

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Opportunities to discuss the exciting developments in our science with a diverse group of colleagues in a cordial setting do not come along every day. However, thanks to the efforts of a group of volunteers from the micropaleontological community, we have just such an opportunity this coming spring. I would like to encourage the NAMS membership to participate in the upcoming conference, "Geological Problem Solving with Microfossils," which will be held on the campus of Rice University in Houston, Texas from March 6 to 11, 2005. This multidisciplinary conference will highlight the power of micropaleontology for solving problems for a wide variety of fossil groups, ages, and geologic settings. It is dedicated to the memory of former NAMS President Garry Jones, who suddenly and sadly passed away earlier this year after a brief illness. Garry initiated and led the effort to make this meeting a reality, and the meeting plans taking shape will be a fitting tribute to his vision for an interdisciplinary international conference dedicated to the problem-solving power of micropaleontology.

NAMS is the principal host organization for this meeting, and is joined by cosponsors SEPM, the Gulf Coast Section of SEPM, and a number of our fellow micropaleontologic societies. Thomas Demchuk, Secretary-Treasurer of our sister society the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists, is the meeting general chair and has put countless hours of effort into organizing a great conference program that promises to have a wealth of high-quality science and some great social events to share among colleagues. In addition to Thomas, the organizing committee includes a group of dedicated volunteers, all NAMS officers, members, and members of co-sponsoring societies: Brian O'Neill, Ron Waszczak, Robert Nail, Nancy Engelhardt-Moore, Jim Gamber, Roger Witmer, Shirley van Heck, Jason Lundquist, Martin Farley, and Mimi Katz.

To me, it is the multidisciplinary aspect of this conference that is one of the most exciting. A common topic of conversation at almost any meeting of micropaleontologists is the perception of a shrinking population of researchers. Many of our scientific societies face declining membership. However, there is strength in unity, and combining the strengths of our disciplines is a key to keeping our science healthy. Whether in the form of a detailed study of a single group, or an integrated multidisciplinary study, microfossils provide vital information for solving problems ranging from traditional issues

of stratigraphic correlation and paleoecology to increasingly prominent questions related to climate change and environmental quality. This conference provides a great venue for exchanging ideas among the disciplines that make up "micropaleontology." I hope that many of you will be able to participate and share your knowledge.



In addition to the smaller-venue meeting at Rice, NAMS is also sponsoring a session at a larger-venue meeting, the 2005 AAPG-SEPM meeting, which will be held June 19 to 22, 2005 in Calgary. Dave McNeil (Geological Survey of Canada) and I will co-chair a session entitled "Integration of Micropaleontology and Petroleum Exploration: From Mature Basins to the Frontiers." Like the Houston meeting, this session will also highlight the problem-solving power of microfossils, in this case specifically to problems in petroleum geology. AAPG-SEPM meetings highlight an impressive array of petroleum-related technologies in both technical sessions and vendor exhibits and, as such, the technical sessions provide a great venue for sharing examples of the importance of integrating biostratigraphy with these tools in the oil patch. We hope that you will consider submitting an abstract for this session.

Each year, elections bring new faces to the NAMS Executive Council and an opportunity to recognize the service of outgoing members. NAMS was fortunate to welcome a new officer in March. Congratulations to Jim Gamber of BP who was chosen as President-Elect in the NAMS elections early this year! Jim will join me, Past-President Mimi Katz, continuing officers Newsletter Editor Jason Lundquist, Secretary Robert Nail, and Treasurer Martin Farley on the board. On the outgoing side, many thanks are owed to Brian O'Neill for the work and ideas he has invested in his three years of service in the NAMS President cycle; his contributions to the Houston meeting are a major reason it is so nicely taking shape. I would also like to thank Mimi Katz for her energy in her term as NAMS President, and continued contributions as Past-President - she has kept things moving along for NAMS.

Well, folks, I hope you all will come out to a meeting, contribute your expertise, and help keep micropaleontology vital! All the best,

Pete McLaughlin
NAMS President

NAMS STUDENT SUPPORT

GARRY JONES MEMORIAL FUND FOR NAMS STUDENT RESEARCH

The Board of Directors of NAMS has established an endowed fund in honor of our good friend and former president, Garry Jones. Research grants will be awarded annually from the Garry Jones Memorial Fund for NAMS Student Research. Grants will be awarded to one NAMS student member to support research with a substantial micropaleontological component. Additional grants will be awarded as the fund grows. Please consider a tax-deductible donation; make checks payable to "SEPM Foundation" with the notation "Garry Jones Memorial Fund for NAMS Student Research" and mail to Martin Farley, NAMS Treasurer (see address on following page, 3).

FIRST NAMS STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD RECIPIENT CARME BOIX MARTÍNE

I am a M.S. student working under the supervision of Dr. Esmeralda Caus. I started my thesis research in the Montsec Mountains of Spain, where excellent outcrops (E-W oriented and aligned along 40 km) provide the ideal place to study the relationship between lithological characteristics and paleontological content of the rocks. The first step in my research was the study of the Upper Coniacian-Lower Santonian sediments, which represent a complete cycle of sedimentation that is bounded by erosive surfaces, including two subcycles represented by two bar-lagoon systems. After two years of sedimentological, stratigraphical and paleontological research, I have been able to establish two zones of larger foraminifera, or KSBZ (Cretaceous Shallow Benthic Zones), in the Upper Coniacian-Lower Santonian: the first one is characterised by the presence of *Pseudolacazina loeblichii*; the second one, by *Lacazina pyrenaica* and *Martiguesia cyclamminiformis*.

I have been able to see that these two zones extend along the Pyrenean basin (from the Cantabric Mountains, in



Carme Boix Martínez in her field area, the Montsec Mountains of Spain. Carme is the first award recipient of the Garry Jones Memorial Fund for NAMS Student Research.

Spain, to Marsielle Gulf, in France). But a problem arises when I try to correlate these zones to the eastern Tethys and to the Caribbean, because of the lack of *fabularids*.

At present, I am studying Cretaceous rotalids to see if they can help us to establish a biozonation with larger foraminifera along all of the Tethyan domain. This group of larger foraminifera is important because they are very abundant in Cretaceous sediments, and they are present in almost all kinds of facies (carbonate and mixed).

Another step in my research will be the comparison between Cretaceous rotalids and Paleocene ones, to see which crossed the K/T boundary and which ones disappeared in the extinction event. These last ones will be the tool to construct the Cretaceous biozonation with larger foraminifera.

In order to finish, I would like to thank NAMS for awarding the 2004 Garry Jones Memorial NAMS Student Research Grant to me, and for having confidence in my thesis research project. Thank you very much to all.

NAMS MOBIL FOUNDATION TRAVEL GRANT ALICIA KAHN

I am a doctoral student studying calcareous nannoplankton under the supervision of Dr. Marie-Pierre Aubry. I presented my Masters thesis research at the AAPG conference in Dallas thanks to the NAMS Mobil Foundation travel grant.



My research focused on the calcareous nannoplankton response to the rapid global warming event known as the Paleocene/Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM; ~55 Ma). Different responses of the oceanic plankton to the PETM have been described, including rapid radiation among tropical planktonic foraminifera, a global acme of the dinoflagellate *Apectodinium* complex, and geographic provincialism of the calcareous nannoplankton *Rhomboaster* spp.- *Discoaster araneus* Association (RD). We constrained the temporal restrictions of the RD (provincial to the Atlantic and Indian Oceans) during the PETM through correlation with the isotopic record.

The PETM was accompanied by a rapid, dramatic decrease in global carbon isotope values, followed by gradual return to pre-excursion values over several hundred thousand years; this event is known as the Carbon Isotope Excursion (CIE). The CIE is used to identify and correlate the Paleocene/Eocene boundary worldwide because of its global scope and striking appear-

see KAHN, continued on page 10

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(Please remember to renew!)

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 15 October 2004, the NAMS treasury contained about \$10,900. Since my last report in April, NAMS received \$1146 from member dues and interest. Expenditures totaled about \$550. This included the Student Research Award, newsletter expenses, and filing fees. For the last 12 months, expenditures totaled \$850 and receipts \$1668. Major expenses associated with printing the newsletter have been generously subsidized by BP, so our expenses are lower than they might otherwise be.

I remind NAMS members that they can be a member at no cost if they are also individual subscribers to Micropaleontology. Please see www.micropress.org for further information.

--Martin Farley, NAMS Treasurer
22 October 2004

Visit NAMS online at:

<http://www.ig.utexas.edu/nams/nams.html>



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MEETING CALENDAR

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

GCSSEPM Foundation 24th Bob F.
Perkins Research Conference
December 5-8, 2004
Houston, Texas. (see below)

Geologic Problem Solving with
Microfossils, an International
Conference
March 6-11, 2005
Houston, Texas (see page 9)

3rd South American Meeting on
Phytolith Research
March 16th - 18th, 2005
Tucumán, Argentina
www.fundaciontiempos.org/iarqueo/fitolitos

American Association of Petro-
leum Geologists Annual Meeting
June 19-22, 2005
Calgary, Alberta (see below)

XVII International Botanical Congress
July 17-23, 2005 in Vienna, Austria
email contact: botanik@univie.ac.at

American Association Strati-
graphic Palynologists 38th
Annual Meeting



September 18-21, 2005.
St. Louis, MO
<http://campus.umn.edu/dce/conferences/aasp.htm>

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



Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies
55th Annual Convention
September 25-27, 2005
New Orleans, Louisiana



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

2005 25th Bob F. Perkins
Research Conference
Petroleum Systems of Divergent

Continental Margin Basins
December 4-7, 2005 in Houston, Texas

American Association of Petro-
leum Geologists Annual Meeting
April 9-12, 2006
Houston, Texas

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



European Palaeobotanical-
Palynological Conference
September, 7 - 12, 2006
Prague, Czech Republic.



FORAMS 2006 - The Interna-
tional Symposium on
Foraminifera
September 11-12 & 14-
15, 2006
Natal, Rio Grande do Norte State, Brazil



AASP 40th Annual
Meeting,
October, 2007
Regina, Saskatchewan
Meeting jointly with CAP



MEETING NEWS

GCSSEPM BOB F. PERKINS RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The GCSSEPM Foundation will hold its 24th Bob F. Perkins Research Conference December 5-8, 2004, in Houston, Texas. This year's Conference is titled "Salt-Sediment interactions and Hydrocarbon Prospectivity: Concepts, Applications, and Case Studies for the 21st Century". Please check GCSSEPM website at www.gcssepm.org for details.

NAMS SPONSORED SESSION



In 2005, the annual AAPG convention will be held in Calgary, June 19-22. At this meeting, NAMS will sponsor an oral/poster session on the "Integration of Micropaleontology and Petroleum Exploration." This session falls within Theme 5: "Depositional Systems in Time and Space." The NAMS session will be co-chaired by Dave McNeil (Geological Survey of Canada, Calgary) and Pete McLaughlin (Delaware Geological Survey/University of Delaware, NAMS President), who extend an open

invitation to micropaleontologists to submit an Abstract for consideration and come to Calgary to attend this major international conference.

Our AAPG 2005 session topic was chosen so that virtually any aspect of micropaleontology within any hydrocarbon basin from around the world could be included. The deadline for Abstract submission is November 12, 2004. We encourage you to present your data and interpretations, which we feel are important to understanding "Depositional Systems in Time and Space." Please note that last-day traffic for submissions is heavy and can cause "gridlock." If at all possible, don't procrastinate -- submit before the last day!

<http://www.aapg.org/calgary/index.cfm>

With best regards from co-chairs Dave McNeil and Pete McLaughlin,

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MEETING NEWS (cont.)

THE SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON AGGLUTINATED FORAMINIFERA (IWAF-7)

Urbino, Italy, October 2-8, 2005



IWAF VII

The Grzybowski Foundation and the Institute of Geology at "Carlo Bo" University of Urbino are pleased to announce the dates of the next International Workshop on Agglutinated Foraminifera. The workshop is open to all participants interested in the taxonomy, ecology, evolution and stratigraphy of the Agglutinated Foraminifera, and follows workshops previously held in Amsterdam, Vienna, Tübingen, Kraków, Plymouth, and Prague over the last 24 years. The workshop will consist of three days of technical sessions, followed by a field excursion in the spectacular Umbria-Marche Basin.

The meeting will be held in the Conference Room of the Campus Scientifico, University of Urbino, situated on the outskirts of the picturesque medieval city of Urbino, Italy. The conference room offers the most modern projection facilities, and lunchtime meals will be taken in cafeteria downstairs. Microscopes will be available for working groups and demonstration purposes.

Costs:

The registration fee for the conference is estimated to be no more than 120 euros, and a discount will be given to student participants. The Grzybowski Foundation will make available a limited number of travel grants for participants from eastern European countries. Accommodation will be at a local three-star hotel, at the discount rate of approximately 45 euros/night. The full details of the costs will be made available in the second circular.

Preliminary Program:

Sunday September 4 - arrival and welcoming reception
Monday September 5 - Wednesday Sept. 7 -

Technical Sessions

Wednesday September 7 - Conference Dinner

Thursday September 8 - Saturday September 10 -
Field Excursion.

Information and Registration:

Rodolfo Coccioni, Istituto di Geologia, Università degli Studi di Urbino "Carlo Bo", Campus Scientifico, I-67029 Urbino, Italy. [cron@info-net.it]

Mike Kaminski, UCL, [m.kaminski@ucl.ac.uk]

FIRST CONFERENCE ON MICROFOSSILS AROUND THE TETHYS MARGIN

The First Conference on the Microfossils Around the Tethys Margin was held in Tripoli, Libya on 3-5 October 2004. The conference organizer was Dr. Amar Gammudi (a_gammudi@yahoo.com) of the Libyan Petroleum Research Center (PRC). The conference was attended by scientists from the Mediterranean area, Australia, and North America, and subjects included biostratigraphy, chronostratigraphy, and paleoecology. Two field trips were held after the conference, one to the Al Khums area east of Tripoli to view Triassic to Quaternary outcrops and the Roman city of Leptis Magna, and another southwest of Tripoli to study Triassic to Tertiary outcrops in the eastern Jabal Nafusa area and NE of Al Hamada Al Hamra Area, Ghadamis Basin.

Dr. William N. Krebs

NEWS and NOTES

NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL NANNOPLANKTON ASSOCIATION (INA)

The International Nannoplankton Association is pleased to announce that David K. Watkins (University of Nebraska) was installed for a 4-year term as President on September 2, 2004 at the highly successful 10th biennial INA Conference in Lisbon, Portugal. Other new members on the Council are Giuliana Villa (Univ. Parma) and Alyssa Peleo-Alampay (Univ. of the Philippines). The next INA conference will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 2006.

The INA is also pleased to announce that Version 3 of its CD-ROM No. 1 entitled "Electronic Calcareous Nannofossils" was released at the meeting. Holders of previous versions of the CD may trade those in 1:1 for Version 3 free of charge to the U.S. Treasurer (see below) in order to obtain a free upgrade. This CD has proven to be highly popular and useful for professionals and students of micropaleontology in industry, academia and government service. Its NannoWare©/BugCam© package now contains two interactive, icon-driven digital-image catalogs of over 1000 Cenozoic calcareous-nannofossil taxa designed to assist the investigator working at the microscope with limited literature resources. The newest interactive database addition, called "Modern NannoWare©", is authored by Jeremy R. Young, Markus Geisen, Lluïsa Cros, Annelies Kleijne, Claudia Sprengel, Ian Probert, and Jette Buch Østergaard as

see INA NEWS, continued on page 6

NEWS and NOTES (cont.)

INA NEWS (cont. from pg 5)

adapted to the NannoWare/BugCam interface by Veronica Regalado, Olivia L. Swedberg, Mitch Covington, Bryan Ladner and S. W. Wise. A new zoom feature has been added to the interface so that images can be zoomed in and out.

Also included on the CD are:

- 1) The Cenozoic NannoWare© DataBase (over 500 fossil taxa).
- 2) BugCam© Version 2004.2.3 by J. Mitch Covington, proprietary software written for this CD to run the interactive databases; no other software is necessary to run it on the PC.
- 3) The Consolidated Taxonomic Index of Calcareous Nanoplankton.
- 4) The Consolidated Calcisphere Taxonomic Index.
- 5) The Consolidated Cenozoic and Mesozoic Bibliography (over 10,000 entries).
- 6) The Consolidated Silicoflagellate Bibliography.
- 7) Electronic Reprints of Calcareous Nannofossil Papers in PDF format
- 8) The Best of the INA Web Site.
- 9). An Introduction to the NannoWare/BugCam Package in an MS Power Point slide show.

One may order INA CD-Rom Ser. No. 1, Ver. 2004.8.3:

- 1) On line (via Pay Pal) at the INA Web Site (http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted_sites/ina/index.html).
- 2) From the US INA Treasurer, Dr. Stacia Spaulding (jrice@ludl.tds.net; +802-226-7897), 345 Meadowbrook Farm Road, Proctorsville, Vermont 05153, USA.

Cost: \$110 for INA members, \$150 for non-members, \$210 for institutions, libraries and industry consultants, \$3,000 for non-sponsor industry users (for distribution on any 5 computers; for a site license for unlimited use, \$5,000). Trade-ins of previous versions are free via the U.S. Treasurer.

RENOVATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

The Division of Invertebrate Paleontology of the University of Kansas Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center is embarking on a major renovation that will entail installation of a high-density storage system to expand our capacity. For much of the coming year most of the collections will be unavailable for study. The collection of type and figured specimens will be available, and space will allow us to retain some other parts of the collection for study. Paleontologists who anticipate needing to study parts of the collection should contact us as soon as possible in the hope that we can arrange to make available the specimens they need for study. We shall continue to receive material

now on loan that investigators wish to return.

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA MUSEUM OF PALEONTOLOGY, BERKELEY

The online UCMP specimen and localities databases for microfossils have been significantly enhanced after several years of gathering dust. Visitors to www.ucmp.berkeley.edu can now access detailed information on 17,000 slides (including 7223 types) and 6211 localities; monthly uploads of newly cataloged entries and additional data are scheduled. Also, we are now databasing the 10,572 localities that accompany the Loeblich and Tappan collection. Recent additions to the museum's holdings include donations from William Weaver (materials from southern California, Jamaica, and Venezuela) and Bob Lundin (Ellis and Messina Catalogue of Ostracoda, conodont collection from Nevada). UCMP is available to all micropaleontologists and palynologists as a permanent repository for slide collections accompanied by supporting data. Contact Ken Finger (www.kfinger@berkeley.edu, 510-643-2559) for further information.

NAMARWATCH - GETTING THERE

It is becoming increasingly clear - even to an optimistic 20th century foraminiferalogist like myself - that for an initiative such as NAMARWATCH to be successfully launched, managed and sustained, it will need to be shrouded by a thick layer of utilitarian science that appeals to a broad range of clients (public), politicians and funding agency bureaucrats alike. A contemporary example of a project that approaches the size and "flavor" of NAMARWATCH has recently been announced by NOAA's Conrad Lautenbacher. At the center of this NOAA and EPA supported initiative are 49 countries that have agreed to pool their various earth measurements for the next ten years to provide what Dr. Lautenbacher describes as a "full body scan" of the planet. The project's leaders speak of a series of pragmatic society-targeted outputs (e.g., improve weather forecasts, predict energy needs months in advance, anticipate disease outbreaks, and even tell fishers where the catch will be abundant - in other words, everybody wins). EPA's Michael Leavitt describes the project's benefits as being "limited only by our own imaginations....The challenge of the 21st century is to get people to work together [more effectively]." Adaptation of this marketing strategy to seafloor ecosystems using a NAMARWATCH approach can be easily envisaged (e.g., OCEANSHEALTH, OURSEASHEALTH, SUSTAINOCEANS). Another provocative science-driven idea that is presently receiving attention focuses on climate and/or anthropogenically-forced regional ecosystems "shifts". These so called "regime shifts" can occur, for example, when changes in

see NAMARWATCH, continued on page 7

NAMARWATCH (cont.)

ocean conditions impact plankton production because such an event would likely be propagated up the food chain. An article published in the June issue of *Sea Technology* notes that well-documented regime shifts have been observed in both NE Pacific and North Sea zooplankton populations. I am confident that modern benthic foraminifera populations would be ideal and credible sentinels of seafloor ecosystems regime shifts.

Clues about the attitudes, policies and perspectives of some of the government agencies that would likely be involved in the launch of a NAMARWATCH-type program have been succinctly summarized in a 2000 Ocean Studies Board, U.S. NRC publication entitled *Bridging Boundaries Through Regional Marine Research*. This work details the deliberations and findings of the Committee on the Assessment of Regional Marine Research Programs (CARMRP). In the following paragraphs, I would like to share a few of the thoughts that I extracted from that book. The majority of them can probably be applied in the planning of any large-scale (i.e., regional) ocean science initiative that is intended to have a life span of several decades (e.g., the Ocean Drilling Program), and to one that depends on a good measure of government support to be sustainable throughout its intended operational period.

The Committee's report points out that "Regional marine research presents special challenges in its planning and implementation, but it is essential for resolving urgent and serious problems of the coastal ocean." It goes on to stress the importance of having regional research/monitoring programs structured, planned and implemented for the long term. Regional-scale programs are deemed necessary to develop new knowledge on how events are propagated from one scale to another, and to provide a mechanism to bridge the gap between local process studies and global-scale observations. Several examples, such as the Land Margin Ecosystem Research Program (LMER) are used by the Committee to demonstrate the benefits of sustained environmental monitoring (i.e., being able to isolate the influence of human activities from inter-annual natural environmental variability).

According to the CARMRP, key elements of regional-scale research and monitoring programs require structuring that meets the needs of scientists, managers, politicians and the public. As such, projects should: (1) combine "bottom-up" and "top-down approaches (2) develop public and political awareness of the need for regional-scale programs (3) promote multi-agency and poly-level coordination between federal, state and municipal governments and (4) aim for guaranteed, predictable and sustainable funding through frameworks such as the National Ocean Partnership Program (NOPP). Of primary importance is the coordination of regional-scale programs such as NAMARWATCH through one key agency at the national level (e.g., NOAA). Unfortunately, the CARMRP concluded that previous NOAA programs have not been successful in fulfilling the goals that it had envisioned for regional research. It goes on to state that it is NOAA's responsibility to provide leadership in developing regional marine research programs, and that it must take the lead in promoting interagency cooperation and coordination at the federal level - "and muster the assets of the many interested organizations at the local and state levels." Personally, I cannot imagine NOAA taking that course in regard to NAMARWATCH without some pressure from a concerted "grass roots" lobbying effort by the micropaleontology community. In their conclusions, the CARMRP reflects that "It is unlikely that NOAA can implement the recommendations in this report unless senior NOAA management designate responsibility for regional marine research to a single office" within its organization. It's been about 3.5 years since the CARMRP report was released but I have no idea if this recommendation was ever acted upon? One of NOAA's recent manifestations of the CARMRP recommendations may be the ten year long NOAA/EPA "planet analysis" program described above?

Governance issues arising from the CARMRP report focus on planning which they say must involve stakeholders at the local, state and regional levels in order to develop programs that address regional needs. Coordination and collaborations will also be needed among various agencies at the state and federal levels to provide the capacity to plan and support regional-scale research. Mechanisms must be established to enable federal and multi-state collaboration in the allocation of funds for regional-scale research and monitoring programs.

Achieving the goal of establishing one or more regional-scale and coastal zone-focused NAMARWATCH-type programs would involve the exploitation of both the rich North American data base on modern benthic foraminifera

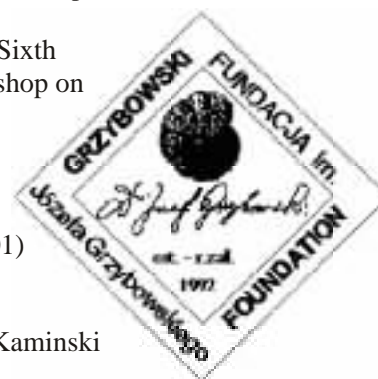
distributions and ecology, and a large proportion of total human resource of North American foraminiferal ecologists. Although the micropaleontological community appears to have a good command of the science, the logistics and planning of an effective NAMARWATCH-type program will require a significant expenditure of intellectual energy that may be at the same order of magnitude as that would be needed for the research and data interpretation itself. Naturally, I continue to wonder if the North American micropaleontological community will ever be in the mood to take up this challenge?

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NEW BOOK

Available exclusively through the Grzybowski Foundation
Publication Date: April, 2004
Grzybowski Foundation Special Publication no. 8, 2004

Proceedings of the Sixth
International Workshop on
Agglutinated
Foraminifera
(Prague, Czech
Republic,
September 1-7, 2001)



Edited by:
M. Bubík & M.A. Kaminski

This Atlas-format hard-cover book presents the scientific results of the IWAF-6. The 30 contributions (485 pp. with 82 plates) 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 at this special sale price (individuals only), please fill in the attached order form. Libraries will receive an invoice when the book is mailed.

Libraries: £ 49.00 (\$89.00)
Sale Price (Individuals) : £ 40.00 (\$75.00)

Order Form

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Send orders to: Michael A. Kaminski, 3 Boyne Avenue, Hendon, London, NW4 2JL, U.K. Pre-payment requested (Pound sterling or US dollar cheque). - Make cheque payable to "Grzybowski Foundation".

TOWARDS AN INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STRATIGRAPHIC GEOLOGISTS

As chair of the International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS) I would like welcome the new journal 'Stratigraphy', as an important addition to geoscience periodicals and to look ahead to cooperating in new developments in the organisation of our science. Before I get to this point, however, allow me to state briefly what ICS is and what it stands for (I quote from the ICS statutes, as posted on www.stratigraphy.org):



'ICS is a body of expert stratigraphers founded for the purpose of promoting and coordinating long-term international cooperation and of establishing and maintaining standards in stratigraphy'. Its principal objectives are:

- (a) the establishment and publication of a standard global stratigraphic time scale and the preparation and publication of global correlation charts, with explanatory notes,
- (b) the compilation and maintenance of a stratigraphic database center for the global earth sciences,
- (c) the unification of regional chronostratigraphic nomenclature by organizing and documenting stratigraphic units on a global data base,
- (d) the promotion of education in stratigraphic methods, and the dissemination of stratigraphic knowledge,
- (e) the evaluation of new stratigraphic methods and their integration into a multidisciplinary stratigraphy, and
- (f) the definition of principles of stratigraphic classification, terminology and procedure, and their publication in guides and glossaries.

The scientific activities shall be carried out through projects or meetings arranged in collaboration with IUGS-affiliated organizations, IUGS-joint programs, non-governmental bodies and inter-governmental bodies.

The strength of ICS comes from the support and participation of leaders in stratigraphic science, who provide solid academic standards, high levels of expertise, and wide international representation. ICS is one of the most important activities of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), and provides a wide range of basic data and information on its popular website www.stratigraphy.org. It also maintains links to other important projects such as Chronos, Norges, ICGP and IODP, and works closely with stratigraphic activities in national geological surveys and the petroleum industry.

In recent years, although ICS has made good progress with standardizing the essential framework of stratigraphy in such areas as GSSP's, stratigraphic charts, and the 2004 Global Time Scale, much work remains to be done. Organisationally, ICS can be criticised for becoming bogged down in philosophical debates about stratigraphic nomenclature, or that it has a non-business mentality, often ignoring funding potential of its activities and products. Its greatest weakness, however, is that ICS does not have a coherent structure, but rather is made up of a loose bundle of subcommissions, each dedicated to its own stratigraphic periods. Each subcommission attracts its own specialists whose attention is naturally directed to Cambrian, Jurassic or Quaternary - but not on the goals and interests of the ICS as a whole.

Hence, ICS has two challenges, one scientific, and one organisational.

The scientific challenge to ICS is to complete the modernisation of stratigraphic standards as soon as possible, so that the profession can go

forward with improvements in geological process-oriented stratigraphy. Better resolution in the history of global change, as seen through the eyes of a dynamic stratigraphy that focuses on the hitherto unresolvable global records of high-frequency geological processes, is an exciting and socially responsible goal for the international stratigraphic community. In this human era, global changes and global environmental challenges are ever more pressing issues. Stratigraphy can play a vital and unique role in this, if the evidence in the strata can be unravelled and correlated to a level of detail and accuracy that allows deep historical insight into the short term forces that drive global changes. We at ICS see advances in geological process-oriented stratigraphy as a meaningful new mandate, and one that will greatly improve resolution in the Geological Time Scale as well.

The organisational challenge to ICS is to find a way to bring stratigraphers together to work towards the general good of the profession, and to adopt business models that will support and improve international stratigraphy. This brings me to my main point. Rather than changing the organisational structure of ICS itself, which has evolved to efficiently serve its highly successful scientific program, I am taking this opportunity to propose the formation of a new independent professional group, the International Association of Stratigraphic Geologists, or IASG, for all who work in the stratigraphic disciplines. The IASG would work closely with ICS, in support of its role as the international monitor of stratigraphic standards, but would function as a fellowship and business organization like the International Association of Mathematical Geologists (IAMG) and the Society for Sedimentary Geology (SEPM).

As I see it, the IASG would naturally become the central organisation for stratigraphers worldwide. It should be self-financing with a small membership fee, and have its own constitution. It would have close affiliation to key journals such as *Stratigraphy*, and would offer special student membership, professional and student prizes for achievements in stratigraphy, and special meetings and conferences. The association would distribute and sell its own products, such as stratigraphic guides, CD's with regional and standard biozonations, time scale cards and charts, stratigraphic text books, journal(s), teaching compendia, slide series, stratigraphic highway guide books, index fossil collections, and so on. The IASG should have a publication and distribution office, something that ICS totally lacks, with the direct result that ICS has been unable to attract sufficient funding for its fragmented sphere of interest and activities. In this way ICS and IASG can work closely together, but IASG will be able to look beyond the limited mandate of ICS, as I have outlined above.

In September 2005 in Leuven, ICS will hold the third meeting of its series, "The Future of Stratigraphy". The first meeting, in Urbino, was for chairs of ICS subcommissions, and the second meeting was the open IGC workshop during the 32nd IGC in Florence. The Leuven 2005 workshop will follow the successful Urbino format. A fourth, open, workshop will be in Oslo in 2008 during the 33rd IGC. The goal of creating the International Association of Stratigraphic Geologists will be at the top of the agenda in Leuven, and a special task group is formulating its goals and guidelines right now. For all who are reading this, we welcome your thoughts on this subject! Please contact me personally or via our [stratigraphy.org](http://www.stratigraphy.org) website!

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FINAL CIRCULAR



An International Conference
In Memory of Garry D. Jones
Geological Problem Solving with Microfossils

March 6-11, 2005
Rice University, Houston, Texas USA

SPONSORS

- North American Micropaleontology Section of SEPM (host organization)
- Gulf Coast Section SEPM
- SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology)
- The Micropaleontological Society
- American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists
- International Nannofossil Association
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- 17 Corporate and Association Donors
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- Pander Society
- International Commission on Stratigraphy
- The Micropaleontology Project (Micropress)
- Geology Department, Rice University

PURPOSE

- Bringing together a diverse array of geoscientists to showcase the problem solving power of microfossils in a variety of geological settings

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Geoscientists wanting to learn more about the geological application of microfossils
- Professionals in microfossils from industry, academia, museums, and government agencies
- Students

• Visit the official Conference Website www.sepm.org/microfossils2005.htm for detailed information

• Registration ends **February 15th, 2005** via the website

- Registration fee US\$250 Professional, US\$125 Students. Late registration US\$300. One-day registration US\$125
- Registration includes admittance to all technical sessions and social events, plus abstracts volume

• Hotel reservations required by **February 4th, 2005** via the hotel website www.warwickhotelhouston.com

- Enter Group Code "Micro" to receive the special conference room rate

Direct all inquiries by e-mail to Thomas Demchuk (Thomas.D.Demchuk@conocophillips.com)

Microfossil images courtesy of The Natural History Museum (London), Mitch Covington, and Gulf Coast Section SEPM

ICEBREAKER (March 6)

- Warwick Hotel, Terrace Lounge

FORUM (March 7-9)

- 2.5-day conference
- Over 60 Oral and Poster presentations
- Invited papers
- 2004 Time Scale Roundtable Discussion

PLENARY DINNER (March 8)

- Houston Museum of Natural Science
- Tribute to Garry Jones
- Guest Speaker, IMAX Theater

SEPM FIELDTRIP (March 10-11)

- Upper Cretaceous Stratigraphy of Central Texas
- Cost US\$295, includes meals and accommodations

PUBLICATIONS

- Conference program with abstracts
- Post-conference SEPM Special Publication

IODP



Apply to Sail in IODP:

For current operations schedules, expedition information, and application forms and instructions for U.S. Scientists go to the U.S. Science Support Program (http://www.joiscience.org/USSSP/CruiseApps/sailing_info.html).

Japanese Scientists can apply to sail through the Japan Drilling Earth Science Consortium (J-DESC http://www.aesto.or.jp/j-desc/english/researcher_bosyu_e.html)

European Scientists can apply to sail through the European Consortium for Oceanographic Research Drilling (ECORD - <http://www.geo.vu.nl/%7Eessac/>) Science Support Advisory Committee.

The Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) is an international scientific research endeavor which began October 1, 2003. IODP will be a multi-platform operation involving a riserless drilling vessel (JOIDES Resolution), a riser drilling vessel (Chikyu), and mission-specific platforms (currently Vidar Viking). Three Implementing Organizations (IOs) in the USA, Japan, and Europe will serve as “science operators” of the various ships and platforms.

Expedition Name	Port (Origin)	Tentative Dates	Days at Sea (transit/operations)	Description
Ocean Core Complex I	Ponta Delgada	17 November - January 8, 2005	7/40	Drill two sites on the MAR, to document the conditions under which oceanic core complexes develop and characterize the nature of the alteration front within oceanic peridotite.
Ocean Core Complex II	Ponta Delgada	8 January - 2 March, 2005	7/40	
North Atlantic II	Ponta Delgada	2 March - 25 April, 2005	7/40	Continuation of North Atlantic I. Also, install a borehole observatory in ODP Hole 642E to investigate bottom water temperature histories.
Transit	Reykjavik	25 April – 13 May, 2005	15/0	
Demobilization	Galveston	13 May – 4 June, 2005	0/0	End of Phase 1

Mission Specific Platform Expeditions				
Tahiti Sea Level Expedition	tbd	June to August 2005 Anticipated	tbd	To establish the course and effects of the last deglaciation in Tahiti (French Polynesia), a reef setting developed in tectonically inactive area located far away from glaciated regions.

Routine expeditions of the riser vessel Chikyu will begin in 2007 after sea trials and test cruises

NAMS Mobil FOUNDATION TRAVEL GRANT (cont.)

KAHN, cont. from page 2

ance in the chemostratigraphic record. Nonetheless, corroboration of the CIE's duration by other means is necessary; some sites have increased/decreased sedimentation rates, truncated sections, or isotopic signals that are difficult to interpret. We found that the RD correlates precisely with the CIE. These unusual nannoplankton (*Rhomboaster calcitrapa*, *R. spineus*, *R. cuspis*, *Discoaster araneus*, *D. anartios*) appear only during the CIE, first appearing at the negative apex of the CIE, and then declining to extinction as carbon isotope values return to pre-excursion values. It is this acme and following decline that can be a powerful aid in stratigraphic correlation as a substitute for chemostratigraphic data. Using the RD, we are able to correlate Paleocene/Eocene boundary sections from the Tethys and

Atlantic realm, demonstrating how integrated chemobiostratigraphy enhances stratigraphic correlation with a resolution of 20 k.y. Our research indicates that choosing a specific temporally provincial assemblage out of the whole for attention is invaluable for interpretation of stratigraphic sections.

I would like to thank NAMS and the Mobil Foundation for selecting my abstract for presentation at AAPG last spring. It was a very informative conference, and it is partially a result of the award and subsequent conference that I will be doing an internship with Chevron-Texaco this coming summer.

2004 GSA Annual Meeting

November 7-10

Denver, Colorado

Selected Highlights

Geologic Time and CHRONOS: Databases, Tools, Outreach, Education, and the Geoinformatics Revolution (Posters)

Sunday, November 7, 2004, 1:30 PM-5:30 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Exhibit Hall

Frontier in Understanding the Geologic Record of Climate Change: A Session in Honor of William W. Hay (Posters)

Monday, November 8, 2004, 1:30 PM-5:30 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Exhibit Hall

Paleoclimatology/Paleoceanography (Posters)

Monday, November 8, 2004, 1:30 PM-5:30 PM, Colorado Convention Center: Exhibit Hall

Protistan Paleobiodiversity: Understanding Evolutionary Patterns

Tuesday, November 9, 2004, 1:30 PM-5:30 PM, Colorado Convention Center: 104/106

Cushman / Chronos Award Ceremony & Reception

Tuesday, November 9, 2004, 7:00 PM-11:00 PM, Hyatt, Mount Evans A

RENEWAL FORM

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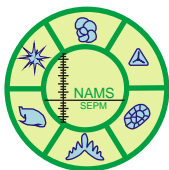
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Thanks!

The next issue of NAMS News will be published before the 2005 AAPG Annual Meeting. Please send news to the Editor through June 1, 2004. 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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