

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

NAMS' NICHE

Did you notice something different about your newsletter? Good! This expanded and more colorful edition is symbolic of your Board of Directors' commitment to make NAMS a much more visible and resourceful organization.

Geoscientists seeking membership in a micropaleontological society can choose from many. What sets NAMS apart that would make people want to join our organization? Your Board believes NAMS' niche in the micropaleo community should be built upon these cornerstones:

• Diversity

NAMS represents all microfossil disciplines and facets of the profession in North America: academia, museums, government agencies, and industry (including sponsorship of the Industry Biostratigraphy Coordinators Group). Although our focus is North America, our membership and interests are international in scope. Your Board has undertaken a membership drive, especially targeting students, to build upon its historical diversity. And watch for much more representation from academia, museums and government agencies in our next newsletter and on our website.

• Student Support

NAMS will provide three annual monetary awards including our traditional Book Award, a new Student Travel Award (via the Mobil Student Participation Grant to SEPM), and our Endowed Fund for Student Research (see accompanying article in this newsletter).

• Information

Using our website, newsletter, and special E-mailings, NAMS will become a "one-stop shop" for micropaleontologic information,

including a list of upcoming meetings with a micropaleo component, an enhanced NAMS membership listing with contact numbers and expertise, links to other micropaleo-related websites, and a list of university programs including student research topics. To heighten our visibility, NAMS will issue an official brochure by the end of this year, post our official logo at all events with NAMS participation, and offer a new T-shirt in 2002 (proceeds into the Endowed Fund).



• Education

We will "beef up" our website "graphics exchange" of relevant power point figures useful for teaching purposes, and continue sponsorship (at least once per year) of the very successful short course Applied Biostratigraphy for Geologists, Geophysicists, and Reservoir Engineers (course fees help support the Endowed Fund; see the accompanying article herein).

But for NAMS to really find its niche, we will need your help, too. Won't you please:

- Keep your NAMS dues up to date.
- Supply us with information about you (see accompanying form).
- Encourage students and colleagues to join our organization.
- Contribute a paper or poster to an upcoming meeting with NAMS participation.
- Contribute to the NAMS Endowed Fund.

Our organization has a great opportunity to become an even more valuable resource for all its members.

Let's make it happen!

Garry Jones,
NAMS President

Agglutinated Workshop Report

REPORT - 6th International Workshop on Agglutinated Foraminifera, Prague, Czech Republic, Sept. 1 - 7, 2001

Tom Dignes, Dave McNeil, & Brian O'Neill

Approximately 57 scientists from 16 countries around the globe with interests in agglutinated foraminifera attended this gathering in Prague for seven days of oral and poster pre-

sentations, discussions, and field trip offerings throughout the Czech Republic. Our local host institutions included the Czech Geological Survey and Charles University in the Old Town; the meeting was co-sponsored by the Grzybowski Foundation and the British Micropalaeontology Society. The first field trip (9/1-9/2) covered Lower Paleozoic sections of the Barrandian area southwest of Prague, and

See report continued on page 2.

NEWS AND NOTES

NAMS-SPONSORED SHORT COURSE BIG SUCCESS

Six times during the past two years (venues include AAPG, GCAGS, HGS, and MMS), NAMS has helped sponsor Applied Biostratigraphy for Geologists, Geophysicists, and Engineers. This one-day workshop, taught by a team of experienced industry biostratigraphers (Brian O'Neill, Shell; Bruce Robertson, Chevron; Rome Lytton, Texaco; and Garry Jones, Unocal), offers practical, quick-look techniques for effectively applying biostratigraphic data in the petroleum industry. Case histories show the bottom-line dollar impact that biostratigraphy can have on exploration and development projects. A hands-on exercise allows participants to integrate E-log, seismic and biostratigraphic data for a robust geologic understanding of shelf-margin progradation in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico. Proceeds from the class are helping to grow the Endowed Fund. Look for the class to be offered several times through 2002.

ENDOWED FUND UPDATE

Your NAMS Endowed Fund for Student Research continues to grow towards its goal of \$25,000. NAMS gratefully acknowledges these donors:

- Tom Dignes
- ExxonMobil Foundation
- Brian O'Neill
- Garry Jones
- NAMS

When fully funded, the endowment will provide a significant annual student grant to support their micropaleontological research efforts. Won't you please consider

donating (tax deductible) to this worthwhile cause? Many companies will also offer matching funds to effectively double your contribution. Make check payable to the SEPM FOUNDATION, write NAMS ENDOWMENT on the memo line, and mail to:

Theresa Scott
SEPM
1741 E. 71st St.
Tulsa, OK 74136

ATTENTION MICROPALAEO STUDENTS!!

Did you know that NAMS offers student members a chance at three annual monetary awards?

- Book Award
\$100 check (selected by random draw) to help defray the cost of college textbooks.
- Mobil Travel Grant (c/o SEPM Foundation)
Funds for travel + expenses to a major national meeting (e.g., AAPG, GSA) to present a micropaleontological paper or poster, as determined by consensus of Board of Directors.
- Student Research Grant Through the Endowed Fund
See accompanying article in this newsletter.

Won't you consider becoming a NAMS member?

NOTE TO NON-STUDENT MEMBERS

Please forward/post the above memo so students will read it, along with copies of the membership form included in this newsletter.

AGGLUTINATED CONFERENCE REPORT (Cont.)

Bohemian Cretaceous Basin localities northwest of the city. The workshop sessions at Charles University (9/3-9/5) covered 50 separate topics, which included 25 oral presentations and 25 poster discussions. One of the highlights of the oral sessions was the presence of the esteemed Dr. Valery A. Krasheninnikov, of the Geological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, who presented a synthesis work titled "Agglutinated foraminifera from the Upper Cretaceous abyssal clays of the Pacific and Indian Oceans". The poster contributions (along with excellent Czech pilsener and other refreshments!) provided for animated discourse at the close of each of the three days at Charles University. Among the new offerings here was a draft of the Atlas of Cosmopolitan Deep-Water Agglutinated Foraminifera by Mike Kaminski & Felix Gradstein. Watch the Grzybowski Foundation website for notice of its release (www.geolsci.ucl.ac.uk/Grzybowski). The meeting closed-out with a second field trip (9/5-9/7) to the east of Prague, with stops at various localities in the Carpathian Flysch Belt of Moravia.

Plenary discussions on 9/4 led to a decision to publish a workshop volume (as for the previous five agglutinated workshops) in a hardcover format similar to that of the last one (Proceedings of the Fifth International Workshop on Agglutinated Foraminifera, Plymouth, U.K., September 6-16, 1997, eds. M. B. Hart, M. A. Kaminski, & C. W. Smart, Grzybowski Foundation, 2000). The group also approved a motion by Simone Galeotti (s.galeotti@uniurb.it) to hold a 7th International Workshop on Agglutinated Foraminifera at the University of Urbino (Italy) in 2005.

Your correspondents on this report wish to thank Drs. Miroslav Bubík (Czech Geological Survey), Katarína Holcová (Charles University), and Eva Riedlová (Head of the Organizing Committee), as well as their numerous colleagues and associated staff, for a job well done in the Czech Republic!



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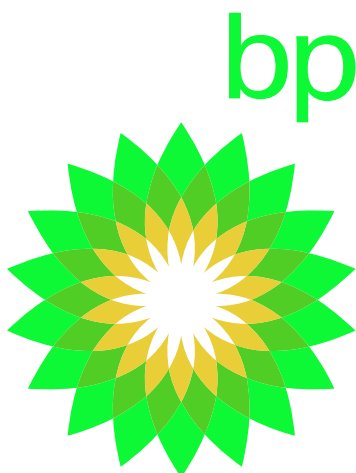
TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 30 September 2001, the NAMS treasury contained about \$6800. Since my last report in April, NAMS received \$562 from member dues and interest. Expenditures totaled \$261 for newsletter and miscellaneous expenses. For the last 12 months, expenditures totaled \$550 and receipts \$1097.



--Martin Farley, *NAMS Treasurer*
30 September 2001

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



Color for this addition of the **NAMS NEWS** is brought to you through the generous support of BP.

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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 2001.

MEETING CALENDAR

BMS Annual Meeting

November 21, 2001 2:00 pm
University College London, UK
Following Society business, two talks will be presented:

Dr Paul Smith, Dr Philip Donoghue and Dr Ivan Sansom (School of Earth Sciences, University of Birmingham):
Microvertebrates and macroevolution - unravelling the origin and early history of the vertebrate clade

Dr Jeremy Young (Department of Palaeontology, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD):
Coccolithophore species - results from CODENET (Coccolithophorid Evolutionary Biodiversity and Ecology Network)
www.bmsoc.org

Palaeontological Association 45th Annual Conference

December 15-19, 2001
45th Annual Meeting
Geological Museum, University of Copenhagen, Øster Voldgade 5-7, DK-1350 Copenhagen
With field trips to Bornholm, Stevns Klint and Faxø Quarry
www.palass.org



February 4-8, 2002
University of Western Australia, Perth
contact: David Haig
Department of Geology and Geophysics,
The University of Western Australia
Nedlands, 6907
Western Australia
Email: forums@geol.uwa.edu.au
www.geol.uwa.edu.au/forums

American Association of Petroleum Geologists Annual Meeting

March 10-13, 2002
Houston, Texas

Featuring:

SEPM/NAMS session - Biostratigraphy and Sequence Stratigraphy: Biotic and Taphonomic Response to Sea Level Fluctuations

SEPM session - Chronostratigraphy and Sequence Stratigraphy: Pushing the Limits of Correlation and Resolution
www.aapg.org/meetings/houston02/index.shtml



GSA Northeastern Section

37th Annual Meeting
March 25-27, 2002
Springfield, Massachusetts
www.geosociety.org/meetings/index.htm

GSA North-Central (36th) and Southeastern (51st) Sections Annual Meeting

April 3-5, 2002
University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky
www.geosociety.org/meetings/index.htm

GSA South-Central Section

36th Annual Meeting
April 11-12, 2002
Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas
Sponsored by the Department of Earth and Physical Sciences, Sul Ross State University. It will be held in the University Center, Sul Ross State University.
www.geosociety.org/meetings/index.htm

GSA Rocky Mountain Section

54th Annual Meeting
May 7-8, 2002

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah
www.geosociety.org/meetings/index.htm

GSA Cordilleran Section 37th Annual Meeting

May 13-15, 2002
Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon
www.geosociety.org/meetings/index.htm



47th Joint Annual Meeting of the Geological Association of Canada - Mineralogical Association of Canada

May 27 - 29, 2002
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
CONFERENCE CHAIR
Mel R. Stauffer mel.stauffer@usask.ca
(306) 966-5708
www.usask.ca/geology/sask2002/home.html

Geological Society of America National Meeting

October 27-30, 2002
Denver, Colorado October 27-30
www.geosociety.org/meetings/index.htm

American Association of Petroleum Geologists Annual Meeting

May 11-14, 2003
Salt Lake City, Utah

Geological Society of America National Meeting

November 2-5, 2003
2003 Seattle, Washington
www.geosociety.org/meetings/index.htm

The XIth International Palynological Congress

July 4 - 9, 2004.
Granada, Spain

JOINT AASP BMS NAMS MEETING

EXPLORATION BIOSTRATIGRAPHY 2002

September 11-13
University College London

The American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists (AASP), the British Micropalaeontological Society (BMS) and the North American Micropaleontology Section of SEPM (NAMS) are holding a joint meeting in September 2002 at

University College London.

The Theme of this international meeting will be recent developments in applied biostratigraphy, and will not be restricted to palynology alone. Contributions will be invited on four main themes:

1. Sequence biostratigraphy
2. Deep-water exploration
3. Reservoir/Development studies
4. Outcrop analogue studies

The Vision for the meeting is to encourage trans-Atlantic exchange of ideas, ultimately to seed new research initiatives. In particular, we aim to develop an integrated multidisciplinary approach in both the academic and industrial realms. There will be no taxonomic or geographical restriction on contributions. Posters will be invited on any micropaleontological, nannopaleontological, palynological or biostratigraphical theme.

See *Joint Meeting*, continued on page 5.



2001 GSA Annual Meeting November 4-8 Boston, Massachusetts



Selected Highlights

8:00 am - 12:00pm Monday, November 5
Oral Session

T12. Stratigraphic Paleobiology
Sponsored by *The Paleontological Society*

8:00 am - 12:00pm Tuesday, November 6
Oral Session

T13. Foraminifera: Barometers of the Biotic and Abiotic World I
Sponsored by *The Cushman Foundation*

1:30 pm - 5:30pm Tuesday, November 6
Oral Session

T13. Foraminifera: Barometers of the Biotic and Abiotic World II
Sponsored by *The Cushman Foundation*

GSA ETC.

CUSHMAN FOUNDATION EVENTS

Stephen J. Culver would like to make sure you attend the all day topical session Foraminifera: Barometers of the Biotic and Abiotic World, organized by the Cushman Foundation, at this year's annual GSA meeting. The session starts at 8 am on Tuesday November 6 in Room 312, Hynes Convention Center and concludes at 4.15 pm.



Also, you are invited to the Cushman Foundation Reception/Award ceremony, Tuesday November 6 from 6 pm to 9 pm at the Museum of Comparative Zoology. Professor John Murray will be receiving the Cushman Award this year.

LIFE HISTORIES OF GEOLOGISTS SESSION

Paul R. Krutak would like NAMS members to know that there will be a Theme Session (T69 -Geobiography: Life Histories of Geologists as a Way to Understand How Science Operates) at GSA in Boston. Among the several oral papers, there is one (his) concerning Micropaleontology that will be presented at 8:30 AM in Room 309 in the Hynes Convention Center on Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2001. Silvia F. de M. Figueiroa and Bob Ginsburg are presiding. Paul's talk, "H.V. Howe: Pioneer Micropaleontologist, Gulf of Mexico" concerns Doc Howe's life, education, and the profound influence that he had on the development of Micropaleontology in the GOM (Paul was his M.S. student back in 1960). Additionally, Aureal T. Cross will present the first paper at 8:00 AM in the same session, "Pioneers in Palynology, 1830-1975, and the Cumulative Application of Their Discoveries to Coal and Oil Exploration and Utilization."

In a similar view, the Memoriam to W.H. Van Den Bold (mentioned in previous NAMS NEWS) is almost done. Co-authors are Peter McLaughlin, Maria Machain-Castillo, Barun Sen Gupta, and Paul Krutak. They hope to submit it to Micropaleontology or to AAPG.

JOINT MEETING (Cont.)

Post-meeting excursions are planned to the Dorset Coast (Jurassic-Cretaceous), the Isle of Wight (Cretaceous-Paleogene), Kent and Essex (Paleogene), and Suffolk (Neogene).

A circular giving details on the meeting, costs and abstract form will be ready for issue to interested parties early in 2001. The deadline for abstracts and early registration will be March 2002. Expressions of interest should be addressed in the first place to the BMS Secretary, address below:

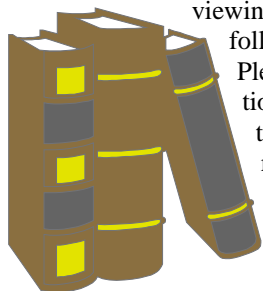
Contact convenor: Dr. James Powell, 105 Albert Road, Richmond, Surrey TW10 6DJ, England, U.K. Tel. +44 20 8948 6443; Fax +44 20 8940 5917; Email ajp@dinosystems.co.uk



NEW BOOKS

GCSSEPM VOLUME ON EOCENE AND PALEOCENE MARKERS SOON READY FOR VIEWING

The Eocene Paleocene Index Markers of the Gulf of Mexico (sponsored and Printed by GCSSEPM) is going to be available for viewing at the GCAGS 2001 meeting. Those interested in purchasing the publication should contact GCSSEPM booth for viewing and purchase. The publication has



followed the same format as the "Pliocene through Oligocene" publication. It contains descriptions, illustrations, stratigraphic remarks, age, environment of depositions, synonyms and references. Over 140 index foraminifers and some ostracod markers are included.

-Rashel N. Rosen
Coordinator

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON AGGLUTINATED FORAMINIFERA

Plymouth, U.K. 6-16 September 1997
M.B. Hart, M.A. Kaminski, and C.W. Smart

This Atlas-format hard-cover book presents the scientific results of the IWAF-5. The 29 scientific contributions provide an up-to-date synthesis of current research topics dealing with the taxonomy, biostratigraphy, and (paleo) environmental significance of agglutinated foraminifera. To reserve your copy contact: Grzybowski Foundation, c/o Dr. Michael Kaminski; 3 Boyne Avenue; Hendon; London, NW4 2JL, U.K. Email: m.kaminski@ucl.ac.uk

WWW NOTES

NEW INTERNATIONAL PALAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION WEB SITE

There is a new web site for the International Palaeontological Association (<http://ipa.geo.ukans.edu/>). The new IPA site contains general information about the IPA, including a mission statement, list of officers, annual reports, rules and by-laws, membership information, corporate members and sponsored symposia. Users can also find a link to *Lethaia*, the IPA's international journal of paleontology and stratigraphy, as well as an extensive list of other paleontology-related links.

Most importantly the IPA site hosts two on-line databases: the Directory of Paleontologists of the World and the Directory of Fossil Collections of the World. Both of these searchable databases feature user-entered data. The Directory of Fossil Collections currently contains 60 records featuring extensive information about each of the collections. The Directory of

Paleontologists contains nearly 1500 records listing both personal and professional information for paleontologists around the world.

The IPA web site is currently hosted from within the Paleontological Institute at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas.

- Mike Cormack

NAMS WEB SITE IN NATURAL SELECTION

We have been informed that the NAMS web site (<http://www.ig.utexas.edu/nams/nams.html>) has been included in Natural Selection <http://nature.ac.uk>.

Natural Selection is a gateway to quality evaluated Internet resources in the natural world, coordinated by The Natural History Museum, London. Natural Selection is part of BIOME <http://biome.ac.uk/biome.html>, an integrated collection of Internet gateways covering the health and life sciences.

We will be arranging a reciprocal link from our web site to Natural Selection.

EDITORIAL REMARKS

Recently, while in the process of sending out an e-mail call for input to the current NAMS News, I had occasion to go through the most up to date membership directory, extracting each member's address. In doing so I was, in the first place, struck by how many of the members did not have an e-mail address listed. In the second place, I was surprised by how many of the e-mails were bounced back as undeliverable. As a result I am concerned that many members who may have had valuable contributions to submit to the newsletter were not reached and so they, and the membership of NAMS, missed an opportunity. So, I would like to take this chance to ask each member to review whether or not their e-mail address is current, and update it as needed. You could send this information to our secretary Tony D'Agostino, or to me (at lundqujj@bp.com).

If you either do not have an e-mail address, or you prefer not to communicate in this way, please consider a contribution to the next newsletter without an electronic reminder. With the unusually early date for next year's AAPG annual meeting (March), the spring 2002 issue of the NAMS News will have a somewhat limited "fetch" in which to collect noteworthy information. So, please give special consideration to items of interests to the membership. Particular input requested are news of various allied organizations, be it meeting announcements, meeting or officer reports, pictures or simple graphics illustrating general activities, publications, etc. All such cross-organizational (and organism) communication is encouraged.

Jason J. Lundquist
Nams Newsletter Editor

ODP CALENDAR



JOIDES Resolution Legs 198-201

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

Leg	Region	Co-Chiefs	Dep. Port	Date	Objectives
198	Shatsky Rise	T. Bralower I. Premoli Silva	Yokohama	Aug 28	Obtain a depth transect of the Cretaceous through the Paleogene Pacific to advance understanding of the behavior of Earth's climate during "greenhouse" intervals.
199	Paleogene Pacific	M. Lyle P. Wilson	Honolulu	Oct 24	Will study evolution of the equatorial Pacific current and wind system as the Earth went from maximum Cenozoic warmth to initial Antarctic glaciations.
200	H2O Observatory	R. Stephen J. Kasahara	Honolulu	Dec 17	To drill at least one reentry hole at the Hawaii-2 Observatory (H2O) site in the Eastern Pacific, to maintain long term observation program.
201	Peru Biosphere	S. D'Hondt	San Diego	Jan 28	Will investigate the nature and extent of microbial activity in deeply buried sediments in several environments.

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.

2001 or later - dues are paid up

2000 - please pay \$10.00 for 2001 dues

1999 - please pay \$10.00 for 2001 dues, \$10.00 for 2000 dues, and \$.50 late fee.

1998 - you must pay \$30.50 this fall or you will be **dropped from membership!!**

**PLEASE RENEW NOW
BEFORE YOU FORGET!**

remit to:

**NAMS, SEPM
Martin Farley, Treasurer
Geology, BA 206
University of North Carolina
at Pembroke
Pembroke, NC 28372**

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 _____

AFFILIATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

COUNTRY _____

PHONE _____

FAX _____

EMAIL _____

SPECIALIZATIONS _____

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

NEW APPLICATION? Y N

MICROPALEONTOLOGY SUBSCRIBER?
(enclose JM renewal) Y N

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR STATUS

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

ENCLOSE A CHECK PAYABLE TO NAMS,SEPM FOR
\$10.00 each year of membership (\$7.00 pre-1999)
\$.50 each late penalty

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Thanks!

REPORT ON GLOBAL WARMING AND THE COMING ICE AGE

REPORT ON THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GLOBAL WARMING AND THE NEXT ICE AGE

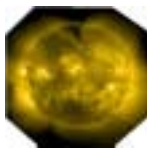
Dalhousie University, August 19 - 24, 2001

Overview

The conference attracted participants from both the “pro-warming” and “warming skeptics” camps. My impression of the conference’s technical program left little doubt in my mind that the most profound area of research tabled at this meeting was the arguments regarding the role of solar energy flux variation in “driving” the earth’s climate. The remainder of this article focuses on that particular topic. Suffice to say that papers presented on climate trends in Canada suggest that it is not warming but is becoming “less cool” as a result of increases in minimum night temperatures during the winter season. However, this trend seems to vary both temporally and geographically. On the east coast, continental climates, such as those found in New Brunswick, Canada have experienced the greatest degree of “less cooling” while the maritime climate of coastal Newfoundland, has seen the least amount of warming during the current warming interval.

Climate and the Sun

Three distinct mechanisms have been proposed to explain potential relationships between solar variability and climate. The most obvious is a direct relationship between climate and solar irradiance. The presumption is that, during periods of reduced irradiance such as the Maunder Minimum, climate intervals similar to the Little Ice Age (LIA) are prominent. Conversely, solar maxima are coincident with warm intervals (e.g., the Medieval Solar Maximum is coincident with the Late Medieval Warm Epoch). An second solar mechanism is spectral solar radiation changes. These variations are believed to have the potential to cause an impact on the atmosphere’s reservoir of stratospheric ozone - and hence could provide an additional perturbation of the climate. Changes in ozone abundance and stratospheric heating are thought to be able to influence planetary wave propagation in the troposphere and can therefore have an effect on tropospheric dynamics. One result of this type of “forcing” may be to change the phase of the Arctic Oscillation. For example, relatively high atmospheric pressure over the North Pole during the Maunder Minimum could have produced circum-North Atlantic cooling without any change in ocean heat transport. The third solar mechanism involves changes in high energy particle and cosmic ray fluxes which could perhaps directly influence cloud condensation nuclei and cloud cover.



The carbon 14 calibration record is a long term proxy for solar activity. From such proxy records, a striking qualitative agreement can be observed between cold and warm

climatic periods in relation to low and high intervals of solar activity. Whether the recently perceived global warming trend is dominated by anthropogenic “forcing”, or has a significant or even dominant solar energy component is not fully understood at this point. The Medieval Climate Optimum of the 10 -12th century, and the very cold events of the 13th, 15th and 17th centuries (i.e., the Wolf, Spörer and Maunder minima), appear to be associated with the longer Gliessberg and Suess cycles of solar irradiance variability of respectively 80 and 200 years. Extrapolations of these cycles into the next 100 years indicate that a period of solar quiescence is highly probable during the latter part of the 21st century as these two cycles retreat from their present-day apical to nadir values. This prediction gives rise to an Maunder Minimum-type cooling event which would run counter to the anthropogenic greenhouse gas warming that has been predicted by many climate change numerical models. When some of the solar irradiance numerical models are extrapolated further into the future, they predict a gradual cooling during the next few centuries with intermittent minor warm periods and a return to near-Little Ice Age conditions within the next 500 years. This cool period may then be followed, approximately 1500 years from now, by a return to “altithermal” conditions similar to those seen during the mid-Holocene Hypsithermal interval of 5000 to 7000 yBP.

The Other Side of the Coin

At very, very long time scales, some experts now believe that orbital forcing for the present, and for the next tens of thousands of years (in conjunction with predicted carbon dioxide concentrations for the next several centuries) bodes for an exceptionally long Holocene interglacial. They say that the orbital/carbon dioxide characteristics of the present interglacial have no counterpart over the last million years. According to these new observations, the predicted and widely publicized enhanced greenhouse warming might weaken the positive feedback mechanisms which transform relatively weak orbital forcing into global-scale interglacial/glacial cycles. As a consequence, the initiation of future glaciations will be prevented i.e., the long term cooling trend towards the next ice age could be delayed by tens of thousands of years and, consequently, the total length of the Holocene could be extended to at least 20,000 years. However, even if this were to happen, the shorter-term variations that produced the Little Ice Age and the Medieval Warm Epoch would still be part of the earth’s climate change equation. For the micropaleontologic sciences community, the continued collection of sub-regional proxy climate series will be of considerable help in testing and verifying the outputs of future numerical climate models.

Charles Schafer
Bedford Institute of Oceanography
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

AASP ACTIVITIES

Activity Summary for the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists April 2001- October 2001

The principal activity within AASP was the organization of the annual meeting in San Antonio. Plans were presented to the Board of Directors during a mid-year meeting held in Gainesville, Florida, on April 21. The meeting is to be held at the historic Menger Hotel, just across the street from The Alamo. More than 60 abstracts have been accepted, making this a fairly large meeting by comparison with recent AASP events. A post-meeting fieldtrip will allow participants to view, and collect from Upper Cretaceous strata of the Brazos River valley.

Plans continue to be made for our meeting in 2002. The venue is University College of London, where we will meet with the British Micropaleontological Society and the North American Micropaleontological Section of SEPM. Though the site of the 2003 meeting remains undecided, in 2004 we will meet with the International Palynological Congress in Granada, Spain.

Since 1993 AASP has cooperated with the Louisiana State University in establishing the Center for Excellence in Palynology at LSU. Funding the endowments for the Center (known as CENEX) has been a challenge, what with the considerable changes in operations among the major oil companies. A recently negotiated agreement between LSU and AASP will allow us to establish an Endowed Professorship. The endowment supports the

Director of CENEX, and position currently held by Dr. John Wrenn. Both parties agree that an Endowed Chair will also be sought in addition to the Professorship. Fund-raising continues toward that end.

Paul Strother, Weston Observatory of Boston College, is the AASP webmaster, and continues to build and update our website. AASP's web address is www.palynology.org and we encourage all interested parties to visit our site to see what's new in the field of palynology, and AASP, particularly. A notable recent event is the publication of the Proceedings of the Ninth International Palynological Congress, held in Houston in 1996. This very substantial volume is the product of years of work on the part of the AASP editorial staff, and includes works of truly international scope and interest.

The slate of officers for this year has changed due to elections, and because of personal circumstances that have resulted in President David Pocknall remaining as President, while the new President-Elect is James Riding. Past-President Fred Rich remains in that office. Our Secretary Treasurer is Thomas Demchuk, the Managing Editor is Owen Davis, and Directors-At-Large are Thomas Davies, Merrell Miller, Peta Mudie, and Carlos Jaramillo.

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RUTGERS PROGRAM EXPANDS

The Dept. of Geological Sciences and Inst. of Marine and Coastal Studies at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ has undergone rapid growth in recent years, expanding its Micropaleontology-Biogeochemistry-Paleoceanography group with new faculty and staff. In addition, Rutgers became the 11th member of Joint Oceanographic Institutions in 1999 and is a voting member of the Joint Oceanographic Institutions for Deep Earth Sampling (JOIDES) Executive Committee.

Rutgers' micropaleontology group includes Marie-Pierre Aubry (nannofossils), Bill Berggren (foraminifera), Lloyd Burckle (Adjunct, diatoms), Mimi Katz (foraminifera), Ken Miller (foraminifera), Dick Olsson (Emeritus, foraminifera), Chieko Shimada (post-doc, diatoms), and Jim Wright (foraminifera). This group benefits from expertise provided by additional Rutgers faculty and staff in related fields: Paul Falkowski (biogeochemistry), Mark Feigenson (Sr-isotopes), Carrie Lear (geochemistry), Greg Mountain (seismic stratigraphy), Dennis Kent (paleomagnetism), Peter Rona (geophysics), Yair Rosenthal (geochemistry), Rob Sherrill (geochemistry), Carl Swisher (geochronology), Martha Withjack (exploration geophysics), and Jim Wright (O and C isotopes).

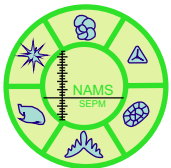
The diverse expertise of the Rutgers faculty/staff

benefits the broad spectrum of active research programs conducted at Rutgers, such as: 1) a coastal plain-shelf-slope drilling program that targets Cenozoic-Mesozoic sea-level change, climate change, and sequence stratigraphic architecture; 2) tracing evolution and radiation of eucaryotic phytoplankton through the Mesozoic; 3) establishing a Paleocene-Eocene boundary stratotype; 4) detailing the uplift of the Isthmus of Panama using integrated micropaleo-lithostratigraphy of shallow-water sections; 5) reconstructing Neogene circulation changes through the Straits of Florida; 6) establishing a Paleogene cyclostratigraphic chronology; and 7) reconstructing paleobathymetry using Oligocene benthic foraminifera in the Atlantic.

Marie-Pierre Aubry would also like to announce that she is now a professor of geology at Rutgers (Busch Campus, Wright Laboratory, Piscataway, NJ 08854; email: aubry@rci.rutgers.edu). She is currently teaching a course in evolution and geological time with her husband Bill Berggren at the University and next spring (May-June 2002) and hopes to present a course in applied micropaleontology (with other colleagues at Rutgers) for graduates and industry personnel. Expect an announcement in the upcoming NAMS newsletter, next spring.

The next issue of *NAMS News* will be published before the 2002 AAPG Annual Meeting. Please send news to the Editor through **February 1, 2002**. 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:

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