



**THE PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
EMAIL DIGEST  
May 24, 2010**

*From the President—*

*During a time when easy electronic access to journals and the spread of open journals (more accurately described as ‘author-pays’) makes some question the continuing relevance of scientific societies, it is worth remembering some of their additional roles. The successful completion of our campaign for student research funds is one example, but another came at the end of April, when former PS President Dave Bottjer and I convened an NSF-sponsored meeting at the Smithsonian. This meeting was an outgrowth of the “Future Directions for Research in Paleontology” (FDRP) meeting held several years ago. An outgrowth of the FDRP meeting was a proposal for **Deep Time Earth Life Observatory Networks (DETELON)**: A program to fund interdisciplinary groups of paleontologists, stratigraphers, geochemists, geochronologists and others for 5-10 years to undertake intensive, field-based projects on compelling research questions in deep time. We convened about 21 people to discuss the rationale, logistics and approach for DETELONs. There was considerable enthusiasm for NSF developing such an intermediate scale program. The committee is currently drafting a report for NSF, which will be made available on the PS website (and through other societies) about 1 June. This will only be the beginning, however. Pushing projects like this through NSF requires continuing engagement with NSF staff, town hall meetings, and other efforts. The PS, SVP and other societies need to lead the effort to convince NSF that are compelling research questions that can really only be addressed by this sort of effort.*

*And finally, kudos to **David Jablonski** of the University of Chicago on his recent election to the **National Academy of Sciences**. This is one of the highest honors a scientist can receive, and richly deserved.*

*Sincerely,  
Douglas Erwin, President, The Paleontological Society*



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- NESCENT opportunities

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## DETELON WORKSHOP

A three-day workshop was convened at the Smithsonian April 23-25 to plan and formulate the DETELON funding initiative. Twenty-one people participated from a broad spectrum of areas, including members of the paleobiology, geochronology, geochemistry, and modeling communities. Please look for the report that is currently being drafted that will be posted on the PS website. The results of the workshop will be discussed this year with the broader paleontological community at townhall meetings at the International Paleontological Convention (late June/early July; London), the Paleobotanical Section of the Botanical Society (August; Providence, RI), the International Paleooceanographic Congress (August; San Diego), the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (October; Pittsburgh), the Geological Society of America (October; Denver), and the American Geophysical Union (December; San Francisco). **Please plan on participating in one or many of these townhall meetings.**



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## **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](mailto: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](mailto:pwilf@psu.edu))
- Dr. Kevin Peterson (Dartmouth University) (email: [kevin.j.peterson@dartmouth.edu](mailto:kevin.j.peterson@dartmouth.edu))
- Dr. Patricia Kelley (University of North Carolina, Wilmington) (email: [kelleyp@uncw.edu](mailto: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.



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## STUDENT FUNDING FOR INTERNATIONAL PALAEOONTOLOGICAL CONGRESS (London)

The Paleontological Society is pleased to announce a **student travel award** of up to \$1,000/student to at least thirty-five U.S. students who will be attending the IPC3 meeting in London. Applications for this award can be found on the PS website and sent to Lisa Park (PS Secretary) on or before **June 6**. A committee will judge the applications and awards will be made and announced by **June 21**. Unlike the Student Research Awards, awardees must submit receipts for their travel that include ticket receipts and boarding passes for airfare and ground transportation.

To avoid misunderstanding, the term "student" applies to *any U.S. graduate or undergraduate in good academic standing, regardless of their institution or field of study*. Those who have received a final degree within the past three years (June 2007-June 2010) and currently hold a temporary post-doctorate position or are unemployed in the field will also be eligible for the travel grant program.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Lisa Park at [lepark@uakron.edu](mailto:lepark@uakron.edu).

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## GSA SECTION UPDATES

Only one more section meeting left! The PS thanks all of the Section Chairs for their hard work in putting together section meeting sessions and programs. We are pleased at the number and quality of the section programs and encourage all to get involved with their section. They are excellent places for students to present research and interact with potential graduate schools and an equally good opportunity for faculty to recruit students for their programs.



## **Report from the North-Central / South-Central Section Meeting, Branson, Missouri**

Thank you to the Paleontological Society members who made the North-Central/South-Central Joint Section Meeting of the Geological Society of America on April 11-13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Branson Missouri a success. There were a total of 28 oral presentations and 20 poster presentations in paleontological theme sessions and a number of other sessions of interest to the paleontological community. The Paleontological Society also sponsored a successful social hour at the meeting, complete with beer from a local microbrewery and trilobite and nautiloid sheet cakes. Hope to see you in Pittsburgh for the Northeastern/North-Central Joint Section Meeting in March of 2011!

--Submitted by Katherine Bulinski

### Upcoming Section Meetings-

Cordilleran joint with Pacific Section, AAPG (27-29 May, Anaheim, California)

<http://www.geosociety.org/sectdiv/cord/2010mtg/>



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## **NOMINATIONS AND OTHER COMMITTEES UPDATES**

The Nominations committee has made their recommendations for the candidates to stand for office in the Fall. Look for their bios in this space and on the website. We thank ALL of our committees (The PS Medal Committee, The Schuchert Award Committee, The Strimple Award Committee, The PALSIRP-Sepkoski Award Committee, The Student Grants Committee, and The Nominations Committee) for their hard work and diligence—

*Warren Allmon*

*Nan Arens*

*Catherine Badgley*

*Richard Bambach*

*Nicole Bonuso*

*Carlton Brett*

*Derek Briggs*

*Ann "Nancy" Budd*

*Andrew Bush*

*Sandra Carlson*

*Sean Carroll*

*Steve Culver*

*Stephen Dornbos*

*Michael Foote*

*Forest Gahn*

*Robert Gastaldo*

*Philip Gingerich*

*Wolfgang Kiessling*

*Arnold Miller*

*Richard Norris*

*Ronald Parsley*

*Jonathan Payne*

*Paul David Polly*

*Susannah Porter*

*Matthew Powell*

*Stephen Rowland*

*Scarponi*

*Carrie Schweitzer*

*Christian Sidor*

*Dena Smith*

*Constance Soja*

*George Stanley*

*Alycia Stigall*

*Colin Sumrall*

*David Sunderlin*

*Sally Walker*

*Peter Wilf*

*Shuhai Xiao*

*Margaret*

*Yacobucci*

***Thank you all for your service to the Society!***



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## **JOURNAL COPYRIGHT POLICY CLARIFICATION**

Our two journals, *The Journal of Paleontology* and *Paleobiology*, as well as our short course volume and *PS Memoirs* all have specific copyright policies about fair use and posting pdf's of this material either on institutional databases or on personal websites. Currently, we allow such postings, but for a one-time **\$250 fee per article**.

Thus, if you have pdfs of papers from these journals on your own website, we request that you either contact the Secretary, Lisa Park, to arrange for payment and permission to post, or provide a link, for free, to one of our authorized journal outlets—Geoscience World, BioOne or JSTOR.

If you need to use a **copyrighted figure** from one of our journals, there is a one-time usage fee of **\$100/figure** if it is to be used for a commercial, for-profit publication. If it is to be used for a non-profit endeavor, we typically waive the fee. If you wish to reprint an entire article, the fee is **\$250**.

Currently, to acquire copyright permission, please contact the Secretary. You will be given a permission letter and an invoice for payment to the Society's Treasurer.

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## **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!

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## Repeated Items

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### **NESCENT OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **Postdoctoral Fellowships in Evolutionary Biology and Related Fields**

We are now accepting proposals for Postdoctoral Fellowships at The National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCent). We are looking to fund innovative approaches to outstanding problems in evolutionary biology. Proposals are due **December 1**. For more information, please see our website at <https://www.nescent.org/science/proposals.php>.

#### **Call for Proposals—Sabbatical Scholars and Collaborative Working Groups**

Proposals for Sabbaticals and for collaborative working groups (Working Groups and Catalysis Meetings) are now being accepted at The National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCent). We are looking to fund innovative approaches to outstanding problems in evolutionary biology. In particular, proposals that have a clear interdisciplinary focus, or involve evolutionary concepts in non-traditional disciplines, are strongly encouraged, as are proposals that demonstrate international participation and a mix of senior and emerging researchers, including graduate students. Proposals for Working Groups and Catalysis Meetings are accepted twice a year, with deadlines on **June 10** and **December 1**. Proposals for Sabbaticals may be one semester to a full year (deadlines June 10 and December 1) or they may be for short-term visits (2 weeks to 3 months; deadlines on **January 1**, **April 1**, **July 1** and **September 1**). NESCent is also now seeking to include graduate traineeship to our portfolio by offering one-semester fellowships for graduate students to pursue research either with a NESCent sabbatical scholar or with a NESCent Working Group. For more information, please see our website at <https://www.nescent.org/science/proposals.php>.



If you would like to have something posted on the digest, please contact the PS Secretary, Lisa Park at [lepark@uakron.edu](mailto:lepark@uakron.edu). Note that suitability of submissions will be evaluated before posting.

*Lisa E. Park*  
Secretary, The Paleontological Society