listed as a sponsor for a Pardee Symposium entitled "Symbiosis as a Driver of Global Change in Ancient and Modern Earth Systems," which is tied to T114 above.

PS Short Course

Quantitative Methods in Paleobiology. Sat., 30 Oct., 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Sponsor: *The Paleontological Society*. FREE. Limit: 400. John Alroy, Macquarie University; Gene Hunt, Smithsonian Institution.

Abstract: This short course will consist of 13 presentations explaining essential parts of paleobiology's modern toolkit. It will cover both general techniques and specific methods used to analyze taxonomic, ecological, morphological, and stratigraphic data. Presenters will cover the conceptual basis of methods as well as their practical application. This course is targeted towards early graduate students and other individuals who wish to increase their proficiency with the analytical tools of modern paleobiology. There will be an accompanying printed volume available for purchase.

FUNDING FOR DISTINGUISHED LECTURE PILOT PROGRAM



At the mid-year meeting (May 1, 2010), the PS Council agreed to initiate a pilot program to help defray, in part, travel expenses for Distinguished Lecturers. Each Distinguished Lecturer will have a \$1000 available allocation from the Society. This \$1000 will be used to pay for airfare or ground transportation up to \$500/trip and it is hoped that two (or possibly three trips) could be made with this budgeted amount. The inviting college or university would have to pay for local transport to and from the airport, lodging and other comforts for the Distinguished Lecturer. These funds are to be used for transportation only and not for *per diem* costs or honoraria.

If you are interested in having a PS Distinguished Lecturer come to your institution to give a presentation, please contact the individual speaker (listed below) or Dr. Sally Walker (Councilor, Unrestricted) (email: swalker@gly.uga.edu) to coordinate a visit to your campus. Funds will be distributed *on a first come basis*.

Current PS Distinguished Lecturers are:

- Dr. Peter Wilf (The Pennsylvania State University) (email: pwilf@psu.edu)
- Dr. Kevin Peterson (Dartmouth University) (email: kevin.i.peterson@dartmouth.edu)
- Dr. Patricia Kelley (University of North Carolina, Wilmington) (email: kelleyp@uncw.edu)

Details on their presentations are available on the PS website. The Councilor-at-Large will be following up with each Distinguished Lecturer to determine how successful this pilot program, with the possibility of expanding its scope in the future.

NAPC HOST REQUEST

The PS and ANAPS is looking for a place willing to host the next NAPC meeting! Please contact Doug Erwin, Philip Gingerich, Lisa Park, or Roy Plotnick if you are interested!

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