

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

On a recent visit to another campus, I was talking with a noted palynologist from the academic world about professional societies. He has been a member of palynological organizations and geological societies for decades. When I mentioned my activities with NAMS, I was surprised to learn that he was unaware of the section's existence. Perhaps some of you have run into the same kind thing with your professional colleagues - unawareness in some areas of micropaleo of who we are, or even having to explain exactly what NAMS stand for (the North American Micropaleontology Society is a common mistake... our full name is indeed a bit more unwieldy!). I think it is fair to say that NAMS is not the most visible of micropaleontologic organizations in some regards.

However, in contrast with this is the recent NAMS-sponsored conference, "Geological Problem Solving with Microfossils," held at Rice University in Houston, Texas from March 6 to 11 (see full report later in the newsletter). The conference was a tremendous success, full of great talks and plenty of opportunities for discussion. Participation was strong and broad: attendance totaled around 150, encompassing multiple disciplines of micropaleontology from calcareous to siliceous to organic-walled microfossils, spanning the globe with participants from more than 20 countries, and including practitioners from industry, consulting, academia, and government. By any measure, the

conference provided an impressive representation of the power of microfossils for solving diverse types of geological problems - and demonstrates that NAMS has good visibility in some sectors of our field.



The key to success of the Rice 2005 conference was the talent and hard work of the lead organizers. As I wrote in my last President's column, the idea of this conference was conceived by our late friend, and former NAMS President, Garry Jones. Garry led the effort to get this meeting off the ground, and conceived it as a NAMS-sponsored project that would include a wide variety of micropaleontologic disciplines and application types. He initiated contact with the professional organizations that cover many of our specialties - the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists (AASP), the Micropaleontological Society, the Cushman Foundation for Foraminiferal Research, among others - as well other geoscience organizations such as SEPM and the Gulf Coast Section of SEPM, to ensure broad support and participation in the conference. With Garry's unfortunate passing, Thomas Demchuk stepped forward and took on the duties of General Meeting Chair, and Ron Waszczak volunteered to serve as Technical Program Chair. Thanks to their many weeks of hard work -

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## SPECIAL MEETING REPORT

### GEOLOGIC PROBLEM SOLVING WITH MICROFOSSILS CONFERENCE

NAMS hosted the SEPM Research Conference "Geologic Problem Solving with Microfossils - An International Conference in Memory of Garry D. Jones" during March 6-11, 2005, at Rice University, Houston, Texas. The conference attracted 150 attendees from industry, academia and government from 23 countries including Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Cote d'Ivoire, Canada, Columbia, Croatia, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Venezuela and the USA.

The technical program was comprised of 48 oral and 51 poster presentations that collectively covered the various microfossil groups that have utility to solve geologic problems, and addressed topics as diverse as Eustacy and Tectonics, Paleooceanography, Biochronologic Correlation, Reservoirs and Drilling, Ecologic Analogs, and Tools and Techniques. Invited keynote presentations included: John Anderson's "Antarctic Ice

Sheet Evolution and the Cenozoic Eustatic Record"; Henk Brinkhuis' "From Greenhouse to Icehouse -- Evidence for Late Early Eocene Concomitant Cooling of Southern Ocean Surface Waters and Global Deep Waters from Dinoflagellate Endemism"; Ernie Mancini's "Establishment of a Chronostratigraphic Framework for Stratal Correlation, Sedimentary Basin Geohistory Reconstruction, and Petroleum Exploration, Northern Gulf of Mexico", and Mike Simmons' "The Role of Biostratigraphy in Subsurface Sequence Stratigraphic Models".

Jim Ogg and Felix Gradstein co-chaired the Round Table discussion "Geologic Time Scale 2004", which was a highlight of the technical program. The discussion focused upon the newly published book by the same title (Cambridge University Press, coordinated by Gradstein, Ogg and Smith) which presents the current definitions of stages of each period, charts of integrated stratigraphy, and numerical ages for all events. The Round Table generated excellent visions of future on-line information on Earth history and a common standard framework for Earth history. The Round Table recommended the following: Improve delivery of GTS information through the CHRONOS-ICS system, including on-line graphics for the development of user-defined charts and on-line time-scale interface; Add

*see MEETING REPORT, continued on page 2*

## PRESIDENT' LETTER (cont.)

sacrificing evenings and weekends, networking extensively with presenters, vendors, and members of the organizing committee by phone and email - the conference was an even greater success than any of us could have imagined. The high quality of the program volume produced for the meeting is a testament to the vitality and diversity of micropaleontology today. The generous support of our sponsors made this an affordable meeting. And, the surplus funds from registration will help ensure the vitality of micropaleontology tomorrow, supplementing the "Garry Jones Memorial Fund for NAMS Student Research" from which NAMS will offer an annual award to support research by promising micropaleontology students.

So, building on the success of the Rice 2005 meeting, but recognizing some of the challenges we still face in visibility, where does NAMS go in the future? I hope that we will continue to be an umbrella organization for the coordination of activities by our many interdisciplinary societies. AASP will probably always be the principal organization for professional activities of many palynologists, publishing a journal and hosting palynological meetings. The Cushman Foundation will probably always be the lead organization for many foraminiferalists. However, as membership in some of our societies decreases, NAMS has the opportunity to play an increasing role in fostering communication and coordination across disciplines, pulling together a "critical mass" to make big things happen - and hopefully sponsoring future meetings like Rice 2005. We'll need to continue to enhance our visibility to do this, and reach those folks who aren't aware of what we do. I would suggest that working with our fellow micropaleontological societies will be the key to this. I invite your ideas - feel free to let me or any of the other officers of NAMS what roles you can see NAMS fulfill for the future of our science. On another topic... if you will be attending the AAPG/SEPM Annual Meeting in Calgary, then think of Monday as NAMS day. On Monday afternoon Dave McNeil of the Geological Survey of Canada and I will co-chair the NAMS Symposium, a poster session entitled "Integration of Micropaleontology and Petroleum Exploration: From Mature Basins to the Frontiers." This session

will highlight diverse applications of microfossils to geologic problems in petroleum geology. We really appreciated the submittals offered for this session; unfortunately, the number of submittals exceeded the number of slots made available to us by the conference organizers (my apologies to any NAMS members whose submittals were not accepted - I even rejected my own paper to make room in the session!). I think we have an interesting roster of posters scheduled - please stop by The Corral on Monday afternoon to see them if you are in Calgary. On Monday evening, NAMS will also co-host a joint meeting of the SEPM Quantitative Stratigraphy Research Group and Marine Micropaleontology Research Group at the Westin Hotel (room to be announced at the meeting). Ron Waszczak of ConocoPhillips will talk about the CHRONOS project and solicit feedback on the value of this network of chronostratigraphy-focused databases to the work of micropaleontologists. We will also have an overview of some interesting paleontology in our host country; relax with some refreshments and hear Dr. Godfrey S. Nowlan of the Geological Survey of Canada present a talk entitled "Great Canadian Fossils: A Journey Through Deep Time."

And, as a final note, it is time to pass the baton with a change of officers. Jim Gamber of BP recently took over as President. Congratulations to Nancy Engelhardt-Moore, who was chosen as President-Elect in our last balloting! I would also like to thank Beth Christensen for also agreeing to stand for election as President - we were lucky to have two talented candidates willing to give their time to the section. And, after three years of service on the NAMS Council, many thanks are owed to outgoing Past-President Mimi Katz for her contributions to our student programs, help with conference planning, and efforts to keep the council on top of pressing issues. So, I will close with my thanks to all of these folks, and to the membership of NAMS for giving me the opportunity to serve you.

Pete McLaughlin  
*NAMS (Past) President*

## MEETING REPORT (cont.)

biostratigraphy columns with "other non-zonal" events for the more common foraminifer, nannofossil and dinoflagellate datums; Include more scales, e.g. regional and historical stages, regional zonations, and marine isotope stages calibrated to an insolation curve derived from astronomical cycles; and Posting the full set of detailed Phanerozoic global and major regional sequences (sea-level changes).

Social events at Conference included an Ice-Breaker, Poster Exhibition with Mini Ice-Breaker, and a Plenary Dinner with Tribute to Garry D. Jones. The dinner and tribute were followed by a IMAX presentation by guest speaker NASA Astronaut Mike Fincke. Degreed in geology and planetary science, Fincke entertained all with video clips and narrative from his recently completed long stay on the International Space Station.

The conference concluded with the field trip "Upper Cretaceous Stratigraphy of Central Texas" lead by Jason Lundquist and Jeffrey Stein.

Conference proceeds will fund a NAMS trust to support future student research in micropaleontology. The Abstracts Volume with Program is available for sale through SEPM. Selected presentations are being considered for full paper publication in the

SEPM Special Publication series.

The Conference Organizing Committee included: General Chair, Thomas Demchuk and Technical Program Chair, Ron Waszczak; Program Committee Co-Chairs, Brian O'Neill, Shirley van Heck and Martin Farley; and the Conference Advisory Committee, including Roger Witmer, Nancy Engelhardt-Moore, Robert Nail, Jim Gamber, Jason Lundquist, Pete McLaughlin, and Mimi Katz. Special thanks are extended to the SEPM Headquarters Staff for their support, particularly Judy Tarpley, Events and Conference Manager; Kris Farnsworth, Publications Coordinator; Theresa Scott, Business Manager; Michele Woods, Membership Services, and Howard Harper, Executive Director.

Special thanks to conference sponsors: American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists, BHP Billiton, BP, British Micropaleontological Society, BugWare, ChevronTexaco, ConocoPhillips, Cushman Foundation, Energy and Geoscience Institute, Ellington & Associates, ExxonMobil Exploration Company, Gulf Coast Section SEPM Foundation, Houston Geological Society, National Petrographic Services, Paleo-Data, Inc., Shell, Statoil, StrataData Ltd., Unocal

*Ron Waszczak*

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*(Please remember to renew!)*

### TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 1 June 2005, the NAMS treasury contained about \$10,380. Since my last report in April, NAMS received \$856 from member dues and interest. Expenditures totaled about \$1370. This included the Student Research Award, newsletter expenses, and filing fees. For the last 12 months, expenditures totaled \$1380 and receipts \$1230. 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  
June 1 2005

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



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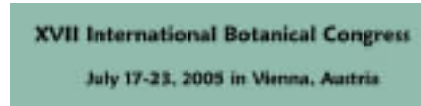
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# MEETING CALENDAR

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



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**American Association Stratigraphic Palynologists 38th Annual Meeting**  
September 18-21, 2005.  
St. Louis, MO  
<http://campus.umn.edu/dce/conferences/aasp.htm>



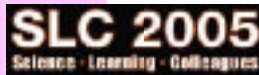
**15th International Symposium on Ostracoda**  
September 2005  
Free University of Berlin  
<http://userpage.fu-berlin.de/~palaeont/iso15/iso15-main.htm>



**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](http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/index.htm)



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

**American Association of Petroleum 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](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 International 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



## 2005 AAPG Annual Meeting

June 19-22  
Calgary, Alberta



AAPG 2005 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
**Exploring Energy Systems**

### Selected Highlights

#### Integration of Micropaleontology and Petroleum Exploration

Monday, June 20, 2005, 1:15 PM-5:00 PM, Corral Room, Calgary Stampede Park

#### SEPM Quantitative Stratigraphy / Marine Micropaleontology Research Group Meeting

Monday, June 20, 2005, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM, The Westin Hotel

### NAMS SPONSORED SESSION

The NAMS sponsored poster session "Integration of Micropaleontology and Petroleum Exploration" will be held on Monday afternoon, June 19, at the AAPG 2005 Annual Convention in Calgary. Although NAMS presence is limited at this convention, the meeting as a whole promises to be very well attended. More than 1400 abstracts were submitted to the meeting, leaving organizers with the unfortunate task of having to turn away nearly a third of the submissions. A victim of the cuts was NAMS proposed oral session, which was rolled into a reduced poster session. Nonetheless, if you're attending AAPG 2005, make a point of highlighting Monday afternoon, June 19, on your calendar. Drop by the NAMS poster session and give us a "Howdy." Take in all that's new in

the world of exploration. Enjoy the vibrant, fast-growing city of Calgary and its diverse natural surroundings. With best regards from co-chairs Dave McNeil and Pete McLaughlin.

### MARINE MICROPALAEONTOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP MEETING

The combined SEPM Quantitative Stratigraphy Research Group and Marine Micropaleontology Research Group Meeting held in association with the AAPG SEPM Annual Convention is scheduled for 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm, Monday, June 20, in Calgary, Alberta, Canada (watch for an announcement of the exact location of this meeting at Convention). The first Research Group Meeting topic this year is CHRONOS.

## MEETING NEWS (cont.)

CHRONOS is the NSF-funded interactive and time-calibrated network of databases, visualization and analytical methodologies for sedimentary geology and paleobiology. The system network of hosted and federated relational databases contains published sedimentary rock data collected from globally-distributed marine cores and terrestrial outcrops. These data are fully attributed and include paleobiological, geochemical, geochronological, lithologic, and magnetostratigraphic data with related temporal and spatial information. Ron Waszczak, industry advisor to CHRONOS, will facilitate this discussion. As industry advisor to CHRONOS, Waszczak is committed to raise community awareness of the various nodes within the CHRONOS network, provide updates on projects completed, ongoing and planned, and most importantly, solicit and report industry feedback to other CHRONOS advisors from the academic, federal, international, and museum communities.

An additional topic for the Marine Micropaleontology Research Group is a presentation by Dr. Godfrey S. Nowlan, of the Geological Survey of Canada, entitled "Great Canadian Fossils: A Journey Through Deep Time," will round out the evening's discussions.

## CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

### INTERRAD XI: RADIOLARIANS IN STRATIGRAPHY & PALEOCEANOGRAPHY

11th Meeting of the International Association of Radiolarian Paleontologists & CIRCUM-PACIFIC TRIASSIC STRATIGRAPHY & CORRELATION, A symposium hosted by IGCP 467 and STS Wellington, New Zealand, March 2006

The conference will be held jointly with a symposium on Triassic circum-Pacific stratigraphy and correlation, which is hosted by IGCP 246 and the Subcommittee on Triassic Stratigraphy.

The conference will include two additional symposia: The Nigrini Symposium on biological indicators of ocean productivity and ocean/climate interactions and the Biosilica Symposium on radiolarians, biosiliceous sediments, methods and applications. Invited speakers and other participants will include leading international researchers in the fields of plankton biology, oceanography, paleoceanography, biostratigraphy, sedimentology, paleontology and stratigraphy.

Conference excursions to Northland, Kawhia, the Wellington south coast, Marlborough and Southland will showcase Permian-Jurassic stratigraphy and accretionary tectonics, including Permian-Triassic boundary successions in Northland, and a wide range of radiolarian-bearing rock sequences, including the Cretaceous-Tertiary and Paleocene-Eocene boundary sections of Marlborough and the Cretaceous-Paleogene ophiolites and pelagic limestones of Northland.

Register online at <http://www.gns.cri.nz/interrad/>

## NEWS and NOTES

### POAG RETIRES

Wylie Poag, a past president of NAMS (1984-85) retired as a Research Geologist with the US Geological Survey (Woods Hole, MA) on October 1, 2004. He will continue his research, however, as a Scientist Emeritus with the USGS. After earning degrees in

geology at FSU and LSU, Wylie began his professional career in 1962, as a micropaleontologist and production geologist for ChevronTexaco (known then as the California Company) in Lafayette and New Orleans, Louisiana. While in New Orleans, he took advantage of Tulane's unique night program to earn a PhD in paleontology and stratigraphy. In 1970, he moved to College Station, Texas, to become an assistant professor in the Department of Oceanography at Texas A&M University. After three years of teaching and research on modern and Cenozoic foraminifera of the Gulf of Mexico, Wylie moved to Washington, D.C., where he helped to manage the Deep Sea Drilling Project at the National Science Foundation. He joined the USGS in 1974, and moved to Woods Hole, where he has applied litho-, bio-, and seismo-stratigraphic principles to decipher the geological and paleoenvironmental evolution of Atlantic continental margins. The highlight of Wylie's career was discovery and documentation of America's largest impact crater, an 85-km-wide structure buried 300-500 m beneath the Virginia part of Chesapeake Bay. A synthesis of the past 16 years of research on the crater can be found in the recently published book: *The Chesapeake Bay impact crater: Geology and geophysics of a late Eocene submarine impact structure*, by Poag, Koeberl, and Reimold, 2004, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 522 p., with CD-ROM. Chapter 13 of this book will be of particular interest to micropaleontologists, because it describes the biospheric effects of the impact, with special emphasis on the foraminiferal record. Wylie has published 260 abstracts, articles, and books, nearly all of which feature the application of micropaleontology to geological problems. His current research focuses on the micropaleontological and paleoenvironmental transition from synimpact to postimpact deposition in and near the Chesapeake Bay crater.

See Bolide Web Site: <http://woodshole.er.usgs.gov/epubs/bolide>

## NEW BOOK NEWS

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO GEOLOGY AND PALAEOLOGY OF GONDWANA - IN HONOUR OF HELMUT WOPFNER (JULY 2001):

Fifty-three geoscientists from 14 countries, specialised in different fields of geology and interested in the geological evolution of Gondwana, have contributed to this book. Their main objectives are the reconstruction of the assembly, evolution and dispersal history of this supercontinent and the inter-regional stratigraphical correlation of Gondwana sequences preserved in basins dispersed throughout the southern continents.

The volume contains 32 papers (29 English, 2 French, and 1 German) on the geology and palaeontology of Australia, Africa, Asia, Antarctica, South America and South Europe.

Details can be found in a review of the book written by Mr. John Utting (voting member of the Subcommittee on Permian Stratigraphy), which was published in the October 2004 AAPG Bulletin.

If you are interested in obtaining this publication, contact Roseline Weiss (the editor) who will send you an order-form.

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# SCHEDULED IODP EXPEDITIONS 2005

Expedition Name	Port (Origin)	Dates	Description
Gulf of Mexico Overpressures	Mobile, Alabama, U.S.A	May 31 - July 10	Will explore the coupling of overpressure, flow, and deformation in passive margin settings. We will test a multidimensional flow model by examining how physical properties, pressure, temperature, and pore fluid composition vary within low-permeability mudstones that overlie a permeable and overpressured aquifer.
Superfast Spreading Crust II	Balboa, Panama	July 10 - Aug. 28	The second part of a multi-stage drilling strategy to sample, at ODP Site 1256, a complete section of the upper oceanic crust formed at a superfast (>200 mm/yr) spreading rate.
Tahiti Sea Level	Papeete, Tahiti	Fall 2005	Seeks to establish the course and effects of the last deglaciation on the subsiding volcanic island of Tahiti (subsidence rates : 0.25mm.yr-1), at a considerable distance from former ice sheets.
Cascadia Margin Gas Hydrates	Balboa, Panama	Aug. 28 - Oct. 28	A program to constrain models for the formation of marine gas hydrate in subduction zone accretionary prisms. The objectives include the deep origin of the methane, its upward transport, its incorporation in gas hydrate, and its subsequent loss to the seafloor.
Superfast Spreading Crust III	Balboa, Panama	Oct. 28 - Dec. 28	See Above

## INTERACTIVE GEOLOGIC TIME SCALE AND BIO-CHRONO-SEQUENCE STRATIGRAPHY CHARTS

### Objective

The International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS) is updating, expanding, digitizing and calibrating the Mesozoic and Cenozoic Bio-Chrono-Sequence Stratigraphic ('Hardenbol') Charts of SEPM Special Publication # 60 (eds. Graciansky, Hardenbol, Jacquin and Vail). In 2006 the charts will be posted on the ICS website under <http://www.stratigraphy.org>. Once the Mesozoic-Cenozoic charts and graphs are on-line, ICS will develop and produce comparable interactive charts for the Paleozoic Era.

The work is being carried out by James Ogg, Gabi Ogg, Felix Gradstein and two programmers. For more information contact Felix M. Gradstein ([felix.gradstein@nhm.uio.no](mailto:felix.gradstein@nhm.uio.no)).

### Background

SEPM has authorized the International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS) unrestricted modification and open posting of the 'Hardenbol' chart series that accompanied SEPM vol. 60, with the provision that ICS cites the original source of the revised charts. In addition, J. Hardenbol has given ICS his permission to revise the charts that his international team compiled. Both SEPM and Exxon have given ICS unrestricted use of the original graphics and Excel data files.

### Deliverables Stage 1

Updated Mesozoic and Cenozoic "SEPM" Sequence Charts and User-Generated Time-Scale Graphics including:

(1) Tables of "Hardenbol" Mesozoic-Cenozoic stratigraphic events with 1995 ages and the recalibration to GTS2004 ages. There are nearly 2500 (!) biostratigraphic, sea-level, magnetic and geochemical events that will be presented in appropriate columns, with documentation of zonal definitions, relative age assignments, and how these events were recalibrated to the 2004 time scale. We plan to compile updated cross-correlations and enhanced detail for selected stratigraphic methods (e.g., Cenozoic dinoflagellates, new "Berggren" Paleogene foraminifer/nannofossil calibrations, Mesozoic strontium-isotope curves, Triassic conodonts, Triassic fusulinids and boreal ammonite zonations, etc.

(2) Charts at 1cm=1myr format that display all of these events recalibrated to the GTS2004 scale. These will be the same format (and

scale) as the original "Hardenbol" chart series.

(3) The recalibrated ages of Mesozoic-Cenozoic events will be compiled as an XML database for digital input to other databases and look-up tables. This database will also allow conversion for access by other web-based applications, such as graphic correlation, or age-depth plots.

(4) An application (JAVA) is presently in testing stage that automatically takes the XML database, gets instructions from the user (see below) and generates scalable-vector graphic (SVG) renditions that directly input into Adobe Illustrator. When future enhancements are made to the Mesozoic-Cenozoic stratigraphic scales or ages, then new graphics can be instantly produced.

(5) Query-capable on-line charts. Click on a value, zone or boundary, and a window will open with an explanation of the calibration, definition and interpolated age. This "hot-linked" chart suite is partially a back-looking reference to information in the source XML tables, and partially a link to other tables and text from the Geologic Time Scale 2004 book and the additional enhancements anticipated during the "Geologic Time Scale 2008" update.

### Deliverables Stage 2

Once the Mesozoic-Cenozoic charts and graphs are online, develop and produce comparable charts for the Paleozoic Era.

### Sponsorship

Sponsorship of Exxon/Mobil and of Chevron/Texaco to execute the Mesozoic-Cenozoic stages of this interactive geologic time scale project is gratefully acknowledged.



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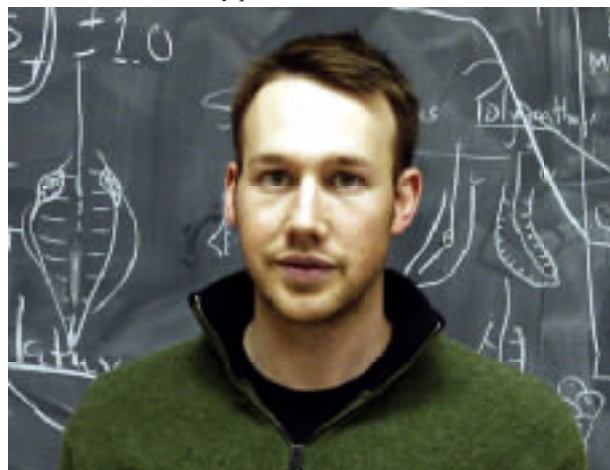
# NAMS STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD RECIPIENT

This year's recipient of the Garry Jones Memorial Grant for NAMS Student Research is Tyler W. Beatty, a Ph.D. student of the Department of Geology and Geophysics, University of Calgary, Canada. The NAMS committee chose his proposal from a group of 12 very impressive proposals. Tyler has provided the following background information about himself and his research:

I graduated from the University of Western Ontario in 1997 with a B.Sc. in Geology and Environmental Science. Immediately afterwards I took a job with the Royal Ontario Museum's Burgess Shale Expedition. The next four summers were spent working with the "weird wonders" of the Middle Cambrian in the Canadian Rockies. During those winters I worked with Dr. Michael Orchard in the micropaleontology lab of the Geological Survey of Canada in Vancouver, B.C., and later took courses in advanced micropaleontology and sequence biostratigraphy at the University of Calgary. I began my Masters degree in the spring of 2001 at Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia. In 2003 I completed my M.Sc. thesis, entitled "Stratigraphy of the Harper Ranch Group and Tectonic History of the Quesnel Terrane in the area of Kamloops, British Columbia." Currently I am working toward my Ph.D. at the University of Calgary under the supervision of Dr. Charles Henderson and Dr. J-P. Zonneveld.

The working title of my Ph.D. thesis is "Permian-Triassic extinction and recovery dynamics along the northwest margin of Pangea from conodont biostratigraphy and trace fossil analysis." This project entails study of Lower Triassic shoreface successions

along the ancient margin of the North American continent. My field areas include the Canadian Arctic, eastern British Columbia, western Alberta, Montana, Idaho, Utah, and Nevada, and the Yangtze Platform of southern China. The objective of my research is to characterize biotic recovery in these areas through sequence-biostratigraphically constrained trace fossil assemblages. In addition, I am interested in linking these trace fossil occurrences to ocean redox conditions for the Lower Triassic. I expect that the results of this research will help identify environments that acted as ecological refuges during the extinction and recovery period.



Tyler W. Beatty, Recipient of the NAMS 2005 Garry Jones Memorial Grant for Student Research

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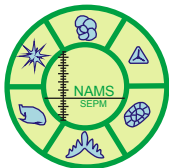
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