

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Your NAMS Secretary, Tony D'Agostino, has passed along to me that the NAMS membership total is UP for the year, due to excellent renewal numbers along with a significant increase in new members. I would like to think that this has something to do with my inspired jottings in this column, but I shall not try to fool myself (nor you, good reader)! I suspect that this result may have a bit more to do with your own financial acumen - you saw that \$3 dues increase coming your way in January '99, and got your renewal fees to our Treasurer, Sally Zellers, well in advance! I don't mind telling you that I have always imagined that micropaleontologists were generally smarter than most of our cohorts in the earth science community; have we positive evidence for same now in hand?

Your election response to our candidates for President-elect and Treasurer was most gratifying. A three-fold increase over the number of ballots cast last year! For those of you that voted - thank you! For those who didn't - as the Chicago Cubbies say - "Wait till next year"! The tally results: Peter Thompson (President-elect), and Martin Farley (Treasurer). I thank them both for their willingness to serve. I'd also like to extend NAMS' appreciation to Pam Hallock Muller and Mitch Covington for their willingness to stand for these same posts. Well done all!

I hope you will be able to make it to the SEPM/AAPG Convention, April 11-14th, in San Antonio. Hilary Olson and Mark Leckie have scheduled an excellent series of NAMS

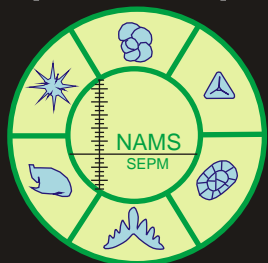
sponsored technical sessions (oral & poster), along with an evening meeting of the Marine Micropaleontology Research Group (refreshments provided; courtesy of Exxon) to both challenge and stimulate you. There will also be a NAMS Board Meeting on Sunday, April 11th; as usual, this session is open to any interested party. Please look for details on those events elsewhere in this newsletter.

I was pleased to receive encouraging notes from several of you regarding my last letter to the membership, which dealt with my perception of the need for additional cooperation between petroleum industry micropaleontologists, consultants, and the academic community. Yes, to be completely candid, some people also told me that such efforts were hopeless. In light of the additional job losses by many of our members subsequent to my writing that column, I can certainly appreciate that perspective. Nevertheless, the need still exists for new, high-quality micropaleontologic data generation, analysis, and integration, and those of us involved in this science should do our very best to ensure that the human resources needed are there to meet the tasks ahead. To that end, I draw your attention to a brief summary article in this newsletter by John Armentrout titled "A 21st Century Challenge for Industrial Biostratigraphy: The Critical Need to Accelerate Succession Planning for a Value-Added Discipline". I believe that John describes the current state of petroleum industry biostratigraphy quite succinctly. I wish you all the best, and hope to see you in San Antonio.

NAMS President Tom Dignes
tom_w_dignes@email.mobil.com



24th Annual European Micropaleontological Colloquium Participants at this September, 1998 meeting pictured at Biarritz in Southwestern France. See report on page 6. Photo courtesy of Marco Lamolda.



A 21st Century Challenge for Industrial Biostratigraphy

The critical need to accelerate succession planning for a value-added discipline

John M. Armentrout, Mobil Technology Corporation, Dallas Texas USA

Biostratigraphy uses fossil evidence to date geologic events and calibrate depositional environments of petroleum system source rocks, reservoir rocks and seal rocks. Currently, biostratigraphers are in short supply and university training programs in stratigraphic paleontology are being phased out. During 1998, the Industrial biostratigraphy Coordinators Group surveyed sixty-six practicing industrial paleontologists. The results of that survey clearly demonstrate the need for formulating succession planning for biostratigraphic staffs, and focused support of applied paleontologic research.

Biostratigraphy continues to be a dynamic interpretation tool that is essential to increasing cost-effective exploration and production. Creative biostratigraphers continue to find new roles for applying their discipline. Numerically based high-resolution biostratigraphy provides critical calibration of sequence stratigraphic surfaces for well interpretation and seismic correlation. Risk assessment of plays uses numeric models of petroleum systems requires precise dating of geologic events, most often determined using biostratigraphy. Prediction of reservoir quality and continuity is linked to depositional settings, which can be calibrated using paleoenvironmental analysis of biostratigraphic data. Directional drilling uses high-resolution biofacies data to direct the drill bit.

Some examples of value-added biostratigraphy:

1. **Biofacies Mapping:** distribution of ecologically significant fossil assemblages is useful in predicting the type and distribution of reservoir, seal and source rock facies.
2. **High-resolution Correlation:** precise correlations help resolve reservoir and seal facies changes over short distances, especially in areas of poorly imaged salt.
3. **Reservoir Characterization:** statistical analysis of fossil occurrences to predict the distribution and correlation of reservoir and seal facies resulting in better reservoir characterization.
4. **Biosteering:** using fossil assemblages to direct the drilling trajectory results in optimal penetration of the objective reservoir horizons and more cost effective field development.
5. **Reservoir Partitioning:** biofacies characterization of seal facies facilitates flow-unit definition for cost-effective reservoir maintenance and reduction in bypassed reserves.

The demographics of practicing biostratigraphers demonstrates a critical shortage within ten years:

1. Since 1985, redeployment of biostratigraphers has resulted in an attrition of 75%.
2. Of those leaving majors, only about 50% have continued practicing biostratigraphy, and most work as independents or with small staffs that cannot afford research and development.
3. The average age of both company and consulting biostratigraphers is 48, with more than 50% of those currently active likely to retire within fifteen years.
4. A seventeen year hiring gap of biostratigraphers since the peak year of 1981, and an average of 3 to 5 years required for mentoring of critical expertise, defines a 20 year experience gap.
5. Many university programs traditionally supplying stratigraphic paleontologists are being phased out in preference to environmental geology and hydrogeology, resulting in an increasing shortage of stratigraphic biostratigraphers.

At least two additional generations of geo-scientists, including biostratigraphers, will be needed to meet society's demand for oil and gas. To assure a supply of specialists in critical technologies, petroleum companies must develop proactive strategies. For industrial biostratigraphy these include:

1. **Career Development:** the current generation of experienced biostratigraphers needs to be included on exploration and production teams so their expertise is optimally integrated. Their unique contribution needs to be recognized, not lost through interdisciplinary synthesis.
2. **Succession Planning:** to develop replacement candidates for the experienced staff, university students need to be encouraged to pursue stratigraphic paleontology. This will require hiring of summer interns and post-doctoral students, and regular-employee biostratigraphers.
3. **University Support:** to sustain university programs supplying biostratigraphers, the petroleum industry must proactively support university research programs in stratigraphic paleontology through consortium participation and institute funding.

The North American Industrial Biostratigraphy Coordinators Group (IBCG) has accepted the challenge of encouraging each member company to support at least one student every year on research that the sponsoring companies believe has high merit and industry application. With such support, biostratigraphy can continue as a dynamic discipline and make cost-effective contributions to the search for oil and gas.

NOTE: A set of Powerpoint slides illustrating this discussion is available from the NAMS website. See <http://www.ig.utexas.edu/nams/networking/slides.html>

Table of Contents

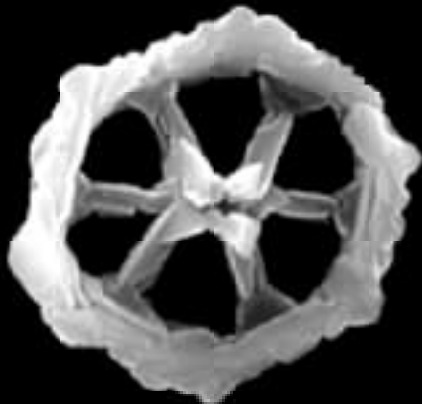
President's Letter	1
Armentrout Report on Biostratigraphy	2
Treasurer's Report	3
News	4
Bug Bytes	5
Meeting Calendar	8
1999 AAPG Meeting	9
Ocean Drilling Program Calendar	9
Publications	10
Italian Short Courses	11

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of March 16, 1999, the NAMS treasury contained \$7,685. Since our last newsletter in October 1998, we collected \$2,293 in member dues (including memberships paid by Micropaleontology Press) and interest on the account. Our expenditures were \$1,138 for newsletter expenses, student book award, GSA Cushman Reception, and fees. I would like to welcome our new Treasurer, Dr. Martin Farley who will take over this spot at our annual meeting.

-Sally Zellers, NAMS Treasurer

www.bugware.com



BugWare, Inc.

Nannofossil Biostratigraphy
Paleontological Software

Data Management's Data Conversion
Hard Copy Range Chart Input
Range Chart Generation and Plotting

(850) 668-3894
mitch@bugware.com

NAMS/SEPM OFFICERS

President
Tom Dignes
Mobil Technology Corp
P.O. Box 650232
Dallas, TX 75265-0232
Tel. 214 951 2535
tom_w_dignes@email.mobil.com



President-Elect
Hilary Clement Olson
University of Texas at Austin
Institute for Geophysics
4412 Spicewood Springs, Bldg. 600, Austin, Texas 78759
Tel. 512-471-0455 olson@utig.ig.utexas.edu

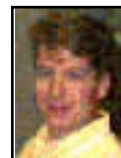


Secretary
Tony D'Agostino
PGS Reservoirs
10550 Richmond Ave, Suite 250, Houston, TX 77042
Tel. 713-706-0590 tonyd@hstn.res.pgs.com

Treasurer
Sally Zellers
3404 Hampton Road
Austin, TX 78705
Tel. 512-495-9426 sally_zellers@hotmail.com



Newsletter Editor
Ben Sloan
Texaco Exploration
4800 Fournace Place, Bellaire, Texas 77401
Tel. 713-432-3808 sloanbj@texaco.com



Past-President
Mark Leckie
Dept. of Geology and Geography
University of Massachusetts
P.O. Box 35820, Amherst, Massachusetts 01003
Tel. 413-545-1948 mleckie@geo.umass.edu

Visit NAMS online at:
<http://www.ig.utexas.edu/nams/nams.html>

NAMS NEWSLETTER ADVISORS

John Van Couvering	212-769-5657
Ken Finger	909-597-6662
Mervin Kontrovitz	318-342-1878
Annika Sanfilippo	619-534-2049
Patricia Whalen	501-253-5011
Fay Woodruff	213-831-3487

NAMS NEWS is published two times a year, just before the GSA meeting in the fall and AAPG meeting in the spring, by NAMS. Submissions are always welcome. Copyright 1999.

JOSEPH A. CUSHMAN AWARDS FOR STUDENT RESEARCH

The Cushman Foundation for Foraminiferal Research announces a request for proposals for the 1999 Joseph A. Cushman Awards for Student Research, including the newly named William V. Sliter Research Award. These awards, each with a maximum amount of \$1000, are to support research dealing with foraminifera or allied groups.



Proposals will be judged on scientific merit and financial need. Proposals should consist of a short (1-3 pages) summary of the student's research, a curriculum vitae, and a budget. The awards will partially support M.Sc. or Ph.D. research projects not currently funded through other grants. Travel to meetings or conferences is not supported by this award. Two supporting letters of reference should be provided separately to the address below. Decisions will be made by the Board of Directors by November 1999, and funds will be available for 2000. Proposals should be submitted by September 15, 1999 and directed to:

Jennifer Jett
Cushman Foundation, MRC-121
Department of Paleobiology
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, DC 20560-0121 USA

PALEOBIOLOGY AND PALEOECOLOGY SABBATICAL REPLACEMENT POSITION

The Department of Geosciences has a one-year sabbatical replacement position as a Lecturer available in the general fields of paleobiology and paleoecology for the 1999/2000 academic year. We seek an individual who demonstrates the ability to be a capable instructor, who is active in research and who demonstrates the capability to provide guidance to and interaction with a dynamic group of graduate students in paleobiology. The successful candidate will be expected to be involved in the teaching of one introductory level course in an appropriate field and to offer a graduate course or seminar in his/her area of specialization. A Ph.D. or equivalent in a relevant discipline is required. Offered salary, not exceeding \$30,000, is dependent upon experience. Review of applications will begin on April 20; position will remain open until filled. Candidates should submit a curriculum vitae and a list of three references (including addresses and phone numbers) to:

Joaquin Ruiz, Chair
Department of Geosciences
The University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ 85721-0077
Phone: (520)-621-6024
FAX: (520)-621-2672
Email: chair@geo.arizona.edu

PACIFIC SECTION SYMPOSIUM AT THE CENTENNIAL GSA CORDILLERAN SECTION MEETING Berkeley, CA June 2-4, 1999

The Pacific Section will be holding a Paleontological Society Symposium on the "Evolutionary History of Pacific Rim Biotas" on Friday, June 4, during the GSA Cordilleran Section meeting in Berkeley, California. Immediately following the morning symposium, we will have a section luncheon at the U.C. Berkeley Faculty Club. This will be an especially exciting GSA meeting because it is the Centennial meeting of the section and should coincide with the opening of the brand new Earth Sciences building at the University of California, Berkeley. The meeting will also give paleontologists an opportunity to visit the University of California Museum of Paleontology.

The Symposium is being organized by Jere Lipps and Carol Tang. It will include a breadth of speakers working with marine and terrestrial floras and faunas and with a variety of taxonomic groups.

COURSE: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN QUANTITATIVE AND SEQUENCE STRATIGRAPHY

From 8 - 11 November 1999, the Netherlands Research School of Sedimentary Geology (NSG) at the Free University of Amsterdam will host the new short course of the International Committee on Quantitative Stratigraphy (CQS) entitled "Recent Developments in Quantitative and Sequence Stratigraphy". The course is geared to professional and academic geologists that want to learn about the most recent techniques and applications in this field with emphasis on industrial application. Lecturers are J.Ogg (Purdue University), J.Hardenbol (Houston), F.Gradstein (Norway), F.Agterberg (Ottawa) and A.Gary (U of Utah). Information may be obtained from the NSG secretariat (email: nsg@geo.vu.nl) or CQS (email: agterber@NRCAN.gc.ca).

THE PALEONTOLOGY SOCIETY DISTINGUISHED LECTURER PROGRAM

Each year The Paleontology Society makes available a carefully chosen list of outstanding speakers on a variety of paleontological topics. Each of the speakers designated as a Paleontology Society Distinguished Lecturer has national and international stature in paleontology, has traveled widely, and has published extensively.

The list of speakers who have agreed to participate in the program during the 1998-2000 academic years is available at:

<http://www.uic.edu/orgs/paleo/speakerseries.html>

H. Richard Lane
Councilor, The Paleontological Society

BUG BYTES

DSDP Paleo data converted to ASCII Spreadsheets Pierre A. Zippi

From 1968 to 1983 the Deep Sea Drilling Project (DSDP) drilled over 1000 holes at 624 sites worldwide. The DSDP data management group at Scripps Institution of Oceanography compiled the marine geological and geophysical data files. In 1989, the National Geophysical Data Center produced a CD-ROM set containing the DSDP digital data. See the web site describing the data sets at: <http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/geology/drill.html>

A great wealth of paleontological data is compiled on disk 1. However, this data is stored in multiple coded parts and is not in a format suitable for use by most paleontologists with standard software.

These data have been converted into a useful spreadsheet format of samples in rows and categories (mainly taxa plus some sample specific information) in columns. The data portion of the spreadsheet is preceded by several header lines that provide hole specific information, such as location, DSDP publication, page references, etc. The converted data files may be used with any spreadsheet, statistics and plotting applications on any computer platform.

All the paleontology data contained on the DSDP CD-ROM Vol.1 was converted to 2093 individual data sets for 21 different fossil types. The data sets were defined by hole and fossil type (For example: dinoflagellate data from hole 214 is a separate data set from nannofossil data from hole 214). The uncompressed collection of data sets is 19.5 Mb. The compressed archive of the data sets is 3.9 Mb. See detailed data description at:

<http://web2.airmail.net/paz/DSDP-PaleoData.html>

How to obtain the DSDP paleontologic data:

- 1) Data conversion software (Macintosh only) is available for those who already own the DSDP CD-ROM set available from NGDC. (See above URL.)
- 2) Download converted data from NGDC/NOAA ftp site (see above URL). The entire collection of converted DSDP paleontology data has been given to NGDC/NOAA with the understanding that it will be made freely available to the public via ftp transfer. NGDC is in the process of establishing this ftp site.

- 3) Michael Knappertsbusch (Natural History Museum Basel) is planning to make the newly formatted data available on a CD with other micropaleontological data. Email: Knappertsbus@ubaclu.unibas.ch. The Museum will also make the data available via http and ftp at:

<http://www.unibas.ch/museum/nmb/>

NOTE: Data files are NOT directly available from me (PZ) for general download.

HELP! This is public data. Is there anyone else who would be willing to make this data freely available to the public via an ftp site? I do not have the time or facilities to serve as a data repository. However, I will gladly transfer the data to one or two sites that agree to serve as a data repository and ftp/http site.

What's New? A consolidated database of available

paleo data, age at TD and general site summary information for both DSDP and ODP is being compiled. It will be made available when complete. Check my website (above) for details.

RadRefs Database

Annika Sanfilippo and Catherine Nigrini are continuing to maintain RadRefs, their database of all radiolarian literature. The seventh supplement of the database will be ready this summer. Combined with the existing library, there will be a total of about 4000 references. In addition, with a jump start provided by Luis O'Dogherty and past issues of Radiolaria, they have been adding a large number of abstracts to the database.

Initially this database was offered for a variety of bibliographic software products. However, it now appears that most users prefer EndNote, which can operate on either a Mac or a PC, and so they are now maintaining only the EndNote version. For those who have purchased earlier versions of RadRefs, you should contact Annika (email: annika@ucsd.edu) to discuss upgrading and/or converting to EndNote.

To order Radrefs contact Annika. The cost of the initial database and all supplements through supplement number 7 is \$550 US. Supplement 7 on its own is \$50 US.

They urge all radiolarian workers to send their reprints to Annika so that they can continue to build a comprehensive library of radiolarian literature at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. In addition, if you have electronic copies of your abstracts please send them to Catherine at nigrini@idt.net.

IBCG TRACKS BIOSTRATIGRAPHERS

The Industry Biotratigraphic Coordinators Group (IBCG), an informal group which meets periodically in Houston, Dallas or New Orleans, is compiling an accounting of the biostratigraphy staff at major oil companies in hopes of understanding the impact of the 1998/99 industry downturn on our profession. Preliminary results show wide variations in staffing levels which are not entirely related to company size or exploration budget. Numbers are available on the graphics portion of the NAMS web site: <http://www.ig.utexas.edu/nams/networking/slides.html>. There are over 100 biostratigraphers in the major companies today. About 40 of those are working in North American firms, down from a high of about 275 in 1985 (source: J. Armentrout). Merger mania may yet reduce us to about one-tenth of the mid-80's staff.

More input is needed on filling out the chart, particularly from the likes of Phillips, Marathon, Amerada, Engen, Petrobras, Repsol, and others. If you would like to contribute, please email your numbers, comments, and criticisms to Ben Sloan, sloanbj@texaco.com.

MEETING REPORTS

ENSENADA OR BUST: The 31st Meeting of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists



As I prepared to leave Texas for the wilds of the annual AASP meeting in Baja California I wondered what to expect. My only previous knowledge of that area came from John Steinbeck's novel *Log from the Sea of Cortez*, and travel posters of that region. At the San Diego airport a group of us deplaned and headed for the baggage claim area where we suppose to meet our ride. There, we found a person holding up a sign that said "AASP." He had been sent by Maru Garcia (Javier Helenes' Administrative Assistant) to pick us up at the airport and drive us 100 km south along the Pacific Coast Highway to Ensenada. At this point, we must gratefully acknowledge CICESE for covering the cost of the transportation to and from the San Diego airport, as well as the buses for the wine tasting-concert and for the field trip. As we soon discovered, the real challenge was finding all the AASP folks who were scattered all over the airport after arriving on various flights. We finally found them up, loaded the van, and headed south.

Tijuana, Mexico, has got to be one of the busiest ports of entry between the US and Mexico. As we approached the border the road opened to eight lanes, each one identified by a long row of cars, trucks, and vans waiting their turn to enter Mexico. Once we got through the check point and headed south we saw what looked like the world's largest parking lot to our left. It was filled eight lanes wide with all sorts of vehicles and was more than 2 km long. All, waiting to cross back into the United States. We were glad to be headed south and not trying to go to San Diego! Soon the van was purring along a wide, four-lane highway headed south along the coast. The color contrast was spectacular. The land in that area of Baja California is dry, has a xeric vegetation, and reminded me of areas of west Texas. But, below us were beaches, rocky coastlines, and a calm azure ocean that has become the playground of both the rich and famous as well as those who love to surf and deep sea fish. As we cruised along at about 100 km/hr I noticed an old, beat up brown van with two surfboards tied to the top headed south. On the dented back door someone had written, "Ensenada or Bust," in the thick layers of brown dust. Yes, I thought, we too could say, "Ensenada or Bust."

Several hours (2) and several toll booths (3) later our van pulled up to a beautiful, new hotel and marina just outside the city of Ensenada. It was a great meeting facility. Spacious rooms overlooking the Bahía de Todos Santos (Bay of all the Saints) and a marina filled with yachts and sailboats each costing many thousands of dollars. This was not your typical marina filled with small fishing boats, skiffs, and small sailboats. I think the smallest boat I saw in the marina was at least 30 feet long and some looked so large that they could have easily accommodated all those who attended the AASP meeting! Beyond the marina in the Bay were several giant cruise ships which make this one of their regular stops along the western Pacific coast.

The 31st annual meeting of AASP got under way on Tuesday as scheduled with Jim Riding's Workshop on Jurassic Dinoflagellate Cysts. On Wednesday-Friday there were technical sessions and two symposia, one symposium chaired by Joyce Lucas-Clark and Sharma Gaponoff on Tethys, and a second one chaired by Cristina Peñalba on Quaternary Palynology. In all there were 67 registrants and 17 spouses for a total meeting registration of 84. Most of the registrants came from the US (35), Mexico (8),

and Canada (6). Eight other countries were also represented for this international meeting.

On Saturday a bus, several vans, and private cars headed south and then east into the "outback" of Baja California on a field trip. Reports from those on the field trip said that it was a well-organized, exciting, informative, and filled with excellent photo opportunities. The only real excitement came when the bus broke down and delayed things for a while. Jesús Castellón (Phytogeography) and Miguel Téllez (Geology) from the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California are to be thanked for all the informative comments provided during this trip.

There were a number of highlights of the meeting. The first was the traditional evening "smoker," which I guess we can't call by that name anymore because in most places, in the United States at least, one isn't allowed to smoke in most public facilities or restaurants. Nevertheless, the "smoker" at the hotel featured an array of wonderful Mexican foods, a mariachi band, and good local beers and wines. We were also treated to an excellent dancing exhibition by Javier and his wife Martha. On another evening the AASP registrants were treated to a trip to the nearby Bodegas de Santo Tomás, which happens to be the oldest winery in western North America. After briefly touring the facility the guests were treated to wine tasting and a variety of foods. Also featured was an outstanding local guitarist (Ruggiero Caroz), who flawlessly played original selections that echoed against the high ceiling and stone walls of the bodega that were lined with large oak vats. The annual meeting was well-organized, the hotel personnel were polite and helpful, and the food was excellent. The 27 oral presentations covered a wide range of palynomorph research that was as broad in scope as the 27 posters presented at the meeting. For those who attended, it was a chance to renew friendships, discuss research topics, enjoy spectacular sunsets, and relax from the normal busy work routine we each left behind.

Javier Helenes and others from CICESE deserve the grateful thanks of all those in AASP for the hard work they volunteered in getting the facility ready for the meeting, and then ensuring that everything occurred on schedule. For those of you who have never chaired or co-chaired an annual meeting I am not sure you can fully appreciate all the work, time, and effort that must take place before, during, and even after an AASP annual meeting. It is a heavy responsibility and all too often few of those who attend remember to stop and thank those who ensured the meeting's success. In this regard, I cannot close this report without thanking Carol and Bob Clarke. For more than 30 years Bob has worked behind the scenes for AASP and has volunteered thousands of hours of his time in so many different capacities that they are too numerous to list. The Ensenada meeting was no exception. When I arrived at the hotel Bob and Carol were sitting behind the registration table with the blue AASP banner taped to the wall and around them were boxes of registration packets, copies of AASP publications, and one small notebook computer containing all the pertinent information about who had registered, who still owed payment, and which people were scheduled to go to workshops or field trips. I wonder if those who attend AASP annual meetings ever stop to realize what would happen some year if Bob and Carol just happen to "miss one."

One final note, when I arrived at the registration table Bob handed me the usual registration packet and a black shoulder bag to put all my stuff in. I didn't give it much thought until I

MEETING REPORTS

IPHG - Munich

Larger Foraminifera Conference

reached my room, unpacked, and then turned to the registration material to find the program schedule and abstract booklet. It was then that I noticed that on the front of the black bag was a strange logo with the letters "AAPG." My first thought was that some printer has been drunk when he made up the bags and got the wrong logo and then put "AAPG instead of AASP." Then my eyes fell on a small line of print under the logo that said "Salt Lake City, 1998." That was even more puzzling because we were meeting in Ensenada! When I returned to the registration desk to show Bob how badly some printer has screwed up, Bob leaned over and whispered, "Don't tell anyone else about this....let's hope nobody else notices. You see," Bob continued, "I got these at a 'fire sale' from AAPG."

I smiled and walked away wondering how I was going to convince my university that I had really gone to "Ensenada" and not "Salt Lake City." But, I thought.... "just think how much money AASP must have saved by using "fire sale," stuff abandoned by AAPG! As I always say, "there's never a dull moment at an AASP annual meeting!"

-with permission of Gordon Wood, AASP Newsletter

24th European Micropaleontological Colloquium

From 15th to 23rd of September, 1998, researchers from ten European and three overseas countries met at Bilbao for a comprehensive introduction to micropaleontology, biostratigraphy, and rocks in northern Spain and adjacent southwestern France. Traveling 1700 km by bus, a select group of experienced field workers gave insight into strata and assemblages, including 12 micropaleontological type localities and two proposed stratotype sections.

Two days were spent for the famous conodont and fusulinid assemblages of the Cantabrian Basin. On the third day, the participants presented abstracts of their topic micropaleontological research during a poster session at Villasana de Mena (Burgos). The contents will be published in a special volume of the *Revista Española de Micropaleontología*, edited by M. A. Lamolda (Email:gpplapam@lg.ehu.es). Cretaceous and Tertiary outcrops of the Basco-Cantabrian region with several type localities of planktic and larger foraminifera were visited during the following days. One day was devoted to the Nummulite facies and type localities at Biarritz, and the proposed stratotype locality for the Campanian/Maastrichtian, at Les Landes, France. The last day was focused on the K/T boundary and the proposed Danian-Selandian stratotype locality at Zumaya.

Following a theoretical roundup on the geology and paleontology of each succession, the participants sampled and scrutinized the formations, and a lot of time was spent for the discussion of taxonomical and stratigraphical problems with the guiding scientists in the field. In some cases, the discussions often went on deep into the night. This highly specialised meeting is an excellent example for the long standing tradition of the European Micropaleontological Colloquia, that are most beneficial for the participants. In result, the constant flow of precise information and reflection was appreciated with delight, and the rock samples sent to scientific collections all over the world had overwhelming impact in some small Spanish postal offices.

Marcos Lamolda and his organizing committee scheduled a perfectly balanced excursion. Fine weather conditions, board and lodging in wonderful ambience with the opportunity to visit historic sites were salt and pepper for this scientific meeting of excellence.

Alexander Altenbach

The conference and workshop on Tertiary to Recent Larger Foraminifera (Their Depositional Environments and Importance as Petroleum Reservoirs) held at Kingston University, Surrey England, from the 16th-19th of February 1998 was attended by 62 palaeontologists and sedimentologists.

The conference was divided into four sessions with the opening two sessions concerned with modern day communities and their ecology; palaeoecology and sedimentation. There followed a series of case studies first from North Africa and then others on Tertiary accumulations from Australia, Europe and the West Indies. One of the main aims of the conference was to develop a synergy between biologists, palaeobiologists and petroleum sedimentologists. Far reaching discussions on productivity, mortality and survival rates were included in daily review sessions and informed debate on depositional models was one of the many highlights of an excellent meeting. The conference workshop provided an opportunity for hands on experience with cores, thin sections and picked sample collections available for study.

16 posters were also presented and delegates divided into smaller groups to attend oral presentations by the authors. A four day field excursion to study the Metlaoui Carbonates of central and northern Tunisia followed with a total of 26 participants. The abstracts of the conference are available from Professor Richard T. J. Moody, School of Geological Sciences, Kingston University, Penrhyn Road, Kingston. KT1 2EE. UK. Cost £15, cheques to Kingston University. Email



The Zumaya K/T boundary, northern Spain. 24th EMC participants examine uppermost Maastrichtian purple marl to right and Danian limestone to left. K/T boundary is below (very close) the base of limestone.

MEETING CALENDAR

1999

German Working Group of
Palynology and Paleobotany
May 12-15, 1999
Tubingen, Germany
contact: Angela Bruch
Institute and Museum of Geology and
Palaeontology
Sigwartstr. 10
D-72076 Tuebingen GERMANY
Tel 49-7071/2977547 or 2972489
Fax 49-7071/295727
Email: angela.bruch@uni-tuebingen.de
www.uni-tuebingen.de/
geo/gpi/palaeo/app/app.html

Evolution '99
June 22-26, 1999
Madison, Wisconsin
contact: Don Waller
Email: dmwaller@facstaff.wisc.edu
www.wisc.edu/botit/evolution

Fourth European Ostracodologists
Meeting
July 5-11, 1999
Adana, Turkey
contact: Atike Nazik
Dept of Geological Engineering
University of Çukurova
Adana Turkey
www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted_sites/bms/eom99.htm

XVI International Botanical
Congress (IBC99)
August 1-7, 1999
Saint Louis, Missouri
contact: Secretary General, XVI IBC
c/o Missouri Botanical Garden
P.O. Box 299
St. Louis, MO 63166-0299 U.S.A.
Tel 314-577-5175
Fax 314-577-9589
Email ibc16@mobot.org
www.ibc99.org

15th Int'l Union for Quaternary
Research Congress (XV INQUA)
August 3-12, 1999
Durban, South Africa
contact: Dr. D Margaret Avery
South African Museum
P O Box 61
Cape Town 8000 South Africa
Tel 2721-243-330
Fax 2721-246-716

E-mail mavery@samuseum.ac.za
inqua.geoscience.org.za/

GSA Penrose Conference: The
Marine Eocene-Oligocene
Transition
August 17-22, 1999
Olympia, Washington
contact: D. Prothero
Department of Geology
Occidental College
Los Angeles, CA 90041, U.S.A.
Tel 213-259-2557
Fax 213-259-2704
Email: prothero@oxy.edu

69th Annual Meeting of the
Palaeontologischen
Gesellschaft
September 20-26, 1999
Zurich Switzerland
www.palinst.unizh.ch/Jahrestagung.shtml

15th International Diatom
Symposium
September 28- October 2, 1999
Perth, Australia
contact: Jacob John, Chair
15th Intl Diatom Symposium
School of Environmental Biology
Curtin University of Technology
GPO Box U 1987
Perth 6845 Western Australia
Tel 61 8 9266 7327 7368
Fax 61 8 9266 7327 2495
Email: RJACOBJO@cc.curtin.edu.au
www.indiana.edu/~diatom/15IDS.html

Seventh International Symposium
on Fossil Algae
October 13-17, 1999
Nanjing, China
Email: algae@pub.nj.jsinfo.net

Geological Society of America
Annual Meeting (GSA)
October 25-28, 1999
Denver, Colorado
contact: GSA
Tel 1-800-472-1988, ext. 113
Email: meetings@geosociety.org
www.geosociety.org/meetings/99/index.htm

Where Worlds Collide: Faunal and
Floral Migrations and Evolu
tion in SE Asia-Australasia
November 29 - December 1, 1999
The University of New England

Armidale, Australia
Email: robert.hall@gl.rhbc.ac.uk

American Association of Strati
graphic Palynologists (AASP)
32nd Annual Meeting
October 26-30th, 1999
Savannah, Georgia
contact: Fredrick J. Rich
Dept. of Geology and Geography
Georgia Southern University
Statesboro, Georgia 30460-8149
opal.geology.utoronto.ca/AASP/AASPanmtg.99.html

2000

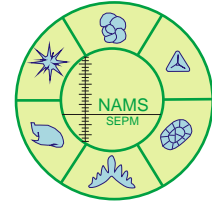
10th International Palynological
Congress
June 24-30, 2000
Nanjing, China
contact: Secretary of the Organizing
Committee for 10th International
Palynological Conference
Nanjing Institute of Geology and
Palaeontology
Academis Sinica
39 East Beijing Road
Nanjing, 210008 China
Email: gwliu@jlonline.com
members.spree.com/sip/spore/index.htm

6th Quadrennial Conference of the
International Organisation
of Palaeobotany (IOPC-VI)
July 30-August 3, 2000
Qinhuangdao City, China
contact: Prof. Lujun Liu
Secretary-General of IOPC-VI
Nanjing Institute of Geology
Academia Sinica
39 East Beijing Road
Nanjing 210008 China
Tel 86-25-6637 208
Fax 86-25-3357 026
Email: paleobot@public1.ptt.js.cn
www.geocities.com/CollegePark/Gym/7213/iopcvi.htm

8th International Nannoplankton
Association Conference (INA8)
September 11-15, 2000
Bremen, Germany
contact: Professor Dr. Helmut Willems
Fachbereich 5 - Geowissenschaften
Klagenfurter Straße, 28359
Bremen, Germany
Tel 49 421 2182198 Fax 49 421 2184451
Email: willems@micropal.uni-bremen.de
alf.zfn.uni-bremen.de/~micropal/ina8.html



1999 AAPG Annual Meeting San Antonio, Texas



Saturday, April 10
The Austin Chalk in the Type Area:
Stratigraphy, Paleoenvironments and Fractures
NAMS sponsored field trip
Jason Lundquist, University of Texas-Austin

9-11:30 am, Sunday, April 11
NAMS Business Meeting
Valero Room, Marriott Riverwalk Hotel
Tom Dignes, Presiding

Monday Morning, April 12
Paleobiological, Geochemical, and Other Proxies of Sea-Level Change
NAMS Oral Session and Day-Long Poster Session
Hilary Olson & Mark Leckie

7-9 pm, Tuesday April 13
Marine Micropaleontology Research Group
Bowie Room, Marriott Riverwalk Hotel
"Marine Palynology- the possibilities;
or
What can palynology do for YOU?
Francine McCarthy, Brock University, Ontario
refreshments provided courtesy of Exxon

JOIDES Resolution Legs 184-186

<http://www-odp.tamu.edu>



Leg	Region	Co-Chiefs	Dep. Port	Date	Objectives
184	South China Sea plateau	Wang	Freemantle, Australia	February 16	establish late Cenozoic evolution of the East Asian monsoon area by showing the link between climate and tectonics, particularly the uplift of the Tibetan
185	Izu-Mariana Trench and ing	Plank, Ludden	Hong Kong	April 18	investigate sediment subduction along the world's deepest trench system characterize chemical fluxes during alteration of the oceanic crust
186	Japan Trench aseismic or subducting Pacific	Suyehiro, Sacks	Tokyo	June 20	drill two sites in the Japan Trench to monitor crustal response to seismic sliding of the Plate
---	Dry Dock		TBA	August 18	

PUBLICATIONS

NEW BOOK ON SEQUENCE STRATIGRAPHY

The Norwegian Petroleum Society has just published Special Publication no. 8: Sequence Stratigraphy, Concepts and Applications (editors F.M.Gradstein, K.Sandvik and N.J.Milton). The book contains voluminous contributions on history and principles of sequence and cycle stratigraphy, uncertainty analysis in stratigraphic correlation, and many case histories of sequence stratigraphic applications in Mesozoic and Cenozoic offshore petroleum basins and its onshore analogs. Emphasis is on NW Europe. Elsevier is the distributor of the book.

PERMIAN PROCEEDINGS

"The Permian System: Stratigraphy, Palaeogeography & Resources (Proceedings of the Strzelecki International Symposium on the Permian of Eastern Tethys: Biostratigraphy, Palaeogeography and Resources, Deakin University, Rusden Campus, Melbourne, Australia 30 November - 3 December 1997)".

Edited by

G. R. SHI, N. W. ARCHBOLD & M. GROVER

School of Ecology and Environment,

Deakin University, Rusden Campus, Melbourne, Australia

You can obtain more information about this book from:

Professor Neil W. Archbold,

School of Ecology and Environment,

Deakin University, Rusden Campus,

662 Blackburn Road, Clayton Victoria 3168, Australia,

Email: narchie@deakin.edu.au

Fax 61 03 9244 7134

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY BOOKSTORE ONLINE

A major new initiative by the Geological Society has been the launch of an on-line bookshop, through which both Fellows and non-Fellows of the Society can purchase Geological Society books.

The bookshop can be found at: <http://bookshop.geolsoc.org.uk>

The bookshop is aimed to be both visual and informative, please just visit and browse if you would like to obtain details of the books available. If you are a Fellow of the Society please have your membership number to hand when you log in, as this will enable you to access the members discounted prices.

NEW RADIOLARIAN CODE NUMBERS

Annika Sanfilippo and Catherine Nigrini, in their 1998 paper entitled: "Codenumbers for Cenozoic low latitude radiolarian biostratigraphic zones and GPTS conversion tables", published in *Marine Micropaleontology*, 33:109-156, provide information useful to paleontologists working on other groups than radiolarians in that code numbers have been introduced and standardized for the tropical Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans. The authors have also made revisions of previously published separate Neogene zonations for the Pacific and Indian Oceans, in which the same zonal names were applied to different stratigraphic intervals, resulting in a single tropical zonation. In a paper in press for the Scientific Results volume for ODP Leg 165, they have continued their stratigraphic work and correlate the Paleogene radiolarian zones via calcareous nannofossil zones to foraminiferal zones and the geomagnetic polarity scale.

REVUE DE PALEOBIOLOGIE ONLINE

Published by the Museum of Natural History of the City of Geneva (Switzerland), the REVUE DE PALEOBIOLOGIE presents the state of the art on international research in palaeobiology, palaeontology, stratigraphy, palaeogeography, palaeoecology, archeozoology. It also includes articles on the collections of the Museum's Geology and Palaeontology Department.

<http://www.ville-ge.ch/musinfo/mhng/page-e/paleo.htm>

ICHTHOLOGY NEWSLETTER ONLINE

The ichnologists have sprung online at a website hosted by Emory University:

<http://www.emory.edu/GEOSCIENCE/HTML/IN-98.Intro.htm>

The Ichnology Newsletter is a book-length annual that publishes news, notes on current research, announcements of meetings and exhibits, reviews of books and meetings, addresses of ichnologists, and a massive bibliography of recent publications. Informal articles on ichnologic sites, parks, and museum collections are welcome, as are historical notes and reminiscences, art, and humor. Sort of like this rag.

FIRST BREAK ACCEPTING BIOSTRAT PAPERS

John Athersuch (StrataData, Ltd, UK) is newly appointed to the editorial board of First Break, the official publication of the EAGE (European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers), as Technical Advisor on Biostratigraphy. First Break is published by Blackwell and more information is available at <http://www.blackwell-science.com/products/journals/fbk.htm>.

Athersuch wishes to encourage contributions on biostratigraphy as this general topic is under-represented in past volumes of the journal.

Technical articles should be sent in the first instance to:

EAGE Editorial Office

PO Box 59

3990 DB Houten, The Netherlands.

News material should be posted to

First Break News Office

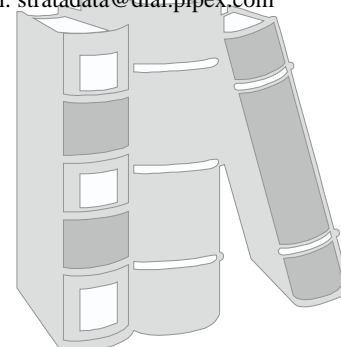
910 Jefferson Avenue

West Vancouver, BC, Canada V7T2A4

Fax: 00 1 1604 925 5892

Email: andrewmcbarnet@compuserve.com.

or directly to Athersuch: stratadata@dial.pipex.com



ITALIAN SHORT COURSES

MESOZOIC-CENOZOIC DINOFLAGELLATE CYST COURSE

Urbino, Italy, May 17-22, 1999

Conducted by Graham L. Williams (AGC), Jonathan P. Bujak (LEXIS) & Henk Brinkhuis (LPP, Utrecht University). Local coordinator: Prof Dr Rodolfo Coccioni (University of Urbino).

A general course on aspects of Mesozoic-Cenozoic dinoflagellate cyst bio- and eco-stratigraphy will be held at the University of Urbino, Italy. Information on morphology, taxonomy and stratigraphic ranges of over 600 selected species will be provided as well as presentations on applications of quantitative dinocyst analysis in terms of reconstructions of paleoenvironment and paleoclimate. Case histories of reconstructions of e.g. third order sea level cycles and orbital forcing, will be presented. Participants will be provided with a detailed manual and a CD-ROM with illustrations of key taxa. A mid-week excursion is planned, with visits to Jurassic, Cretaceous and Tertiary outcrops, including the Cenomanian/Turonian, Cretaceous/Tertiary, Eocene/Oligocene and Oligocene/Miocene boundaries. Fees include the manual, CD-ROM and excursion, and are set at:

industrial staff US\$ 550; academic staff US\$ 350;

PhD/MSc students US\$ 200

Registration and money-transfer deadline is set at April 1, 1999.

Contact: Henk Brinkhuis

Laboratory of Palaeobotany and Palynology

Utrecht University

Budapestlaan 4, 3584 CD

Utrecht, The Netherlands

Tel +31.30.2537691 Fax +31.30.2535096

Email H.Brinkhuis@bio.uu.nl

DETECTING ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS USING BENTHIC FORAMINIFERA AND THECAMOEBIANS

Bologna, Italy, 28-29 June 1999

Conducted by David B. Scott (Dalhousie U.), Eduard G. Reinhardt (McMaster U.). The course will focus on the applied aspects of benthic foraminifera and thecamoebians as environmental tools for the interpretation of recent as well as ancient coastal and lacustrine environments. Participants will learn how to design a sampling strategy, and how to recover, process, and examine microfossil samples from marginal and lacustrine environments as well as techniques for interpreting results.

Participants will gain an appreciation for microfossil analysis and its potential for helping to interpret coastal and lacustrine environments in regards to sea-level, pollution, paleoclimate, seismic risk assessment and geoarchaeological studies. Use of case studies will emphasize the utility of these organisms in the practical portion of the course through microscope observations and informal discussion. With this knowledge participants should be able to incorporate micropaleontological methods into their own research designs.

The course will be held at the University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy.

For more information please contact:

Alessandra Asioli

Istituto di Geologia Marina, C.N.R.

via P. Gobetti 101

40129 Bologna ITALY

Tel: +39 051 6398868 Fax: +39 051 6398940

e-mail: aasioli@igm.bo.cnr.it

http://www.igm.bo.cnr.it/~roveri/asioli/shortcourse.html

NAMS Renewal Information

Your official NAMS address label on this newsletter is the key to your dues responsibility. Please note the code and/or date after your name on the mailing label. The date tells you the year through which your dues are paid.

1999 or later - dues are paid up

1998 - please pay \$10.00 for 1999 dues

1997 - please pay \$10.00 for 1999 dues, \$7.00 for 1998 dues, and \$.50 late fee.

1996 - you must pay \$24.50 this fall or you will be dropped from membership!!

**PLEASE RENEW NOW
BEFORE YOU FORGET!**

remit to:

NAMS, SEPM
Martin Farley, Treasurer
Exxon Exploration
P.O. Box 4778
Houston, TX 77210

If you are a Micropaleontology subscriber you are entitled to free NAMS membership. Send us a copy of your 1999 JM renewal so we can credit your account.

NAME _____

IS THIS A RENEWAL? Y N
YEARS YOU ARE PAYING FOR _____

AFFILIATION _____

NEW APPLICATION? Y N

ADDRESS _____

MICROPALAEONTOLOGY SUBSCRIBER?
(enclose JM renewal) Y N

CITY _____

WOULD YOU LIKE A NAMS DIRECTORY? (\$3.00)
Y N

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR STATUS

COUNTRY _____

- a) student b) academic/government professional
c) industry professional
d) retired/consultant/self-employed/other

PHONE _____

FAX _____

ENCLOSE A CHECK PAYABLE TO NAMS,SEPM FOR
\$10.00 each year of membership (\$7.00 pre-1999)
\$0.50 each late penalty
\$3.00 each directory

EMAIL _____

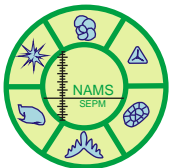
SPECIALIZATIONS _____

Thanks!

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

The next issue of NAMS News will be published before the 1999 AAPG Annual Meeting. Please send news to the Editor through September 1, 1999. News regarding meetings, symposia, people, books, internet information, software, new journal articles, and just about anything else regarding micropaleontology is welcome. Submit your news by email (preferred), FAX, letter, or phone to the Editor:

Benjamin Sloan
NAMS News Editor
Texaco Exploration
4800 Fournace Place
Bellaire, Texas 77401
Tel. 713.432.3808
Fax 713.432.2832
Email sloanbj@texaco.com
<http://www.ig.utexas.edu/nams/nams.html>



Benjamin J. Sloan, *NAMS News* Editor
Texaco Exploration
4800 Fournace Place
Bellaire, Texas 77401

FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
PLEASE FORWARD