

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

First of all, I would like to thank Pete McLaughlin for serving as NAMS President and for the help he continues to offer to me personally and to the organization. He will continue to be a member of the NAMS board as Past-President along with our President-elect Nancy Engelhardt-Moore, Martin Farley, Robert Nail and Jason Lundquist. Also thanks to Mimi Katz who completed her 3 years of service to NAMS. Mimi was instrumental in increasing the effort to recruit student membership and I'm pleased to report that we now have over 70 student members!

Only two offices are up for reelection this round, the President-Elect and Secretary. Two candidates have accepted the nomination for President-Elect, Tony D'Agostino of Omni Laboratories and Ron Waszczak of ConocoPhillips. Josh Miller of Paleo-Data and Rob Campbell of Shell International Exploration and Production, Inc. have accepted the nomination for Secretary. You will find a ballot for the election enclosed in this news letter. Please vote and return your ballots to our Secretary, Robert Nail, by January 15, 2006.

Congratulations are due to this year's recipient of the Mobile Foundation travel grant, Maria Auxilio Esparza Alvarez. She will have an opportunity to present her work

at next year's AAPG in the Student Poster Session. Also, students, you are encouraged to apply for the Garry Jones Memorial Grant for NAMS Student Research. Additional information for this grant is found in this newsletter.



At the annual AAPG-SEPM Meeting in Calgary, NAMS hosted a combined meeting of the SEPM Quantitative Stratigraphy Group and the Marine Micropaleontology Research Group. The first speaker, Ron Waszczak, the industry advisor to CHRONOS, gave us an excellent overview of this NSF funded interactive and time-calibrated network of databases. Please take the opportunity to check out the CHRONOS website. You'll be impressed with the quantity and variety of data. The second speaker was Dr. Godfrey S. Nowland of the Geological Survey of Canada. He presented a very engaging talk entitled "Great Canadian Fossils: A journey Though Deep Time", providing us with an overview of fossils of interest through time in Canada.

The conference at Rice University was definitely a high point for NAMS in 2005. The successful conference continues to live on in a

see PRESIDENT'S LETTER, continued on page 2

## SEPM SPECIAL PUBLICATION

### SEPM SPECIAL PUBLICATION DEDICATED TO GARRY JONES

It is my pleasure to announce that the Editors of SEPM Special Publications has given their formal approval for an SEPM Special Publication, "Geologic Problem Solving with Microfossils". This volume will contain selected papers from the recent SEPM Research Conference of the same name that took place in March 2005, at Rice University in Houston, Texas, in honor of our colleague Garry Jones. Co-editors of the Special Publication will be myself along with Dr. Tony Gary of the Energy and Geoscience Institute, University of Utah, Salt Lake City.

A first request for papers in the spring garnered 33 volunteers to submit manuscripts based on their presentations at the March conference. These authors have all been forwarded the updated SEPM Guide to

Authors, which must be followed in finalizing the format of the manuscript. Authors have also been given an opportunity to update their abstracts, which they must submit to the co-editors by November 31st. Alternatively, they may simply use the same abstract used for the March conference. This will allow us to organize the manuscripts into proper topics for the Special Publication, and also allow us to think about potential referees.

The deadline for submission of manuscripts for the Special Publication is now set as February 28th, 2006. It is hoped that the final volume can be ready for printing in late 2006 or early 2007. If there are any authors who presented papers at the March conference who have not told us of their desire to submit a manuscript, please feel free to contact myself or Tony Gary.

Regards,  
Thomas D. Demchuk

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER (cont.)

number of exciting ways. The first item of good news is the final financial report indicating the total net income to be an astounding \$32,037.21! These funds will be added to the Garry Jones Memorial Fund enabling us to significantly increase the size of the award. Also, Thomas Demchuk reports that the Special Publication, "Geologic Problem Solving with Microfossils", containing select papers from the conference, is underway and targeted for publication in late 2006 or early 2007. So far 33 volunteers have agreed to submit their manuscripts for the volume. More details relating to the special publication can be found in this newsletter. We give a big thank you to Thomas and Tony Gary, who are serving as co-editors for the publication.

Plans for 2006 include two sessions sponsored by SEPM/NAMS at the April, 2006 AAPG meeting in Houston. The oral session entitled "Integrating Biostratigraphy into Geologic Models" contains papers from a wide variety of fossil groups and applications from around the world. The poster session, "CHRONOS: Constraining the Geologic Record, contains presentations that will feature the utilities and applications of the CHRONOS System. As usual we are also planning to hold a Marine Micropaleontology Research Group meeting.

Finally, I know 2005 has been a challenging year for many of our Gulf Coast NAMS members. I've heard many fascinating hurricane related anecdotes, which would be of interest to our membership. I encourage you to submit your stories to the editor for a special section in the next NAMS News. I'll close with a wish for a Happy Holiday Season and a successful 2006!

Jim Gamber  
NAMS President

## TRAVEL GRANT AWARDED

### 2006 AAPG MOBIL TRAVEL GRANT AWARD

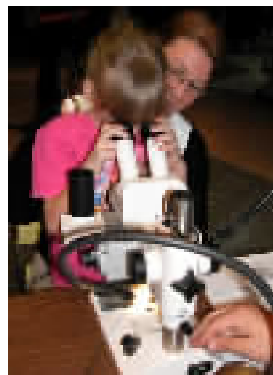
Thanks to the generosity of the Mobil Foundation, SEPM sections are able to offer a SEPM Student Participation Grant for students to contribute to the annual national SEPM/AAPG meeting. This program, which began in 1998, allows nominees from each section to present his/her work in a "Best Student Poster Awards" session at the meeting and provides a generous grant to support the student's travel expenses. Participation in SEPM/AAPG Annual Meetings provides a great opportunity for students to be exposed to the wide variety of basic and applied science presented in the technical sessions and to make professional contacts early in their careers.

We were pleased to nominate Maria Auxilio Esparza Alvarez to represent NAMS at the upcoming 2006 Annual Meeting Houston, TX (April 9-12, 2006). Ms. Esparza is a doctoral student at the Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada (CICESE), Baja California, México, and will present a poster entitled "Interdecadal variability in the southern part of the California Current for the last century: Diatom assemblages from laminated sediments in San Lázaro Basin." We encourage all NAMS members who attend AAPG to visit the student poster session and see the interesting work that Ms. Esparza has been doing.

## HHGS-EARTH SCIENCE WEEK

### NAMS MEMBERS PARTICIPATED HGS-EARTH SCIENCE WEEK FESTIVAL 2005

Each October beginning on the first Saturday in the month, the Houston Geological Society hosts its annual Earth Science Week (ESW) festival at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. This year the activities began on Saturday, October 8th at 12 Noon with an opening ceremony that



kicked off the event in the Pendulum Hall in front of the newly renovated Weiss Energy Hall. ESW activities at the museum included an energy passport contest, hands-on demonstrations, and Scout activities and programs at the World Energy Theater. Participating for the fifth consecutive year, the Gulf Coast section of SEPM hosted one of the most popular "Passport Stations". Several NAMS members

including Jim Gamber, Nancy Engelhardt-Moore and Tony D'Agostino volunteered their time to show microfossils to children of all ages. Other volunteers included Jory Pacht, Janie D'Agostino and Bob Moore. The volunteers

spoke about paleontology, paleoecology, geology and other subjects to hundreds of visitors at the museum. Upon seeing microfossils for the first time, exclamations like cool and awesome were common. Most visitors associated dinosaurs with the subject of paleontology, so they were truly amazed at the beauty and diversity of microfossils. As usual the event was a huge success and you never know when someone might be inspired to be a micropaleontologist!



Children got a taste of micropaleontology during HGS-Earth Sciences Week

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### TREASURER'S REPORT

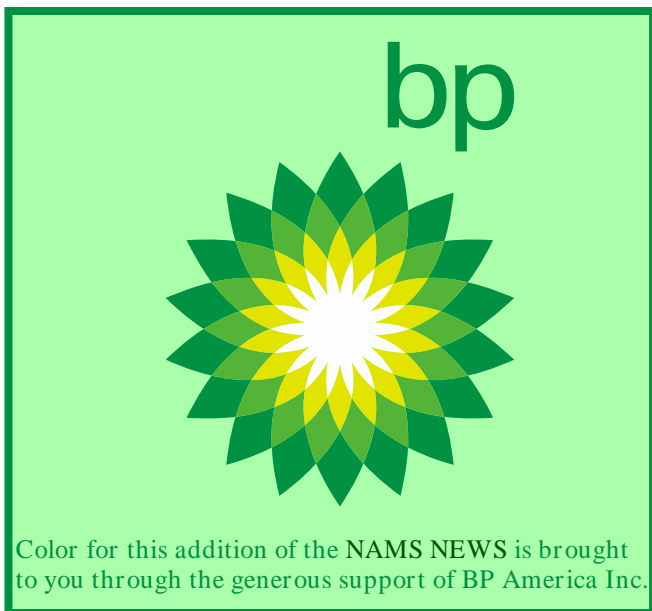
As of 1 October 2005, the NAMS treasury contained about \$10,730. Since my last report in June, NAMS received \$348 from member dues and interest. Expenditures were negligible. Because AAPG was relatively late this year (and our spring newsletter came out later than usual), expenses normally reported in the fall newsletter were covered by my last report. You might want to use my report on the latest year below as a more reasonable guide to NAMS finances.

For the last 12 months, receipts totaled \$1204 and expenditures \$1370, principally the newsletter and the student research award. 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 members to look at the number on their mailing labels to see through which year their dues are paid. If you aren't paid through 2005, we would appreciate your payment to bring your membership to date.

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](http://www.micropress.org) for further information.

--Martin Farley, NAMS Treasurer  
Oct 2005



## NAMS/SEPM OFFICERS

President  
James H. Gamber  
BP America Inc.  
501 Westlake Park Blvd.  
Houston TX, 77079  
(281) 366-7863  
[gamberjh@bp.com](mailto:gamberjh@bp.com)



President-Elect  
Nancy L. Engelhardt-Moore  
GeoFix-it Consulting  
12315 Shadowvista Dr.  
Houston, TX 77082-7309  
(281) 497-5261 (H); 713-286-5843 (W)  
[nengelhardt-moore@houston.rr.com](mailto:nengelhardt-moore@houston.rr.com)



Secretary  
Robert Nail  
823 Thicket  
Houston, TX 77079  
(281) 556-6212  
[casadenail@ev1.net](mailto:casadenail@ev1.net)



Treasurer  
Martin B. Farley  
Geology & Geography  
University of North Carolina at Pembroke  
Pembroke, NC 28372  
(910) 521-6478  
[mbfarley@sigmaxi.org](mailto:mbfarley@sigmaxi.org)



Newsletter Editor  
Jason J. Lundquist  
BP America Inc.  
501 Westlake Park Blvd.  
Houston TX, 77079  
(281) 366-5708 [lundqujj@bp.com](mailto:lundqujj@bp.com)



Past-President  
Peter P. McLaughlin, Jr.  
Delaware Geological Survey  
University of Delaware, DGS Building  
Newark DE 19716-7501  
(302) 831-8263  
[ppmclau@udel.edu](mailto:ppmclau@udel.edu)



### NAMS NEWSLETTER ADVISORS

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

NAMS NEWS is published two times a year, just before the GSA meeting in the fall and AAPG meeting in the spring, by NAMS. Submissions are always welcome. Copyright 2005.

# MEETING CALENDAR

2005 25th Bob F. Perkins  
Research Conference  
Petroleum Systems of Divergent  
Continental Margin Basins  
December 4-7, 2005  
Houston, Texas



Interrad XI: Radiolarians  
Stratigraphy & Paleoceanography  
11th Meeting of the International  
Association of Radiolaria  
Paleontologists



Circum-Pacific Triassic Stratigraphy  
& Correlation  
A symposium hosted by IGCP 467 and STS  
Wellington, New Zealand,  
March 2006  
<http://www.gns.cri.nz/interrad/>

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



International Nannoplankton  
Association Conference  
INA11  
September, 2006.  
Lincoln, Nebraska, USA.  
[http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted\\_site/s/ina/INA2004.x-html](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted_site/s/ina/INA2004.x-html)



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



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



The Gulf Coast Association of  
Geological Societies & LIOGA's  
Gulf Coast Prospect Expo 2006  
Convention  
Visualize the Possibilities

September 25 - 27, 2006  
Lafayette, LA



Geological Society of  
America Annual Meeting  
October 22-25, 2006  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

AASP 39th Annual  
Meeting,  
October 22-25, 2006  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Meeting jointly with GSA



American Association of Petro-  
leum Geologists 2007 Annual  
Meeting  
April 1-4, 2007  
Long Beach, California

Geological Society of America  
Annual Meeting  
October 28-31, 2007  
Denver, Colorado

## CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

25TH ANNUAL GCSSEPM FOUNDATION  
BOB F. PERKINS RESEARCH CONFERENCE

PETROLEUM SYSTEMS OF DIVERGENT  
CONTINENTAL MARGIN BASINS  
December 4-7 2005, Houston Marriott Westchase

The majority of recent and projected future discoveries of giant hydrocarbon fields occur in petroleum systems associated with divergent continental margin basins. Consequently, an improved understanding of these basins is increasingly important as targets are sought in what may be the last exploration frontiers capable of holding giant reserves.

Divergent continental margin basins typically exhibit rift, rift-to-drift, and passive margin stages in their evolution; major accumulations occur in each of these stages. As the location and type of traps and petroleum systems vary with basin location and stage of evolution, an analysis of each stage provides a framework focusing on the evolution of the architectural development and stratigraphic progression that may be used as analogs and applied to other basins in similar stages of development.

Currently 51 papers have been accepted for oral presentation and 3 papers for poster-only presentation. As in the past, our registration fees will include conference CD, ice breaker, meals, and refreshments. A listing of papers and abstracts will be posted on the GCSSEPM website.

For More Information, Check the Web Site at  
[www.gcssepm.org](http://www.gcssepm.org) or call the Foundation Headquarters at  
281-586-0833.

## GARRY JONES AWARD

SOLICITATION FOR STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD

The North American Micropaleontological Section (NAMS) of SEPM is pleased to announce the availability of the 2006 Garry Jones Memorial Grant for NAMS Student Research. The Garry Jones Grant is a \$1500 annual award available to one NAMS student member to support research with a substantial micropaleontological component. The student's research must involve one or more of the subdisciplines of micropaleontology such as foraminifera, nannofossils, diatoms, radiolaria, pollen, dinoflagellates, or conodonts. Projects may apply micropaleontology to traditional fields such as biostratigraphy, paleoecology, and paleoceanography, or to rapidly expanding fields such as biogeochemistry and geomicrobiology. Proposals will be ranked by the NAMS Council of Officers based on scientific merit, faculty recommendation, and financial need. The grant will partially support a M.S. or Ph.D. research project that is not funded through other major grants. Applicants must be student members of NAMS.

The 2005 Garry Jones Memorial Grant was awarded to Tyler W. Beatty, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Geology and Geophysics at the University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

## GARRY JONES AWARD (cont.)

Mr. Beatty's research examines the Permian-Triassic extinction and recovery dynamics along the northwest margin of Pangea from conodont biostratigraphy and trace fossil analysis.

To apply, interested students should submit two required award application forms (Forms A and B) along with a two- to three-page summary of his/her research, a curriculum vitae, and a budget. A supporting letter of reference from the applicant's faculty advisor must be provided separately to the address below. Please note that travel to meetings or conferences are not supported by this award.

Application forms may be requested from the address below. Proposals should be submitted by February 1, 2006 and directed to the same address. The awardee will be notified by March 15, 2006.

Address for applications and submittals:  
 Dr. Peter P. McLaughlin, Jr.  
 Senior Scientist, Delaware Geological Survey  
 University of Delaware  
 DGS Building  
 Newark DE 19716-7501  
 Phone: (302) 831-8263  
 Fax: (302) 831-3579  
 E-mail: ppmclau@udel.edu

## ONE HUNDRED YEARS?

### ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF MICROPALAEONTOLOGY?

Does this year mark the One-Hundredth Anniversary of University Teaching in Micropaleontology?

You can always depend on the Grzybowski Foundation to supply a slow, but steady stream of Micropalaeontological trivia. Who taught the first University-Level course entitled "Micropaleontology"?

A few years ago, as I was researching the biography of the Polish Micropalaeontologist Jozef Grzybowski, I visited the Archives of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. I was pleased to find that the lists of courses taught in each department were dutifully preserved, in chronological order. The first undergraduate course entitled "Mikropaleontologia" taught by Dr. Grzybowski appeared on the course list for the 1905-1906 Academic year.

Was this the first University-level course taught on the subject? I would invite colleagues (especially in Germany and Austria) to advise me on this matter.

Mike Kaminski (UCL)

## NAMS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

### 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.

2005 or later - dues are paid up  
 2004 - please pay \$10.00 for 2004 dues  
 2003 - please pay \$10.00 for 2003 dues, \$10.00 for 2004 dues, and \$.50 late fee.  
 2002 - you must pay \$31.00 this year or you will be dropped from membership!!

**PLEASE RENEW NOW  
BEFORE YOU FORGET!**

remit to:  
 NAMS, SEPM  
 Martin Farley, Treasurer  
 Geology & Geography  
 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 JM renewal so we can credit your account.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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

AFFILIATION \_\_\_\_\_

NEW APPLICATION?  Y  N

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

MICROPALAEONTOLOGY SUBSCRIBER?  
 (enclose JM renewal)  Y  N

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR STATUS

COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_

- a) student (please provide information about your interests/project and, if you would like, any career goals or directions you might wish to share).
- b) academic/government professional
- c) industry professional
- d) retired/consultant/self-employed/other

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

FAX \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSE A CHECK PAYABLE TO NAMS,SEPM FOR  
 \$10.00 each year of membership  
 \$0.50 each late penalty (dues prior to 2005)

SPECIALIZATIONS \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Thanks!

## CANDIDATES FOR NAMS PRESIDENT

Anthony D'Agostino is currently a Geologic Advisor for OMNI Laboratories in Houston. He has been wrestling with the mysteries of the micropaleontologic realm for over 25 years. Tony has held research and operational support positions for Atlantic Richfield, TD Geoscience, Petroleum Geoservices (PGS), and OMNI, in both the domestic and international areas.



Tony acquired his B.S. in geology from Illinois St. University in 1978, and his M.S. from Northern Illinois University in 1980. Since completing his graduate research on Neogene benthic forams of the Ross Sea Antarctica, his attention has been focused on projects in bio-, litho-, and sequence stratigraphy, clastic and carbonate sedimentology, and reservoir characterization. The common thread through these projects has been utilization of existing biostratigraphic data and the generation of new data as frequently as possible. Some of his major projects include studies of the Miocene sand systems of the Gulf of Mexico, the Paleogene Wilcox Group of the Gulf Coast, Oligocene of the Burgos Basin in Mexico, the Eocene Misoa Fm. of west-central Venezuela, and several Paleozoic intervals of the Permian Basin and the U.S. mid-continent. He has published (singly or with co-authors) research studies on biostratigraphy of the Miocene-Recent in the Ross Sea, Early and Middle Eocene sequence biostratigraphy of south and central Texas, foram biostratigraphy of the Cretaceous and Cenozoic of the northwestern Pacific, fusulinid biostratigraphy in the Big Hatchet Mountains of New Mexico, and the cycle stratigraphy and depositional environments of the Abo Formation in West Texas and New Mexico. Tony has also published papers on the sedimentology, petrography, and ichnofossils of the Wilcox Fm. of Texas and the Jackfork Group in the Ouachita Mtns. of Arkansas.

Some of the biostratigraphic and micropaleontologic highlights include working on fossil material from Antarctica, studying the seriously challenging Lower Tertiary foram fauna of the Gulf Coast, sixty-two days as shipboard foram specialist on DSDP Leg 86 (Shatsky Rise and NW Pacific), and my tutelage in conodonts under Drs. Ray Ethington and Jim Barrick.

Over the past 2.5 decades Tony has been leader or co-leader of numerous ARCO, AAPG, and SEPM field trips. He served as technical program chairman for the West Texas Geological Society, secretary, 2nd Vice-President, and President of the Permian Basin Section of the SEPM, program chair for the 1995 Carbonate Symposium of the PBS-SEPM. He was Secretary for the North American Micropaleontology Section of SEPM (NAMS) from 1996-2000. Tony served the Gulf Coast Section of the SEPM as Vice-President (2000), President-Elect (2001) and President (2002). He is a member of AAPG, SEPM (national, Gulf Coast, and Permian Basin sections), West Texas Geological Society, Houston Geological Society, the Pander Society, and of course, NAMS.

Ron F. Waszczak is Staff Biostratigrapher for ConocoPhillips' Subsurface Technology Group and is located in Houston, Texas. His expertise is in the application of principally foraminifera and calcareous nannofossils, but also fusulinids, conodonts and palynomorphs, to solve problems in the exploration, appraisal and production of oil and gas.



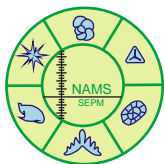
He has been primarily responsible to serve Business Unit and Central Technology organizations which focus on: offshore deepwater Gulf of Mexico; onshore Gulf Coast; Lower 48 mid-continent; offshore areas of Venezuela, Trinidad and Barbados; and the Beaufort Mackenzie Basin, Canada. Ron has additional experience in the San Joaquin and Sacramento Basins of California, the Humbolt and Eel River Basins of the Pacific Northwest, the Gulf of Guayaquil of Ecuador, offshore Nigeria, the Timon-Pechora Province of Russia, and the Arctic North Slope of Alaska.

Prior to joining Conoco in 1995, Ron was employed for 14 years with Arco Oil and Gas and for 3 years with Texaco. Prior positions have included: Manager of Biostratigraphy, Coordinator of Operations Stratigraphy, Supervisor of Stratigraphic Analysis, paleontologist, sedimentologist, petrographer, and prospecting geologist.

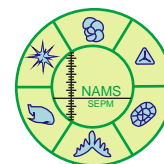
Ron currently serves SEPM on the Twenhofel and the Moore Medal Selection Committees, and as Short Course and Field Trip Chair for the 2006 AAPG SEPM Annual Convention. Ron served the North American Micropaleontology Section of SEPM as Technical Program Chair for the 2005 Research Conference "Geologic Problem Solving with Microfossils". He has also served the Gulf Coast Section of SEPM as President (2001) and as Secretary (1998 and 1999). Ron is Industry Advisor to CHRONOS, the NSF-funded interactive time-calibrated network of databases, and visualization and analytical tools for Earth systems history.

Ron obtained his BS (1975) and MS (1978) degrees in Geology from Marietta College and from Bowling Green State University, respectively. His thesis work focused on the ecology and distribution of plant-dwelling foraminifers from the modern carbonate environments off the Florida Keys.

# BALLOT



## CAST YOUR VOTE! For the election of NAMS officers:



### PRESIDENT

Anthony D'Agostino

Ron F. Waszczak

### SECRETARY

ROB CAMPBELL

JOSH MILLER

Please check one candidate for each office

Please detach your completed ballot from your copy of the Newsletter and return before January 15, 2006 to:

Robert Nail  
NAMS SECRETARY  
823 Thicket  
Houston, TX 77079

## CANDIDATES FOR NAMS SECRETARY

JOSH MILLER received a B.A in Geology from SUNY Geneseo in 1999 and will complete the program for a M.S. in Geology from the University of South Carolina in October 2005. He has worked for Paleo-Data, Inc. since 2001 as a Gulf Coast biostratigrapher with a concentration on Oligocene through Pleistocene foraminifera. Along with the applied interpretation and integration of biostratigraphic data with geologic information he is also involved in creating and evaluating regional GIS applications using biostratigraphic signals.



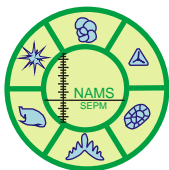
As a relatively new member to the micropaleontological community I have become involved in NAMS, AAPG, SEPM, HGS and NOGS. I volunteer annually at the Louisiana Children's Museum at the microfossil exhibit and have also participated in biostratigraphic workshops for both industry and organizations. Currently I am the acting technical chair for the SEPM section of the 2005 GCAGS convention in New Orleans, LA.

ROB CAMPBELL joined the biostratigraphy team at Shell International Exploration and Production Inc. in 2003. He is currently supporting Shell's drilling operations and regional studies in the Gulf of Mexico, generating and using microfossil data to aid stratigraphic correlation and solve geological problems. Prior to joining Shell, Rob completed his BSc (Honours, 1996) and PhD (2003) at the University of Western Australia. His research focused on Cretaceous foraminiferal and calcareous nannofossil biostratigraphy of the Australian North West Shelf and of the Australian interior seaway (Eromanga Basin, Queensland). From 2000-2003, Rob combined his PhD work with a North West Shelf stratigraphic project for the Virtual Centre of Economic Micropalaeontology and Palynology (VCEMP) and Geoscience Australia, publishing and refining part of the Cretaceous composite calcareous microfossil (KCCM) zonation.



The next issue of NAMS News will be published before the 2006 AAPG Annual Meeting. Please send news to the Editor through March 15, 2006. 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:

Jason J. Lundquist  
NAMS News Editor  
BP America Inc.  
501 Westlake Park Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77079  
Tel. (281) 366-5708  
Fax (281) 366-3835  
Email [lundqujj@bp.com](mailto:lundqujj@bp.com)  
<http://www.ig.utexas.edu/nams/nams.html>



Jason J. Lundquist, *NAMS News* Editor  
BP America Inc.  
501 Westlake Park Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77079

FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED  
PLEASE FORWARD

