



**THE PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**EMAIL DIGEST**  
October 15, 2010

***Greetings!***

GSA is less than two weeks away. We are excited about the technical program, which includes 33 PS sponsored sessions (20 Topicals, 12 Disciplines and 1 Pardee). Please make note that in addition to our technical program, PS has also sponsored activities that will take place before and during the meeting—the **Short Course** will be held on Saturday, October 30 from 8:30-5:00 at the Colorado Convention Center Four Seasons Ballroom 2/3. This will be immediately followed by the **PS Reception, Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony** which will be held in the adjacent ballroom at the Colorado Convention Center Four Seasons Ballroom 1 from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm. On Monday, November 1, there will be a **NSF DETELON and Grand Challenges Town Hall Meeting** in the Colorado Convention Center, Room 108 from 5:30-6:30. Please attend these events and note that the PS Reception is a ticketed event and that students will be subsidized for their attendance.

***See you in Denver!***

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

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**REPEATED ITEMS**

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## GSA HAPPENINGS

### PS Short Course

**Quantitative Methods in Paleobiology.** Saturday, October 30 from 8:30-5:00 at the Colorado Convention Center Four Seasons Ballroom 2/3. Sponsor: *The Paleontological Society*. FREE. Limit: 400. John Alroy, Macquarie University; Gene Hunt, Smithsonian Institution.

- 8:30 – 8:40      Opening Remarks
- 8:40 – 9:10      **Steve Wang**--Principles of Statistical Inference: Likelihood and the Bayesian Paradigm
- 9:10 – 9:40      **Michał Kowalewski and Phil Novack-Gottchall**--Resampling Methods in Paleontology
- 9:40 – 10:10    **Tom Olszewski**--Diversity Partitioning Using Shannon's Entropy and its Relationship to Rarefaction
- 10:10 – 10:40    **S. Kathleen Lyons and Felisa A. Smith**--Using a Macroecological Approach to Study Geographic Range, Abundance and Body Size in the Fossil Record
- 10:40 – 10:50    **BREAK**
- 10:50 – 11:20    **Peter D. Roopnarine**--Networks, Extinction and Paleocommunity Food Webs
- 11:20 – 11:50    **John Alroy**--Fair Sampling of Taxonomic Richness and Unbiased Estimation of Origination and Extinction Rates
- 11:50 – 12:20    **Lee Hsiang Liow**--Estimating Rates and Probabilities of Origination and Extinction Using Taxonomic Occurrence Data: Capture-Mark-Recapture (CMR) Approaches
- 12:20 – 1:50     **LUNCH**
- 1:50 – 2:20      **Peter M. Sadler**--Brute-force Biochronology: Sequencing Paleobiologic First- and Last-Appearance Events by Trial and Error
- 2:20 – 2:50      **Charles R. Marshall**--Using Confidence Intervals to Quantify the Uncertainty in the End-points of Stratigraphic Ranges
- 2:50 – 3:20      **Peter J. Wagner and Jonathan D. Marcot**--Probabilistic Phylogenetic Inference in the Fossil Record: Current and Future Applications
- 3:20 – 3:30      **BREAK**



- 3:30 – 4:00 **Mark Webster and H. David Sheets**--A Practical Introduction to Landmark-based Geometric Morphometrics
- 4:00 – 4:30 **Anjali Goswami and P. David Polly**--Methods for Studying Morphological Integration and Modularity
- 4:30 – 5:00 **Gene Hunt and Matthew T. Carrano**--Models and Methods for Analyzing Phenotypic Evolution in Lineages and Clades
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**PS SPONSORED SESSIONS  
GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MEETING  
OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 3**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2010**

**Sunday, 31 October 2010**

8:00 AM-12:00 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Room 603

T111. Teaching Paleontology in the Twenty-First Century: Resources for Teaching Paleontology at the Undergraduate Level

Convener(s): Margaret M. Yacobucci, Rowan Lockwood, Warren D. Allmon, Bruce J. MacFadden

[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_26357.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_26357.htm)

**Sunday, 31 October 2010**

8:00 AM-6:00 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Hall B

T111. Posters--Teaching Paleontology in the Twenty-First Century: Resources for Teaching Paleontology at the Undergraduate Level

Convener(s): Margaret M. Yacobucci, Rowan Lockwood, Warren D. Allmon, Bruce J. MacFadden

[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_27489.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_27489.htm)

**Sunday, 31 October 2010**

8:00 AM-6:00 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Hall B

T116. Posters-- Links between Mesozoic Climate and Biodiversity

Convener(s): Gregory D. Price, Richard J. Twitchett, Peter J. Harries

[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_27494.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_27494.htm)

**Sunday, 31 October 2010**

8:00 AM-12:00 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Room 703

Paleontology I - Taphonomy and Global Change

[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_27554.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_27554.htm)

**Sunday, 31 October 2010**

8:00 AM-6:00 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Hall B

Paleontology (Posters) I - Morphology and Biotic Interactions

[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_27556.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_27556.htm)



**Sunday, 31 October 2010**

1:30 PM-3:15 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Room 207

T70. Geochemistry and Mineralogy of Fossils

Convener(s): Matthew J. Kohn, Dennis O. Terry, David Grandstaff

[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_26080.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_26080.htm)

**Sunday, 31 October 2010**

1:30 PM-5:30 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Room 102

T77. Common Approaches to Investigating Patterns and Processes of Bioerosion across Substrates

Convener(s): Nicola McLoughlin, Leif Tapanila

[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_26084.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_26084.htm)

**Sunday, 31 October 2010**

1:30 PM-5:30 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Room 603

T116. Links between Mesozoic Climate and Biodiversity

Convener(s): Gregory D. Price, Richard J. Twitchett, Peter J. Harries

[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_26240.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_26240.htm)

**Sunday, 31 October 2010**

1:30 PM-5:30 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Room 605

Paleontology II - Dynamics of Diversity, Extinction, and Origination

[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_27548.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_27548.htm)

**Sunday, 31 October 2010**

1:30 PM-5:30 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Room 607

Paleontology III – Morphometrics

[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_27555.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_27555.htm)

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2010**

**Monday, 1 November 2010**

8:00 AM-12:00 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Room 603

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

Convener(s): Roy Plotnick, Ira D. Sasowsky

[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_26163.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_26163.htm)

**Monday, 1 November 2010**

8:00 AM-12:00 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Room 607

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

Convener(s): Arthur Donovan, Brian R. Pratt, L.E. Edwards

[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_26202.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_26202.htm)

**Monday, 1 November 2010**

8:00 AM-12:00 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Room 605

Paleontology IV - Environmental Controls on Ecology and Evolution

[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_27549.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_27549.htm)



**Monday, 1 November 2010**

8:00 AM-6:00 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Hall B  
Paleontology (Posters) II - Biostratigraphy, Taphonomy, Ichnology  
[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_27557.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_27557.htm)

**Monday, 1 November 2010**

8:00 AM-6:00 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Hall B  
Paleontology (Posters) III - Diversity and Paleoeology  
[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_27558.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_27558.htm)

**Monday, 1 November 2010**

1:30 PM-5:30 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Room 605  
T115. The Precambrian-Cambrian Ecosphere (R)evolution: Insights from Chinese Microcontinents  
Convener(s): Christoph E. Heubeck, Maoyan Zhu, Shaoyong Jiang  
[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_26348.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_26348.htm)

**Monday, 1 November 2010**

1:30 PM-5:30 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Four Seasons Ballrooms 2/3  
Paleontology V - Predation and Biological Interactions  
[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_27553.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_27553.htm)

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2010**

**Tuesday, 2 November 2010**

8:00 AM-12:00 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Four Seasons Ballrooms 2/3  
T22. Exposing Myths and Misrepresentations of Climate Change and Evolution Science: Strategies and Case Studies for Geoscientists, Educators, Policy Makers, and the Press  
Convener(s): George T. Stone, Michael E. Mann, Andrew M. Buddington  
[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_26429.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_26429.htm)

**Tuesday, 2 November 2010**

8:00 AM-12:00 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Room 205  
T66. Geochronology of the American West: In Honor of the Careers of Bill Cobban and John Obradovich and the Roots of EARTHTIME  
Convener(s): S.A. Bowring, Kirk R. Johnson, Brad S. Singer  
[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_26394.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_26394.htm)

**Tuesday, 2 November 2010**

8:00 AM-6:00 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Hall B  
T113. Posters-- Geological and Paleobiological Collections: Best Practices for Preservation, Access, and Use in a Changing World  
Convener(s): Ann Molineux, Tim White, Christopher Michael Holl  
[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_27492.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_27492.htm)

**Tuesday, 2 November 2010**

8:00 AM-6:00 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Hall B  
T115. Posters-- The Precambrian-Cambrian Ecosphere (R)evolution: Insights from Chinese



Microcontinents

[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_27493.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_27493.htm)

**Tuesday, 2 November 2010**

8:00 AM-12:00 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Room 603

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

Convener(s): James D. Schiffbauer, Marc Laflamme

[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_26153.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_26153.htm)

**Tuesday, 2 November 2010**

8:00 AM-12:00 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Room 605

Paleontology VI - Biogeography

[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_27550.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_27550.htm)

**Tuesday, 2 November 2010**

8:00 AM-12:00 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Four Seasons Ballroom 4

P1. Symbiosis and Global Change in Ancient and Modern Earth Systems

[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_26070.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_26070.htm)

**Tuesday, 2 November 2010**

1:30 PM-5:30 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Room 205

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

Convener(s): Richard A. MacKenzie, Corinne Myers

[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_25967.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_25967.htm)

**Tuesday, 2 November 2010**

1:30 PM-5:30 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Room 603

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

Convener(s): James D. Schiffbauer, Marc Laflamme

[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_27495.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_27495.htm)

**Tuesday, 2 November 2010**

1:30 PM-5:30 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Room 605

Paleontology VII - Consequences of Extinction and Radiation

[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_27551.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_27551.htm)

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2010**

**Wednesday, 3 November 2010**

8:00 AM-6:00 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Hall B

T112. Posters-- Paleontology, Paleobiogeography, and Stratigraphy of the Late Cretaceous North American Seas: A Tribute to Bill Cobban

[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_27490.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_27490.htm)

**Wednesday, 3 November 2010**



8:00 AM-12:00 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Room 603  
T113. Geological and Paleobiological Collections: Best Practices for Preservation, Access, and Use in a Changing World

Convener(s): Ann Molineux, Tim White, Christopher Michael Holl  
[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_26438.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_26438.htm)

**Wednesday, 3 November 2010**

8:00 AM-6:00 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Hall B  
T117. Posters Lagerstätten through Time: An Examination of Exceptional Preservation Pathways from the Terminal Proterozoic through Today

[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_27496.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_27496.htm)

**Wednesday, 3 November 2010**

8:00 AM-12:00 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Room 605  
Paleontology VIII - Phylogenetics and Functional Morphology

[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_27552.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_27552.htm)

**Wednesday, 3 November 2010**

1:30 PM-5:30 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Room 603  
T113. Part II Geological and Paleobiological Collections: Best Practices for Preservation, Access, and Use in a Changing World

Convener(s): Ann Molineux, Tim White, Christopher Michael Holl  
[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_27491.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_27491.htm)

**Wednesday, 3 November 2010**

1:30 PM-5:30 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Room 601  
Paleontology IX - Biostratigraphy and Ichnology

[http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session\\_27599.htm](http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2010AM/finalprogram/session_27599.htm)

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**ASTROBIOLOGY INSTITUTE FEEDBACK SURVEY**

The education and public outreach (E/PO) wing of the NASA Astrobiology Institute's MIT team, The Advent of Complex Life, needs your feedback. The team consists of a diverse group of bio and geo scientists working on a wide variety of problems relating to the timing and causality of the emergence of complex life. We are interested in developing curricula materials for college-level courses that relate to the research taking place within the group (but not limited to research by group members). We want to make sure that whatever we develop adequately addresses the needs of the community. We'd like to get feedback from a broad swath of college-level instructors who teach paleo/earth history/ geobiology / astrobiology/ geochemistry type courses regarding potential needs.

Please fill out the survey at:  
[http://www.complex-life.org/higher\\_ed\\_survey](http://www.complex-life.org/higher_ed_survey)

Questions can be addressed to Dr. Phoebe Cohen  
Education and Outreach Coordinator,  
MIT NASA Astrobiology Team  
Please fill out the survey at:  
[http://www.complex-life.org/higher\\_ed\\_survey](http://www.complex-life.org/higher_ed_survey)



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### **34<sup>th</sup> IGC ANNOUNCEMENT**

Dear Colleagues:

Following is a link to the First Circular for the 34th IGC. Apologies for any double postings of this Circular, which is not being mailed in printed version.

Please share this circular with your colleagues.

<https://myemail.ezemsgs.com/em/mail/view.php?id=1785200344&a=8781&k=4dfcea6>

With Appreciation,  
IUGS Secretariat

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### **TENURE TRACK POSITION IN SEDIMENTOLOGY/STRATIGRAPHY AT VIRGINIA TECH**

**Tenure-Track Faculty Position(s).** The Department of Geosciences at Virginia Tech invites applicants for a tenure-track faculty position in sedimentology/stratigraphy starting in the Fall of 2011. Particular subareas of interest include, but are not limited to, physical sedimentology, sedimentary basin analysis with emphasis on marine seismic stratigraphy, high-resolution sequence stratigraphy, sedimentary (bio)geochemistry, chemostratigraphy, and Earth systems history. The position is at the assistant professor level, but outstanding senior candidates will also be considered. The successful candidate is expected to develop an internationally recognized, externally funded, multi-disciplinary research program; and to actively participate in the undergraduate and graduate teaching mission of the university. This position is one of several hires in the Departments of Geosciences and Biological Sciences to support the Virginia Tech College of Science research clusters in Integrated Studies of Earth Systems and Energy/Environment. To receive full consideration, the applicant must have a Ph.D. degree in Geosciences or a related discipline at the time of appointment and a demonstrated capability/promise to develop an active research program. Preference will be given to candidates whose research areas complement existing strengths in the department.

Consideration of applications will begin as early as November 8, 2010 and will continue until the positions are filled. Salary will be commensurate with rank and experience. Please visit [www.hr.vt.edu/employment/](http://www.hr.vt.edu/employment/) (posting # 0100596) to apply on-line for this position. Applicants should provide a cover letter, resume, research statement, teaching statement, and a list of at least four referees who are familiar with their work. For further information, visit the Department of Geosciences website ([www.geos.vt.edu](http://www.geos.vt.edu)) or contact Search Committee chair Dr. Shuhai Xiao by e-mail ([xiao@vt.edu](mailto:xiao@vt.edu)). Virginia Tech is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution and the recipient of a National Science Foundation ADVANCE Institutional Transformation Award to increase the participation of women in academic science and engineering careers.



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## Repeated Items

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### **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](http://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](http://www.wm.edu/environment). The College is an EEO/AA employer.

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As always, if you do not wish to receive these monthly updates, please email the PS Secretary, Lisa Park at [lepark@uakron.edu](mailto: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