

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Spring 2003 has arrived. The ballots have been counted and I am pleased to announce that Peter McLaughlin, Jr. of the Delaware Geologic Survey will be the next NAMS President-elect. Congratulations Pete! Thanks to you and to Dave McNeil for your willingness to serve.

In April Past President Garry Jones and I carried the NAMS banner to Lincoln, Nebraska to teach a one and a half day short course on Applied Biostratigraphy to graduate and undergraduate students. Back in March I gave a talk on the subject at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. It is heartening to see that there still are bright, enthusiastic students in micropaleontology!

President-elect, Mimi Katz, has continued to be very active in increasing student membership in NAMS. With contributions from Shell and Unocal we are able to offer NAMS membership to students at no cost. At last count we had some 36 student members from universities in a number of countries beyond the U.S and Canada including: Colombia, India, New Zealand, Spain, and the United Kingdom. Welcome to all.

NAMS has a number of events scheduled for the AAPG-SEPM meeting in Salt Lake City, (May 11-14, 2003). The first is our board meeting to be held at the Marriott Downtown hotel, Sunday, May 11, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.

As always the board meeting is open to members and interested parties. Please attend if you can, we'd like your input. On Monday evening (May 12) the NAMS Marine Micropaleontology Research Group will meet from 7:00 to 10:00 pm at the Marriott.



Anthony Gary will speak on "The Geosciences Network (GEON) Initiative: What is the role of Industrial Biostratigraphy?" Tony's company Tramontane will sponsor refreshments. Thank you Tony for providing both. On Tuesday morning (May 13) NAMS will Co-sponsor an oral session entitled "Biostratigraphic and Paleoenvironmental Analyses." Student member Steve Nathan won NAMS Mobil Travel grant and will present his research "The Western Pacific Warm Pool: A Probe of Global Sea Level Change and Indonesian Seaway Closure during the Middle to Late Miocene" in both oral and poster formats on Tuesday morning (May 13). NAMS Past President Ed Picou will receive honorary membership in SEPM at the SEPM President's reception and awards ceremony Tuesday night at the Marriott. Congratulations, Ed!

NAMS will continue its association with AASP and participate in their joint meeting with the Canadian Association of Palynologists in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada, October 5-8,

See President's Letter continued on page 2.

MEETING

JOINT AASP/CAP/NAMS MEETING NIAGARA, OCTOBER 5-8, 2003

A joint meeting of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists, the Canadian Association of Palynologists, and the North American Micropaleontological Section of SEPM will be held in Canada's Niagara Peninsula October 5-8, 2003.

The conference hotel will be the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, St. Catharines, Ontario, where a large block of moderately priced rooms has been reserved. The hotel is a 5-minute walk from Brock University where we will take advantage of banquet facilities for the Opening Mixer and laboratory facilities if required for workshops. St. Catharines is ~1.5 hour drive from Toronto Airport and less than an hour drive from Buffalo or Hamilton Air-

ports, and ground transportation is available from Toronto or Buffalo Airports. AMTRAK/VIA trains stop at the St. Catharines station, ~5 minute drive from Brock University/Four Points Sheraton Hotel. Numerous sites of geological, botanical, and archeological interest are found within a 1-hour drive.

The welcoming mixer will take place on the evening of Sunday Oct. 5. General sessions and symposia will run Monday Oct. 6 through Wednesday Oct. 8.

The Symposia illustrate the interesting dynamic of bringing the three host societies together in a common venue. They include:

Micropaleontology and Palynology of the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains of North America. Convenor - Peter McLaughlin, Delaware Geological Survey

See Joint Meeting continued on page 2.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER (Cont.)

2003. The organizing committee includes NAMS member Francine McCarthy as well as incoming NAMS president Mimi Katz and President-elect Pete McLaughlin. Abstract deadline for the Niagara meeting is May 30 so there's still time to participate. The organizers are taking full advantage of the location and have organized a field trip highlighting "Geology and Wine" in the Niagara region.

It's not too soon to start thinking about 2004. NAMS plans to have a presence at the AAPG-SEPM meeting in March 2004. We have an oral session on "Oceanic Anoxic Events and Source Rock Formation." We particularly encourage members to submit papers integrating micropaleontologic data with other datasets. Speaking to our peers about our work is important, but demonstrating the power of micropaleontology to those unfamiliar with its use can pay big dividends in sustaining the discipline. Consider submitting a presentation to a non-micropaleo session. As Martin Farley so eloquently stated in his address in London last September, we must seek to infiltrate! Abstract deadline for Dallas is September 11, 2003. Abstracts can be submitted via the AAPG website: <http://www.aapg.org>. Students who wish to be considered for the Mobil Travel Grant should submit their abstracts to Mimi Katz (mimikatz@rci.rutgers.edu) by August 15, 2003.

Most exciting, Garry Jones has plans in motion for NAMS and several other micropaleontology groups to hold a con-

ference on "Geologic Problem Solving with Micropaleontology." The conference will be held at Rice University in Houston during March 2005. This is probably the most ambitious event NAMS has ever organized, so if you would like to be more active in our society, here's your chance: many volunteers will be needed to make this a success. In 1997 Aberdeen, Scotland was the site of a meeting on "Biostratigraphy in Production and Development Geology." The U.K. again was the site of an "applied" meeting in 2002 with the London AASP-TMS-NAMS meeting last September. The theme of the London meeting was "Recent Developments in Applied Biostratigraphy" with a focus on hydrocarbon exploration examples. We hope to bring the success of these meetings to North America with our 2005 conference drawing examples from industry, academia and government focusing on the power of micropaleontology integrated with other datasets to resolve problems in the subsurface as well as in outcrop.

Lastly, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to serve NAMS and to thank the rest of the executive board: Mimi Katz, Martin Farley, Robert Nail, Jason Lundquist and Garry Jones for all of their work in the past year.

Brian J. O'Neill
NAMS President

(Cont.)



Land-Sea Correlation in the Quaternary/Cenozoic Co-convenors - Alwynne Beaudoin, Provincial Museum of Alberta and Martin Head, Cambridge U.

bridge U.

Great Lakes Palynology, Paleocology & Archeology Co-convenors - Catherine Yansa, University of Wisconsin-Madison and Sarah Finkelstein, University of Toronto

Origins and Evolution of Microfossils: links between evolutionary history and paleoenvironmental changes Co-convenors - Paul Falkowski, Miriam Katz, and Oscar Schofield, Rutgers University

Micropaleontological Applications in Geoarchaeological Studies Convenor - Eduard Reinhardt, McMaster University

Pragmatic Palynology- Melissopalynology, Forensic Palynology, etc. Convenor - John H. McAndrews, University of Toronto

Micropaleontological Applications in Ecology and Paleocology Convenor - R. Timothy Patterson, Carleton University

Abstract deadline: May 30, 2003

Proposed pre-conference field trips (Sunday, October 5) include:

Crawford Lake- Archeology & Paleocology- 1 day (leader: J.H. McAndrews, U. of Toronto)

Geology and Wine- 1 day (leader: E.B. Grant, Brock University)

Canadian Association of Palynologists
Association Canadienne des Palynologues

Niagara Falls: Geology/History- ½ day (leader: K.J. Tinkler, Brock University)



Botany/ biogeography/ birding, St. John's Conservation Area/ Short Hills Provincial Park- ½ day (leader: S. Varga, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources)

Registration Costs include Opening Mixer, lunch Monday & Tuesday, & 2 coffee breaks each day. All costs are in Canadian dollars, which results in affordable prices for everyone!

Advanced Registration (deadline June 30, 2003)
Professional Members of AASP, CAP or NAMS: \$175 (~\$100 US!) (Late/ On-site: \$225)
Student Members of AASP, CAP or NAMS: \$75 (Late/ On-site: \$100)
Professional non-members: \$250 (Late/ On-site: \$300)
Student non-members: \$125 (Late/ On-site: \$150)

1-Day Registration (including on-site)
Professional Members of AASP, CAP or NAMS: \$75
Professional non-members: \$125
Student Members of AASP, CAP or NAMS: \$25
Student non-members: \$50

A website linked to the AASP, CAP & NAMS homepages is available for more information.

<http://www.geology.utoronto.ca/aasp2003/>

Table of Contents

President's Letter	1-2
Joint AASP CAP NAMS Meeting	1-2
Treasurer's Report	3
Meeting Calendar	4
New SEPM Special Publication	4
NAMS Notes	5-6
Student Opportunities	6
Chesapeake Bay Holocene Micropaleo	6
2003 AAPG Meeting	7
GSA Review and Preview	7
Microsupplies	7
NAMARWATCH Part II	8
GEON	8
AD	8
Ocean Drilling Program Calendar	9
Membership Renewal	9

(Please remember to renew!)

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 31 March 2003, the NAMS treasury contained about \$9960. Since my last report in October, NAMS received \$477 from member dues and interest. Expenditures totaled about \$280. This included newsletter and mailing expenses and filing fees. For the last 12 months, expenditures totaled \$434 and receipts \$1709.

--Martin Farley, *NAMS Treasurer*
March 31, 2003

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



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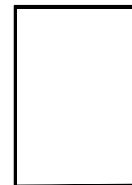
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MEETING CALENDAR

Joint AASP/CAP/NAMS Meeting (See page 1 and 2)
October 5-8, 2003
Niagara Peninsula, Canada

GCAGS/Gulf Coast Section SEPM 53rd Annual Convention Conference
Oct 22 - Oct. 24, 2003
Baton Rouge, LA
<http://www.brgsla.org/gcags.htm>

Geological Society of America National Meeting
Nov 2-5, 2003
Seattle, Washington
www.geosociety.org/meetings/index.htm

The XIth International Palynological Congress
July 4 - 9, 2004.
Granada, Spain

American Association of Petroleum Geologists Annual Meeting
April 18-21, 2004
Dallas, Texas
www.aapg.org/index.html



International Nannoplankton Association Conference - INA10
August 29 to September 4, 2004
Lisbon, Portugal.
http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted_sites/ina/INA2004.x-html



Geological Society of America National Meeting
November 7-10, 2004
Denver, Colorado
www.geosociety.org/meetings/index.htm

XVII International Botanical Congress
July 17-23, 2005 in Vienna, Austria

email contact: botanik@univie.ac.at

15th International Symposium on Ostracoda
September 2005
Free University of Berlin
<http://userpage.fu-berlin.de/~palaeont/iso15/iso15-main.htm>

Geological Society of America National Meeting
October 16-19, 2005
Salt Lake City, Utah
www.geosociety.org/meetings/index.htm

International Nannoplankton Association Conference - INA11
September, 2006.
Lincoln, Nebraska, USA.
http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted_sites/ina/INA2004.x-html

NEW SEPM SPECIAL PUBLICATION

SEPM Special Publication #75:

Micropaleontologic Proxies for Sea-Level Change and Stratigraphic Discontinuities

Edited by: Hilary Clement Olson and R. Mark Leckie

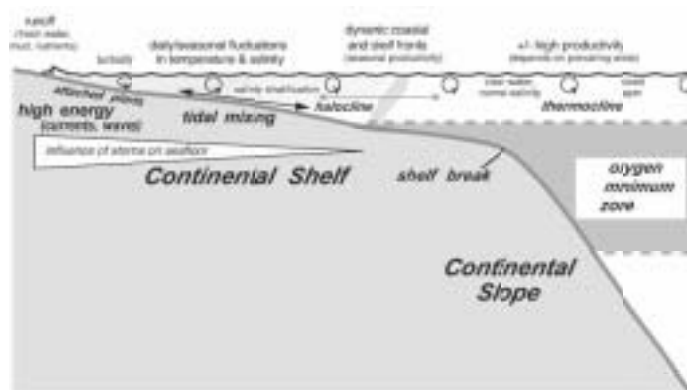
Micropaleontology and biostratigraphy play vital roles for deciphering the stratigraphic record produced by changes in relative sea level, interpreting the history of global sea-level change, and testing models for the causes of sea-level fluctuations due to the variable influences of tectonics, glacio-eustasy, and climate. The stratigraphic architecture developed in response to changing eustasy, accommodation space, and sediment supply along continental margins, in epicontinental seas, and on carbonate platforms can be interpreted using the tools of marine micropaleontology. Microfossils provide chronostratigraphic control and a wealth of paleoenvironmental information about depositional environments as well as post-depositional changes to those environments.

Micropaleontologic Proxies for Sea-Level Change and Stratigraphic Discontinuities demonstrates clearly that micropaleontologic proxies of environmental change provide a powerful dimension to the interpretive potential of stratigraphic sequences produced by changes in relative sea level and eustasy. Stud-

ies in the volume range from paralic to bathyal environments, span Pennsylvanian through Holocene stratigraphy, encompass a variety of microfossil groups (i.e., planktic and smaller benthic foraminifera, ostracods, dinoflagellates, pollen and spores, fusulinids, calcareous nannofossils, radiolaria, and algae) and include a wide spectrum of techniques and paleoenvironmental proxies.

The eighteen papers range in geographic interest from the Western Black Sea to the Gulf of Mexico, from Trinidad to the U.S. East Coast, from South China Sea to Australia, from Western Europe to the Russian Urals, and from the mid-continent to Texas in the U.S.A. The papers generally fall into three broad categories: 1) foraminiferal distribution patterns and the environmental factors that control these distributions with implications for sea-level studies, 2) techniques that have specific applications to sequence stratigraphy and interpreting sea-level change, and 3) case studies of the application of marine micropaleontology to sequence stratigraphy or genetic stratigraphy.

The volume has been designed for graduate students and professionals interested in a wide range of subjects, for example: sequence stratigraphy, paleoenvironments, paleoecology, paleontology, clastic and carbonate sedimentology, petroleum geology and geophysics, local and regional sea-level and/or climate change, and stratigraphic applications of diversity-, factor- and cluster-analysis.



NAMS NOTES

MAHAJUNGA BASIN MICROFOSSILS

Mike Zavada would like to know if someone in NAMS might be interested in working on a sample (forams, and a variety of other microfossils) from the Mahajunga basin (Maas. ?). The sample was taken along an outcrop on the banks of the Betsiboka near Mahajunga, Madagascar. Mike also has a sample from the same basin with diatoms. If interested contact; Michael S. Zavada at mazavada@providence.edu.

VAN DEN BOLD MEMORIAM

Paul Krutak would like to call attention to a Memoriam to Willem Aaldert van den Bold that was published recently; see Mclaughlin, P.P., Jr., Sen Gupta, B.K. and Krutak, P.R., 2002. In Memoriam: Willem Aaldert van den Bold: Micropaleontology, vol. 48, no. 3, p. 300-302. A brief synopsis of WIM's career follows. WIM was a long-time Professor of geology at Louisiana State University, and was also Professor Emeritus at Utrecht University (his alma mater). He was one of the world's leading experts on fossil ostracodes and Caribbean geology. He died in Hilversum, The Netherlands, on Friday, October 20, 2000 at the age of 79. WIM was on Paul's Ph.D committee at LSU (1958-1963), and he was also one of the authors of the Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology volume on Ostracoda. He will be sorely missed.

EHRENBERG COLLECTION INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Museum fuer Naturkunde in Berlin is pleased to announce a new ftp site with information and scanned documents from the Ehrenberg collection of microorganisms at: <http://www.museum.hu-berlin.de:55080/Ehrenberg/>

Available files include:

- all ca 3,000 original drawings of organisms, including many illustrations of type species never published,
- Clara Ehrenberg's handwritten taxonomic and geographic (sample) indices to the collection (previously available on CD),
- Most of the plates and plate captions from Ehrenberg's major monographs (Infusionstierchen, Mikrogeologie),
- A list of Ehrenberg's publications (retyped and made available from an earlier work of Lau by Dr. Regine Jahn of the Botanical Museum in Berlin),
- The working version of the main database to the Ehrenberg Collection (still in development; requires the Mac or PC 4D database system 6.8, available free to academics from www.4D.com).

Downloads and non-commercial use of this information is free. Appropriate citation is expected.

OCEAN DRILLING PROGRAM MICROPALAEONTOLOGY REFERENCE CENTER (MRC) PROVISIONAL DATABASE AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD

The radiolarian and diatom collections of the ODP MRC system (ca 10,000 samples) have been summarised in a searchable relational database, which includes information on sample ages, fossil content, and site/hole info. This database, which is still in provisional form, can be downloaded from the Museum fuer Naturkunde, Berlin's website, at <http://www.museum.hu-berlin.de:55080/Ehrenberg/>. This database requires the Mac or PC 4D database system 6.8, available free to academics from www.4D.com. More information about the MRCs can be found at: <http://www-odp.tamu.edu/mrc/mrcpage.HTML>

2003 ROSENSTIEL AWARD

The Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (RSMAS) of the University of Miami has named NAMS member Ken Miller of Rutgers University the recipient of the 2003 Rosenstiel Award. The purpose of this award is to honor a scientist who has made a significant and growing impact in the ocean sciences in the last decade. Congratulations Ken!

RUTGERS MICROPALAEO GRADUATE

Rutgers student Alicia Kahn successfully defended her Master's thesis "Protist Provincialism during the Paleocene/Eocene Thermal Maximum: Temporal Constraint of the *Rhombaster* spp. - *Discoaster araneus* Association" (advisor, Marie-Pierre Aubry). Alicia will stay on at Rutgers for a PhD studying structure of Mesozoic calcareous nannoplankton with co-advisors Marie-Pierre Aubry and Ken Miller.

UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS HONORARIUM

The University of Athens will award Doctorate Honoris Causa to NAMS members Bill Berggren and Marie-Pierre Aubry of Rutgers University later this spring. Congratulations Bill and Marie!
The Festschrift volume is in galley proof: (Soto, L.A., Editor, 2003?, Agustin Ayala-Castanares, Universitario, Impulsor de la Investigacion Cientifi! ca: Revista de la Instituto Ciencias del Mar y Limnologia, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM) .

FESTSCHRIFT TO AGUSTIN AYALA- CASTANARES

The Instituto Ciencias del Mar y Limnologia (ICMyL) at UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico) will soon publish a Festschrift to Agustin Ayala-

NAMS NOTES (cont.)

Castanares. Luis A. Soto-Gonzalez is the volume Editor. Dr. Ayala was the prime mover in moving Mexico into the modern era of Oceanography, and helped secure the funds necessary to build Mexico's two oceanographic vessels, the Justo Sierra, and the Puma. The Justo Sierra operates in the Gulf of Mexico; whereas, the Puma is stationed in the Gulf of California.

Paul Krutak would like to point out his contribution in this volume: Krutak, P.R., 2003?, Reminiscences of a field geologist in the Republic of Mexico: 1960-2000. He is not sure exactly when the volume will be published - hence the ? after 2003 (above). This volume is a result of the July 7-9, 2000 meeting organized by Martha A. Gamper and Jose F. Longoria (Florida International University) and Adolfo Gracia Gasca (Director, Instituto de Ciencias del Mar y Limnologia, UNAM) in Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico. The title of the Cuernavaca meeting was: "Reunion Cientifica de Homenaje al Dr. Agustin Ayala-Castanares."

MICROPALAEONTOLOGICAL MEMORIES

Stephen J. Gould passed away recently. He was awarded the Paleontological Society Medal posthumously at the recent GSA Meeting. Paul Krutak would like to pass along the following reminiscence:

For those unaware of it, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, with Bill Berggren's help, sponsored a consortium of oil companies (Arco, Chevron, Shell, Unocal, etc.) back in 1983 to create a catalogue of cosmopolitan bathyal foraminifers. Frank VanMorkhoven, with the Shell, was a participant as well as many oil company micropaleontologists (including me - I used to work for Arco). That year Steve Gould came down from Harvard, and also participated. Steve was supposedly terminal that year, and was extremely jaundiced. Frank, who was self-taught, argued vehemently with Steve Gould about concepts of evolution in both benthic and planktonic foraminifers. Fortunately, WHOI videotaped the 4-day conference, and still has copies of the tapes. I have a personal copy and used to have my micropaleontology class view these, especially the ones with Frank and Steve Gould. If anyone out there is interested, I can send them the Memoriam I wrote (with Frank's widow) to Frank Van Morkhoven. It was published in Micropaleontology some years ago.

Student Opportunities

The Department of Geology at Georgia State University seeks to fill two graduate positions (M.S. or Ph.D.) for a study of Southern African paleoclimate over the last 200 k.y. It is anticipated that one student will study faunal distributions of foraminifera and the other clay mineralogy and geochemistry of the sediments. Stipends include a tuition waiver and possible summer support. Georgia State University is an urban research institution located in Atlanta, GA. Further information about the department and

online applications for graduate studies can be found at www.gsu.edu/geology. For more information, contact Dr. Beth A. Christensen at bchristensen@gsu.edu (404-651-3635). GSU is an AA/EEO employer.

UCL Short Course

Next academic year, the Postgraduate Unit of Micropaleontology at UCL offers the following short courses:

1. Planktonic Foraminifera, Monday October 5 - Friday October 24, 2003
2. Calcareous Nannoplankton, Monday October 27 - Friday November 14, 2003
3. Benthic Foraminifera, Monday November 17 - Friday December 5, 2003
4. Applied Micropalaeontological Techniques (Guest Lecturer Felix M. Gradstein) December 8 - 12, 2003
5. Palynology & Palynofacies, Monday January 12 - Friday February 6, 2004
6. Radiolaria (Guest lecturers Dave Lazarus & John Gregory) - February 15 - 20, 2004

Our postgraduate short courses are open to anyone from industry or academia, and are designed to provide a strong basis for carrying out research in the field. Course instruction is intensive (9:30 - 5:00 daily), with morning lectures and afternoon microscope sessions. Anyone wishing to receive more information about individual course contents and registration costs are asked to contact the course director Paul Bown (p.bown@ucl.ac.uk) or myself (m.kaminski@ucl.ac.uk)

CHESAPEAKE BAY

Holocene microfossils from sediment cores from Chesapeake Bay, the nation's largest estuary, have been used by a group at the USGS and collaborators to reconstruct paleotemperature (ostracode Mg/Ca ratios, pollen), paleosalinity (forams and ostracodes), and paleodissolved oxygen (forams and dinoflagellates). The research is focused on understanding the impact of human activity in the bay's watershed and climate variability over decadal to millennial timescales. Long sediment cores taken in 1999 by the French research vessel Marion-Dufresne, which operates under the auspices of the IMAGES program to understand the role of the oceans in climate change, have produced a complete, high resolution Holocene paleoclimate record. The results indicate high amplitude oscillations in temperature and salinity most likely associated with high latitude changes in deep-water convection and perhaps related to North Atlantic Oscillation climate processes. Twentieth century temperature extremes exceed those of the past 2200 years. Climate oscillations are superimposed on a progressive deterioration in ecosystem health due to increased sediment and nutrient influx resulting from land-use changes in the surrounding watershed. Additional coring with the Marion-Dufresne is tentatively planned for Spring 2003.



2003 AAPG Annual Meeting May 11-14 Salt Lake City, Utah



Selected Highlights

NAMS Executive Board Meeting (Open)

Sunday, May 11, 3:00-5:00 pm, Brighton Room, Marriott Downtown

NAMS Marine Micropaleontology Research Group Meeting

Monday, May 12, 7:00-10:00 pm, Salon J, Marriott Downtown

Speaker: Anthony Gary, "The Geosciences Network (GEON) Initiative:
What is the role of Industrial Biostratigraphy?"

NAMS/SEPM/AAPG Oral Session

Tuesday, May 13, 8:00-12:00 am, Ballroom B/D, Salt Palace Convention Center
"Biostratigraphic and Paleoenvironmental Analyses"

GSA MEETING NEWS

MMRG WORKSHOP IN DENVER 2002

NAMS branched out from its regular venue at AAPG/SEPM to host a Marine Micropaleontology Research Group (MMRG) workshop at GSA 2002 in Denver. Former NAMS president Mark Leckie (University of Massachusetts) presented a fascinating presentation entitled "Mid-Cretaceous Oceanic Anoxic Events and Plankton Evolution". Mark's presentation drew a large crowd of 43 people, and Shell Oil Company treated the group to beer and nachos. Mark integrated various aspects of biogeochemical cycling and plankton evolution in the mid-Cretaceous. He concluded that there were important links among plankton evolution, submarine volcanism, and the cycling of carbon through the marine biosphere. The talk was followed by a very lively discussion. To see details of Mark's work, please refer to his paper:

Leckie, R.M., T.J. Bralower, and R. Cashman, 2002. Oceanic Anoxic Events and Plankton Evolution: Biotic Response to Tectonic Forcing During the mid-Cretaceous. *Paleoceanography* 17(3):10.1029.

CALL FOR INPUT IN SEATTLE 2003

Steve Nathan (University of Massachusetts) would like to put out a "call for abstracts" for the Cushman Symposium at the GSA this November in Seattle. The symposium is titled: "Micropaleontological Proxies of Ocean Gateway Paleooceanography" (topical session T93; oral and

poster). Mark Leckie and Steve are the co-chairs, Jim Kennett will be the opening keynote speaker, with Laurel Collins and Bill Chaisson being the two invited speakers. The following is the session description that will end up in "GSA Today" and on the GSA Web site:

"Ocean gateways such as the Drake Passage, Central American Seaway, and the Indonesian Seaway have altered ocean circulation, directly affecting ocean heat transport, and in turn climate. This session will provide the opportunity to exchange and discuss new results and ideas about ocean gateway paleoceanography based on micropaleontological proxies."

Micropaleo Supplies

In the previous NAMS News the editor put out a request for input on any information members would like to share concerning where they buy various micropaleo supplies such as paper slides, picking trays, brushes, etc. The intention was to see if sufficient content could be generated to populate a data repository for this information on the NAMS website. While the response was modest, several submissions (and a notable five page brief by Owen Green on processing references and lists of suppliers) will serve as a nucleus for future additions. More input on the topic would be appreciated. Of particular interest to many would be any concrete leads on where high-quality brass picking trays (preferably gridded) could be found.

NAMARWATCH Part II

My students (Sally Silver, Bart Wilson) and I continue to resolve paleoenvironmental changes recorded in marsh sediments during about the last 1,000 years along Delaware Bay. As part of that effort, we have begun to turn our attention to the use of microfossil assemblages in determining natural, pre-anthropogenic environmental change from anthropogenic change. As you may recall, Charles Schafer (Emeritus Scientists, Bedford Institute of Oceanography) briefly described NAMARWATCH-the National Marine Sentinel Habitat Monitoring Program--in the Fall, 2000 issue of the NAMS newsletter. After some discussion with Charlie, I gave a short presentation to about two dozen managers of different portions of the National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) system at their meeting in Dover, DE, in February, 2003. This meeting was hosted by the Delaware NERR, which oversees reserves at Blackbird Creek and the St. Jones River just outside Dover (where Bart Wilson has been working). The presentation was received enthusiastically, and a number of NERR managers were in favor of using microfossils for long-term environmental monitoring and the assessment of environmental disturbance.

We hope to establish a pilot project at the St. Jones reserve in the near future. The mouth of the St. Jones encompasses part of a large oyster ground in Delaware Bay and horseshoe crab breeding grounds, so there are obvious environmental implications. Despite the fact that it is an environmental reserve, the St. Jones River has been subject to a variety of anthropogenic disturbances, including sediment influx from deforestation and organic chemical pollution (most likely from sites located upstream). Dover is also becoming increasingly urbanized, so that pollution runoff is probably increasing. We hope that our work will contribute to the use of microfossils in environmental monitoring and remediation.

Ron Martin
Department of Geology, University of Delaware

GEON

GEON is an National Science Foundation (NSF)-sponsored, multi-institution project led by the UC-San Diego Supercomputing Center (also includes Univ. Utah (Energy & Geoscience Institute), UT-El Paso, Cornell, Penn State, Univ. Missouri, Va Tech. Univ. Arizona and Bryn Mawr). The purpose of GEON is to provide a cyberinfrastructure for the geosciences. Cyberinfrastructure is a partnership between all components of IT that allows grid computing that integrates disparate resources and uses them as an ensemble to support resource-intensive, large-scale distributed applications. UCSD believes that this type of collaboration will be the foundation for 21st century science and will be constructed through Grand Challenge Projects; i.e., formal programs for multidisciplinary collaborations to attack the largest-scale problems. GEON is one of the first of these projects to be funded by the NSF.

IT Plan - Ultimately, GEON plans to integratively link all digitized geoscience databases. The ownership of these databases will remain with the local institutions, the challenge then being reconciliation of data source heterogeneities in order to bridge information access across various domains. This linkage will be accomplished for each database by the development of wrappers by the GEON IT team. Wrappers are software programs designed to translate queries into a syntax that can act on multiple, relevant databases and return comprehensive results, or constructs, to the user. However, in order for the

wrappers to answer queries by compiling the necessary data from a large set of heterogeneous databases, the vocabulary of each geoscience sub-division must be logically defined in a hierarchical structure called an ontology. The ontologies will be used to resolve a common nomenclature between the subdisciplines and ultimately act as bridge to other major sciences. The multiple constructs from various databases thus attained will be then forwarded to the GEON web-based portal (that will be housed at UC-San Diego) to be assembled into a complete answer of the user's original query.

Geoscience Plan - Initially, this data integration model will be constructed via linkage of the existing databases at the participating project institutions. Each geoscience P.I. has the responsibility for obtaining the aid and cooperation of his/her subdiscipline community. Such aid will have two major components: data contribution (i.e., providing additional databases for linkage into GEON); and, providing input for the development of the subdiscipline ontologies. Ontologic development is particularly crucial for, if GEON is successful, it will likely become the model for a state-of-the-art geoscience cyberinfrastructure and its ontologies will then strongly influence any further development in geoscience vocabularies.

The Unix-based database of the Energy & Geoscience Institute (EGI) at the University of Utah will provide the initial stratigraphic component for the early construction phase of GEON. The foundation of this system is the former Amoco Exploration chronostratigraphic database, donated to EGI in 1999 by BP-Amoco, representing over forty years of stratigraphic research. However, many other stratigraphic databases will obviously need to be integrated, with an especially acute need for lithostratigraphic information. Anyone interested in volunteering to help in this important IT effort by contributing data and/or by helping with stratigraphic ontologic development should contact Paul Sikora at psikora@egi.utah.edu or call at 801-581-4122.



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ODP CALENDAR



JOIDES Resolution Legs 209-210

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Leg	Region	Co-Chiefs	Dep. Port	Date	Objectives
209	MAR Peridotite	P. Kelemen E. Kikawa	San Diego	May 9	To sample the upper mantle in a magma-starved portion of a slow spreading ridge
210	Newfoundland Margin	J.-C. Sibuet B. Tucholke	Bermuda	July 10	To study the composition and subsidence history of the stratigraphic sequence above basement and igneous/tectonic basement contact on the Newfoundland margin
	<i>Transit</i>		<i>St. John's</i>	<i>Sept. 7-21</i>	
	<i>Demobilization</i>		<i>Galveston</i>	<i>Sept. 21-30</i>	

United States and Japan Sign Memorandum of Cooperation for Integrated Ocean Drilling Program

IODP will foster continued study of Earth's geologic processes

Arlington, Va.—The United States and Japan have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation, effective April 22, 2003, to proceed with the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP). The program will be co-led by the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan and will use cores of sediment and rock from the ocean floor to study the geologic processes that modify our planet, the history of those changes in oceans and climate and the extent and depth of the planet's biosphere.

Although NSF and MEXT will provide the primary scientific facilities for IODP, significant scientific and financial participation is expected from European and Asian nations. IODP is scheduled to begin on October 1, 2003, and will have an initial duration of 10 years

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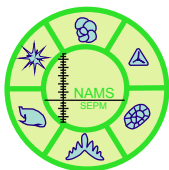
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The next issue of *NAMS News* will be published before the 2003 GSA Annual Meeting. Please send news to the Editor through **October 15, 2003**. News regarding meetings, symposia, people, books, internet information, software, new journal articles, 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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