

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

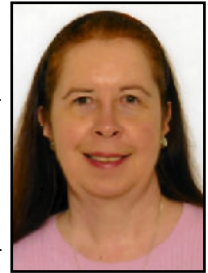
NAMS is having a very exciting year, but before I discuss all that is happening, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jim Gamber for serving as NAMS President and for all the help and advise that he has given me and continues to give me this year as Past-President. Also, I would like to thank Jim and Ron Waszczak, our current President-Elect for all their help in putting together this year's CHRONOS Poster Session at AAPG. In addition, I would like to thank the other board members including Martin Farley, our Treasurer whose history of the organization has proven invaluable, Jason Lundquist, our Newsletter Editor and Robert Campbell our new Secretary who has taken on the tremendous task of updating our membership list. Finally, I would like to thank Peter McLaughlin who completed his 3 years of service to NAMS. Although he is no longer an officer, Pete continues to provide the organization with exceptional contributions. Currently, he is the 2007 AAPG Poster Co-chair and he has been instrumental in helping to put together a varied and exciting session on "Integrated Biostratigraphic Analyses".

This year, two offices are up for re-election, President-Elect and Treasurer. David Watkins, Chair of the Geosciences Department at the University of Nebraska and Ron Martin, Professor of Geological Sciences at the University of Delaware have accepted the nomination for President-Elect. Richard Fluegeman, Professor of Geology, Ball State University and Don Van Nieuwenhuise, Professor at the University of Houston. Have accepted the nomination for Treasurer. You will find a ballot for the election enclosed in this newsletter. Please vote and return your ballot to our Secretary, Robert Campbell, by January 15, 2007.

Congratulations are due to this year's recipient of the Mobile Foundation Travel Grant, Natalia Vasquez Riveiros. She will have an opportunity to present her work at next year's AAPG in the Student Poster Session. Please take the time if you attend AAPG to stop by the session to see Natalia's presentation. In addition, all students are encouraged to apply for the NAMS Garry Jones Memorial Grant for student research. Additional information on both of these grants can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

This year NAMS sponsored the travel of a

student to the Fourth CHRONOS Annual Retreat 'Leading the Geoinformatics Revolution with Best Practices' in Des Moines, Iowa, August 18-19, 2006. NAMS also sponsored the travel of a student to the annual International Nannoplankton Association (INA) Conference that was held in Lincoln, Nebraska, September 24-30, 2006. This was the first time the INA held their conference in the US. Funds for these sponsorships came from the Garry Jones Memorial Grant for NAMS Student Research. The board strongly supports opportunities for student involvement and education. NAMS is now capable of selectively assisting student research due to the viability of the endowed Garry Jones Fund that resulted from the highly successful "Geologic Problem Solving with Microfossil" conference that was held in 2005 at Rice University in Houston.



The Houston Geological Society hosts the annual Earth Science Week (ESW) festival each year at the beginning of October. This year, activities began on Saturday, October 7th at 12 Noon with an opening ceremony at 1:00 p.m. that kicked off the event in the Pendulum Hall at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. This year for the first time, NAMS co-sponsored the "Micropaleontology Passport Station" with the Gulf Coast Section of SEPM. Tony D'Agostino and myself volunteered our time to show microfossils to children of all ages. Other volunteers included Janie D'Agostino and Bob Moore along with several Boy Scouts that helped with errands. As usual the event was a huge success and hopefully, this effort will inspire a few scientists, possibly even a future paleontologist!

During the 2006 GSA Annual Meeting and Exposition, NAMS will co-sponsor the Cushman Foundation Reception along with American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists (AASP) and CHRONOS on Tuesday October 24, 7-11 p.m. at the Loews Hotel in downtown Philadelphia. Each sponsoring organization's President will be introduced and everyone will have the opportunity to learn more about the other organizations through posters and brochures. Following the introductions, the Joseph Cushman Award will be presented. Then, the reception will begin. The reception will provide a unique opportunity for scientists from academia, industry and government to socialize and share ideas.

*see PRESIDENT'S LETTER, continued on page 2*

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER (cont.)

Plans for 2007 include a poster session sponsored by SEPM/NAMS at the April, 2007 AAPG Annual Meeting in Long Beach, CA. The session entitled "Integrated Biostratigraphic Analyses" contains a variety of paleontologic topics from around the world. As usual, NAMS is also planning to hold a Marine Micropaleontology Research Group meeting.

One of my goals as President is to find new ways to encourage young people to be scientists, especially micropaleontologists. The US and the world are slowly discovering that there is a shortage of highly skilled technical people such as micropaleontologists. Industry has been talking about this looming problem for at least a decade, but to date not much has been done about it. Now, it is beginning to be very clear that within the next 5 to 10 years at the most, there will not be enough young scientists to fill the available positions and needs of many companies, and organizations. One of the most affected sciences is Micropaleontology! Over the years, this group has been decimated first by the Oil and Gas Industry as it early retired and then, laid off dozens of paleontologists. This was followed by a dramatic drop in students going into Geoscience programs at universities when they heard about the lack of jobs. This resulted in most of the US universities closing down their paleontology programs. Many of the scientists that were laid off could not find jobs in their field, so they switched to geology, teaching or whatever they could find. This "out-sourcing" of specialists that companies thought would help reduce expenditures and therefore, create shareholder value, destroyed many highly trained scientists careers. I was a victim of this "solution" along with many of my former co-workers during the 80's and 90's. However, I had the good fortune of being able to adapt to the changing demands of industry and started my own successful consulting business in 2000. There I was able to take on all types of geologic work that sometimes included well sitting, due to the sporadic demand for a micropaleontologist. About 2 years ago, I personally noticed an increasing demand for micropaleontologists, but the number of working micropaleontologists was still dropping due to, retirement, health issues and death. This year Devon Energy hired me as their first paleontologist due to their increasing

need for technical specialists as the company continues to grow and expand. Other major companies have also started searching for micropaleontologists, but are finding it harder and harder to find people. It is becoming a major concern and realization that there are not enough students studying or graduating with degrees in micropaleontology.

The challenge is here! How do we get students interested in micropaleontology and how do we keep them interested in the science? I am asking industry and academia to work together on this problem. If anyone has an idea on how to promote micropaleontology as a profession, please call me during the day at 713-286-5843 or e-mail me at [nengelhardt-moore@houston.rr.com](mailto:nengelhardt-moore@houston.rr.com). I would love to hear your ideas and suggestions. Communication and making children aware of the fact that they can have a career working with fossils is key. I volunteer at the Houston Museum of Natural Science and it is extremely rewarding to tell children and adults about the fossils on display. Dinosaurs fascinate kids! We have their attention. The next step is to get them excited about being a paleontologist and that they can have a rewarding career. This is why I think NAMS involvement with ESW is so important. I am hoping to be able to show visitors to the museum microfossils more often. Right now, the museum is acquiring a new microscope that I can use to show people microfossils anytime, not just on Earth Science Day. NAMS is a diverse association of micropaleontologists, which represent a broad range of interests in different fossil groups, different employment arenas, and is represented at various professional meetings - from the industrially oriented AAPG to the more academically inclined GSA. This is why I believe NAMS is the organization that should lead the effort to promote paleontology. Finally, I encourage everyone to promote the sciences. It is the key to the future of this country and the world. Now I will close, by wishing everyone a happy Holiday Season and successful 2007!

Nancy Engelhardt-Moore  
*NAMS President*



NAMS Members helped children get a taste of micropaleontology during HGS-Earth Sciences Week

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 1 October 2006, the NAMS treasury contained about \$10,888. Since my last report in April, NAMS received \$956 from member dues and interest. Expenditures totalling \$1365 have included the newsletter, support for student activities at international meetings, a contribution to the upcoming NAMS/Cushman Foundation reception at GSA, and minor items.

For the last 12 months, receipts totaled \$1706 and expenditures \$1478, principally the newsletter and the student support. 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 2006, 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  
October 1 2006

Visit NAMS online at:  
<http://www.sepm.org/nams/index.htm>



**NAMS**  
North American Micropaleontology Section, SEPM

### About NAMS

### What is Micropaleontology

### Membership

### Newsletters

### Meetings

### Science News

### Networking

### Resources for Students

### Micropaleo Links

## Welcome to the NAMS Home Page

NAMS is the North American Micropaleontology Section of the Society for Sedimentary Geology (SEPM). The purpose of the Section is to promote all aspects of micropaleontology through application, research and education dealing with morphology, biostratigraphy, ecology/paleoecology, and geologic history of all groups of microfossils occurring in the stratigraphic record.

The field of micropaleontology covers a diverse array of microfossil groups, including foraminifera, ostracodes, nanofossils, palynomorphs, radiolaria, diatoms, and silicoflagellates.

NAMS serves as a center point for these many fields of study and provides a venue for exchange of information among micropaleontologists in academia, industry, and government.

NAMS is the sponsor of the Marine Micropaleontology Research Group, a formal research group within SEPM which reports to the SEPM research committee.

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NAMS NEWS is published two times a year, just before the GSA meeting in the fall and AAPG meeting in the spring, by NAMS. Submissions are always welcome. Copyright 2006.

# MEETING CALENDAR

## 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



## First Canadian Ostracodologist Meeting

November 16-17, 2006

Universite Laval, Quebec

Host: Finn Viehberg

[finn.viehberg@cen.ulaval.ca](mailto:finn.viehberg@cen.ulaval.ca)

<http://www.cen.ulaval.ca/paleo/COME2006/>



## 2006 26th Bob F. Perkins

### Research Conference: Reservoir

Characterization: Integrating Technology and Business Practices

December 3-6, 2006

Houston, Texas.

## American Association of Petroleum Geologists 2007 Annual Meeting

April 1-4, 2007

Long Beach, California

## European Ostracodologists' Meeting (EOM)

5-7 September 2007.

Frankfurt, Germany

## AASP 40th Annual Meeting

September 8-12, 2007

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute,

Panama.

Organizer: Carlos Jaramillo

[jaramilloc@si.edu](mailto:jaramilloc@si.edu)

## Geological Society of America Annual Meeting

October 28-31, 2007

Denver, Colorado



## 2007 27th Bob F. Perkins Research Conference: The Paleogene of the Gulf of Mexico

and Caribbean Basins: Processes, Events, and Petroleum Systems

December 2-5, 2007

Houston, Texas.

## International Nannoplankton Association 12th Bi-Annual Meeting

September 2008

Lyon, France



## Geological Society of America Annual Meeting

October 5-8, 2008

Houston, Texas

### Please consider

submitting meeting dates, announcements, or information to the editor for inclusion in future editions of the NAMS News

## GARRY JONES AWARD

### SOLICITATION FOR STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD

The North American Micropaleontology Section (NAMS) of SEPM is pleased to solicit applications for the 2007 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 2006 Garry Jones Memorial Grant was awarded to Jennifer O'Keefe, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Physical Sciences at Morehead State University, Morehead, Kentucky. Her abstract was entitled "Paleogene mirelands of Upper Mississippi Embayment, Kentucky and extreme Northern Tennessee". Miss

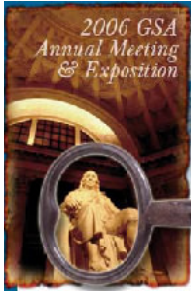
O'Keefe's research is focused on understanding the depositional environments, paleoclimates, plant communities and decompositional history of Claiborne stage mire deposits using lignite petrology and palynology.

To apply, interested students should submit two required award applications 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.

Application forms may be requested from the address below. Proposals should be submitted by February 1, 2007 and directed to the same address. The awardee will be notified by March 15, 2007.

#### Address for application and submittals:

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Biostratigraphy Network Leader  
BP America Inc.  
501 Westlake Park Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77079  
Office: 281-366-7863  
Mobile: 281-831-1542  
Fax: 281-366-7416  
E-mail: [James.Gamber@bp.com](mailto:James.Gamber@bp.com)



## 2006 GSA Annual Meeting October 22-25

Convention Center  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



### *Selected Highlights*

#### **Stratigraphic Palynology: Applications to Geologic Problems**

Monday, October 23, 2006

8:00 AM-12:00 PM, Pennsylvania Convention Center: 112 B

Co-Chairs: Douglas J. Nichols and Robert A. Cushman

#### **Quaternary Micropaleontology: Quantifying Environmental Change**

Tuesday, October 24, 2006

8:00 AM-12:00 PM, Pennsylvania Convention Center: 204 C

Co-Chairs: Benjamin P. Horton and Robin J. Edwards

#### **AASP, Cushman Foundation, NAMS and Chronos Micropaleontological Reception**

Tuesday Evening, October 24, 2006

Howe Room/The Terrace, 33rd floor, Loews Hotel, 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM

(see note below)

## MEETING NEWS

### **AASP Joins Cushman Foundation, NAMS and Chronos for a Pan-Micropaleontological Reception! GSA Philadelphia, October 24**

An evening social for micropaleontologists of many stripes will be held during the GSA annual meeting, jointly sponsored by the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists (AASP), the Cushman Foundation, the North American Micropaleontology Section of SEPM (NAMS), and Chronos.

This event presents a wonderful opportunity to mingle and relax with specialists from a variety of microfossil groups on the final night of the meeting! AASP welcomes the opportunity to meet our fellow colleagues, forge new collaborations, and make new friends! Please join us!

The Reception is scheduled for Tuesday, October 24, between 7:00 - 11:00pm, in the Howe Room/The Terrace, 33rd floor, Loews Hotel. Free hors d'oeuvres and host bar will be available. A Location map is available at <http://www.palynology.org/images/06PhillyMap.jpg>

### **2007 AAPG MOBIL TRAVEL GRANT AWARDED**

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 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 are pleased to nominate Natalia Vasquez Riveiros to represent NAMS at the upcoming 2007 Annual Meeting in Long Beach, CA (April 4-6, 2007). Ms. Riveiros is a student working on her Master's thesis at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada and she will present a poster entitled "Foraminifera as Proxies of the Paleooceanography of Canadian Fjords during the Last 1100 Years". We encourage all NAMS members who attend AAPG to visit the student poster session and see the work that Ms. Riveiros has been doing.

## NEWS and NOTES

### CYPRIS POSTED

Elisabeth Brouwers would like to call attention to the recent posting of *The Cypris* 20, 2005, the annual newsletter for ostracode workers. The url is <http://biology.usgs.gov/cro/Ostracode/cyp06/title06.htm>

### UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON POSITIONS

The Department of Earth and Space Sciences at the University of Washington invites applications for a tenure-track position in geobiology.

<http://www.washington.edu/admin/eoo/ads/aa1373-ouf-aug06.html>

The Astrobiology Program (<http://depts.washington.edu/astrobio>) at the University of Washington invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor or tenured Associate Professor position.

<http://www.washington.edu/admin/eoo/ads/aa1364-ouf-aug06.html>

### OCEANOGRAPHY NOTE

I submitted a new one-page "Memories of Deep Sea Drilling Project Leg 1" [1968] for a special "Life at Sea" section in the December issue of the journal OCEANOGRAPHY. Working with top-level micropaleontologists Bill Berggren and Emile Pessagno on DSDP Sites 1 to 7 was a great start for my future work on DSDP and USGS marine cores.

Dave Bukry

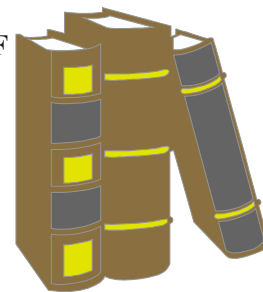
### GCAGS/GCSSEPM NEWS

The GCAGS/GCSSEPM Convention in Lafayette was a greater success than anticipated. Paul Post (MMS) and Lana Czerniakowski received distinguished service awards for work for the Section and Foundation. Our fellowship program for graduate students still remains underutilized; instructions for the 2006 program can be found on our web site. Our 26th Annual GCSSEPM Foundation Bob F. Perkins conference will be on reservoirs and reservoir simulation. We are pleased that Dr. Roger Slatt, University of Oklahoma, has served as technical chairman. He and his committee have arranged for some outstanding papers on a wide variety of reservoirs from all over the world. A list of the papers can be found on our web site at [www.gcssepm.org](http://www.gcssepm.org).

Thanks for your consideration

Dr. Norman C. Rosen,  
Executive Director  
GCSSEPM Foundation

### BOOK NOTICE: CONTRIBUTIONS TO GEOLOGY AND PALAEOLOGY OF GONDWANA



Roseline H. Weiss would like to inform you about a book that is available through the Geological Institute, University of Cologne, Germany:

*Contributions to Geology and Palaeontology of Gondwana* - In Honour of Helmut

Wopfner: I-X, 530 pp.; 190 figs., 8 in colour; 39 tabs.; 29 photographic plates, 2 in colour; A4 - format.

Edited by Roseline H. Weiss.

ISBN 3-934027-07-5.

Price per copy: EUR 64 plus postage and handling charges.

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). Topics discussed include sedimentology, regional stratigraphy, basin analysis, macropaleontology, micropaleontology (including several papers on palynology), biostratigraphy, geochronology, geochemistry, tectonics, climatology, and mineralogy. Localities include Australia, India, Antarctica, Tanzania, Argentina, Brazil, Oman, China, Tibet, Thailand, east and Southeast Asia, Turkey, Egypt, and Italy.

The book was presented successfully in Mendoza, Argentina, during the congress "Gondwana 12".

If you are interested in obtaining this publication, I will send you an order-form.

Best regards,  
Roseline

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Many readers of the NAMS News are familiar with CHRONOS, the cyber infrastructure that delivers an interactive and time-calibrated network of Earth history databases, analytical and visualization tools and web-based services. CHRONOS' growing network of hosted and federated relational databases includes: Neptune; HERMES; taxonomic planktonic foraminifera atlases; FAUNMAP; MIOMAP; and PaleoBiology Database. CHRONOS affiliated toolbox software includes: Age Depth Plotter (ADP); Correlation / Sequencing (CONOP9); Paleontological Stratigraphic Interval Correlation and Analysis Tool (PSICAT); Age Range Chart (ARC); Time Scale Creator (TSC); Time Series Analysis Toolbox; and Electronic Visualization Lab CoreWall.

CHRONOS, conceived in 2001 by a group of leading stratigraphers and IT specialists, received approximately \$3.5 million in funds from by National Science Foundation through 2006. Earlier this year, NSF-selected review panels evaluated CHRONOS' most recent proposal for fund renewal. During July, CHRONOS was informed that NSF does not have funds sufficient for continued support this geoinformatic and cyber infrastructure project.

Due to NSF declination, CHRONOS is actively seeking alternate mechanisms for funding from industry, institutions and government agencies. Toward garnering that financial support, CHRONOS seeks community engagement at the strategic planning level to clarify project priorities and to advance their execution. If you would like to participate in identifying fundable opportunities for CHRONOS' current and future technology development, please contact any of the following community representatives:

Academic Representatives:

Timothy Bralower - [bralower@geosc.psu.edu](mailto:bralower@geosc.psu.edu)  
Doug Walker - [jdwalker@ku.edu](mailto:jdwalker@ku.edu)

Federal Agency Representative:

Dave Anderson - [david.m.anderson@noaa.gov](mailto:david.m.anderson@noaa.gov)

Industry Representative:

Ron Waszczak - [Ron.F.Waszczak@conocophillips.com](mailto:Ron.F.Waszczak@conocophillips.com)

Museum Representative:

Kirk Johnson - [kjohnson@dmns.org](mailto:kjohnson@dmns.org)

## PALEO-DATA, INC. and A KATRINA CHRONICLE

There's nothing like a wilderness trip to Glacier Park in Montana to escape from the heat and humidity of New Orleans. We were six miles from the trailhead on August 29th, 2005, exchanging greetings with a passing hiker, when we first heard. "Oh, you're from New Orleans? Your city just got slammed by a hurricane." That was my introduction to Katrina, and one of those pivotal life-changing moments that hits like a sledge hammer when we least expect it. After a double-time march out, I learned the incredible magnitude of devastation and knew I couldn't go home.

Paleo-Data, Inc., a company of 16 employees, including seven micropaleontologists, was housed in a two-story building near Lake Pontchartrain, just two blocks from the now-famous 17th St. Canal and six blocks from the levee breach that devastated half of New Orleans. The building was deluged by 12 ft. of water, 6 inches on the second floor.

With my family together and safe in Houston, the question was, "What now?" The PDI staff was spread out from Dallas to Florida in their evacuation, and the company had no office, no microscopes, no office equipment and no preparation lab. A call from Rhonda Roederer, consulting paleontologist and manager of Lafayette Paleo Labs in Lafayette, LA, gave us a bit of hope. "Come to Lafayette", she said. "We can find you office space and apartments, and we have a paleo prep lab that can handle your samples." Then another call came-- from PDI paleontologist Al Porter. I could barely make out his voice on a poor cellphone connection. "I'm in a boat just tying up to the 2nd floor balcony of our office building, what do we need to retrieve?" "The scopes, Al, get the scopes, and the backup data tapes!", I shouted back.

A week and a half later Paleo-Data was again servicing the biostratigraphic needs of clients in a makeshift office with quickly purchased equipment and staff doubling up in temporary housing, commuting home on weekends.

Just less than a year later, PDI is back in New Orleans, and in the same office building as before, albeit totally new. We were quick to gut and disinfect the interior of the building, hiring contractors before the "rush to rebuild". This was an opportunity to renovate and re-organize. New staff joining Paleo-Data in the year of exile includes Richard George, foram specialist, Rhonda Roederer, Lab Manager/foram paleontologist, and Ryan Weber, nannofossil paleontologist, a recent MS graduate from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

## CANDIDATES FOR NAMS PRESIDENT

**Ron Martin:** I am currently Professor of Geological Sciences at the University of Delaware. I obtained my B.S. degree in 1973 from Bowling Green State University (Ohio), working primarily with Don Steinker, who encouraged my interest in forams, paleoecology, and stratigraphy, and my Ph.D. from UC Berkeley in 1981.



Prior to moving to Delaware in 1985, I had the good fortune to see the other side of the coin as an operations micropaleontologist for Unocal in Houston. Besides working wells on a daily basis for Unocal, I was given time by my manager (Rod McLennan) to develop a general exploration model that integrated biostratigraphic, well-log and seismic data from the areas that I worked (mainly East Breaks and High Island). I left Unocal for Delaware because I wanted to pursue biostratigraphic and taphonomic studies in greater detail. Nevertheless, I have attempted to maintain industry contacts over the years and I still use my industry experience in teaching and research in applied industrial and academic aspects of micropaleo and stratigraphy. I teach required undergraduate courses in paleontology and stratigraphy and graduate courses in stratigraphy and Quaternary Environmental Micropaleontology. All of these courses draw on my experience at Unocal and emphasize hands-on exercises in sequence stratigraphy and well-logging, their integration with biostratigraphy and sea-level and climate change, and exploration strategies and sand occurrence, especially in the Plio-Pleistocene. I have also given frequent public lectures and demonstrations to amateur organizations and K-12 schools on a range of geologic topics. During this time, I have supervised M.S. and Ph.D. students on the bio (eco) ecostratigraphy of Plio-Pleistocene sections of the GOM and Caribbean, including contract work for one major. Currently, I am pursuing ecostratigraphic and parasequence studies of incised valleys in coastal Delaware in relation to rapid Holocene climate change.

I have been a member of SEPM for over 20 years (National, GCS, and NAMS since its inception), along with the Cushman Foundation, AAPG, GSA, the Paleontological Society, and other organizations. I have also served as the Editor of the Journal of Foraminiferal Research (2000-2003) and as an Associate Editor of *Palaios* (1997-2003). Although I have not served NAMS in an official capacity, I welcome the opportunity to do so, because industry and academe must build stronger ties to promote careers in micropaleontology and biostratigraphy. The continuing movement of exploration programs into frontier areas (e.g., ever deeper water of the GOM) in response to the increasing worldwide demand for oil and gas means that a new generation of micropaleontologists and biostratigraphers must be trained, quickly. As many of you know, the petroleum industry anticipates that it will need to replace over 50% of its workforce in the next 10 years (see

<http://www.earthscienceworld.org/careers/> on the AGI website). However, few students indicate an interest in private industry and faculty advisors are more likely to promote careers in the environmental sector than those in petroleum. Bridging this gap in the perception of careers in the petroleum industry is, to me, the major challenge facing NAMS and is a tremendous opportunity to advance the profession of micropaleontology and biostratigraphy. Exciting career opportunities await well-prepared students, but we must also be there to encourage, educate, and support them. I will continue to do everything I can to achieve these goals.

**David K. Watkins:** I wanted to be a paleontologist since my childhood, which may have arisen from a heavy diet of 1950's science fiction movies in which the brave paleontologist left the museum/university to save the world from giant insects/radioactive dinosaurs/mutant killer prehistoric invertebrates. It seemed like a reasonable line of work, at the time.



After my B.S. in Geology, I continued at Virginia Tech with my Masters work in geology and paleontology. My work in dinoflagellate palynology convinced me of the power of microfossils in solving biostratigraphic and paleoecologic problems. The sheer numbers of specimens in a few grams of sediment provide sample populations that allow statistical analyses that only can be dreamed about with other fossil groups. The use of these quantitative methods has been one of my passions through the years.

I moved to Florida State University for my doctorate, where I was able to broaden my micropaleontological knowledge by taking courses in Cenozoic planktic foraminifera, radiolarians and calcareous nannofossils, and Mesozoic calcareous nannofossils and diatoms. My major professor Woody Wise could not have done a better job for me, including opening doors to the Antarctic and to the oceans of the world. As a student, I was able to work in the Antarctic Marine Geology Core Facility and to participate as a shipboard scientist aboard the *Glomar Challenger*.

In 1984, I moved to the University of Nebraska, where I moved up through the ranks to Professor and Chair of the Geosciences Department. During the last 20+ years, I have had the good fortune to travel the world in search of microfossils, included sailing the world's oceans on five ODP legs, working in the hot desert of Western Australia and the frigid desert of Antarctica, and navigating the exotic steppes of western Kansas and Nebraska. I have had the pleasure of mentoring some extraordinary students who have gone on to careers in

*see PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, continued on page 9*

academics, government, and the petroleum industry (both as company people and as consultants).

I have been a member of SEPM, PS, GSA, and INA for

many years. Much of my service has been to the latter organization. I was the founding chair of the International Nannoplankton Association (INA) Foundation and served as its director until 2004, when I became the President of INA. I hosted the 11th biennial conference of INA in Lincoln, Nebraska at the end of September.

## CANDIDATES FOR NAMS TREASURER

**Don Van Nieuwenhuise:** While growing up near the Chesapeake Bay I became interested in sediments and the biosphere. I was hard to find without a layer of mud or salt or both. Nature and the way in which science unfolded its mysteries were fascinating to me. Memorable moments towards my career path during the 60's included the Geology Merit Badge, the Atlantic Ecology Club in High School, and reading about age dating of DSDP cores. As I was pondering Marine Biology for a career, a neighbor and professor from Old Dominion described to me what geologists do. From that point on, I was convinced I wanted to be a geologist.



In my sophomore year of college I discovered paleontology; it broadly included the history of life and the key to the ages of strata (mud and bugs). I was hooked. I earned an undergraduate assistantship to study molluscs in the Santee rivers while I did a senior thesis on the foraminifera of Anasco Bay Puerto Rico. Next, I studied micropaleontology and paleoecology at the University of Houston for my MS. I returned to South Carolina to complete my education where I investigated the Paleocene stratigraphy and ostracodes of South Carolina. At the same time I had a grant to do Fourier grain-shape analysis to map sediment sources in Charleston Harbor. I had the fortunate opportunity to work at the Smithsonian under the supervision of Dr. Joe Hazel and at South Carolina with Professors Colquhoun and Ehrlich. I received my Ph. D. in 1978.

I worked for Mobil as a geologist covering onshore and offshore fields from New Orleans. At the same time I taught reservoir characterization at Tulane. At Amoco, I was employed as a biostratigrapher with roles in research, applied technology, and management. My studies at Amoco covered over 45 countries including a two year assignment in Stavanger. At the University of Houston I have taught, Applied Biostratigraphy, Paleobiology, Physical Geology, Sedimentology, Petroleum Geology, and Reservoir Characterization for the Department of Geosciences and the Petroleum Engineering Program. My current research includes several studies of the Paleogene Ostracodes of the Gulf and Atlantic Coastal Plains.

I have been an active member of AAPG, SEPM, NAMS, IRGO, and HGS for many years. I have also been an active member of TGS (Tulsa), WAGS (DC, now GSW), NOGS (New Orleans), and NPF (Norway). I have served on committees for AAPG, TGS, and NPF. I was co-editor

of the IRGO Newsletter for over 10 years. I am honored to be asked to run for Treasurer of NAMS-SEPM and I will dedicate my time and service to this vital organization.

**Richard H. Fluegeman:** Growing up in southwestern Ohio, I became interested in fossils at an early age. I collected Ordovician fossils from local outcrops through high school. So, it seemed natural to me to study Geology in college. I received a BS in Geology from the University of Cincinnati in 1977 and an MS in Geology from Miami University in 1979. My focus at Miami was on brachiopod paleontology and Paleozoic stratigraphy. Upon completion of my studies at Miami, I was hired by Texaco in Midland, Texas as a frontier exploration geologist.



While at Texaco, I got an appreciation of the value of foraminifera for subsurface correlation. I became very interested in the topic and when I decided to return to Cincinnati in 1981 to pursue my Ph.D., foram biostratigraphy and paleoecology was my chosen field. I began work on benthic foraminifera from the Paleocene of the eastern Gulf Coastal Plain. Before the completion of my dissertation, I was hired by Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana to teach petroleum geology, stratigraphy, and field geology. Upon completion of my Ph.D., I began teaching courses in paleontology and micropaleontology.

Much of my current research has focused on the study of Eocene and Oligocene benthic foraminifera. I have continued my work in the Gulf Coastal Plain and have extend these studies into the Caribbean. I have been involved with several chronostratigraphic projects involving the Eocene and I am the chair of the Lutetian-Bartonian Boundary Working Group.

I have been a member of both the Paleontological Society and SEPM since my undergraduate days. I am also an active member of the Cushman Foundation, GSA, the Paleontological Association, and Sigma Xi. Despite my long affiliations with these organizations, I have never served as an officer or committee member. I was happy to be asked by Nancy Engelhardt-Moore and the NAMS Nominating Committee to be a candidate for NAMS Treasurer. I appreciate this opportunity to be involved as treasurer and I look forward to the opportunity to serve the membership of NAMS.

## MMRG Report

Once again, NAMS hosted a joint meeting of the SEPM Marine Micropaleontology Research Group and the Quantitative Stratigraphy Group at the AAPG-SEPM Annual Meeting held in Houston, Texas on Monday, April 10, 2006. The program included four presentations that were all well received. Talks were selected and arranged by NAMS members James Gamber, Ron Waszczak and Nancy Engelhardt-Moore. Devon Energy provided refreshments for the event and SEPM generously provided drink coupons. The principal speakers were Dr. Kenneth Miller (Rutgers University), Dr. Jim Ogg (Purdue University), Walter Snyder (Boise State University) and Kerstin Lehnert (Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University). Dr. Miller gave an excellent presentation entitled "Phanerozoic Sea level Changes: Implications to Phytoplankton Evolution" that generated lots of discussion. Next, on behalf of the International Commission on Stratigraphy and CHRONOS, Dr. Ogg gave an update and demo on Time-Scale Creator, which is a time-calibrated Phanerozoic stratigraphy database and chart making visualization package. His demo received positive feedback and discussion. Walter Snyder and Kerstin Lehnert gave a combined talk and demo entitled "SedDB, PaleoStrat and SESAR—a Partnership for International Sedimentary Geologic and Paleontologic Geoinformatics". Walter spoke first and he gave an informative overview on two NSF funded database projects, SedDB and PaleoStrat. These projects have joined forces to provide a master database for both marine and terrestrial sedimentary geologic data. Both systems are loading legacy data and working to provide the support necessary for user data input. Kerstin followed with an overview of SESAR, the System for Earth Sample Registration, which is building a web-based registry that generates and administers globally unique identifiers for Geoscience samples: the International Geo Sample Number (IGSN).

## SEPM SPECIAL PUB.

In early March 2005 NAMS hosted, with sponsorship from ten other paleontological-related organizations, an International Conference at Rice University in Houston, Texas. The conference was in memory of Garry Jones who was the initial organizer of the conference. The objective of the conference was to showcase the problem-solving power of microfossils, and to stimulate the cross fertilization of ideas across disciplines and between academia and industry. An SEPM Special Publication of volunteered manuscripts was proposed as documentation of success of this conference.

Twenty-two manuscripts were submitted over the course of several weeks in February and March of 2006. They were subsequently sent out for review over the Spring and Summer. Although the majority of these reviews have been returned, unfortunately there are some still outstanding which is delaying progress on the volume.

Thirteen papers for which all reviews have been received will be sent back to authors in the next few weeks, with the request for final manuscripts to be returned to the Editors by January 30. It is hoped that the remaining manuscripts which are awaiting final reviews will be returned to authors by mid-November, with the request that final manuscripts be submitted by February 28. Depending on the promptness of returns and acceptable formatting, the Editors hope to send all the finalized manuscripts to SEPM soon afterwards in hopes of a 2007 publication timeframe.

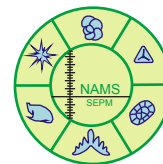
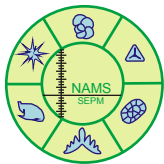
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**Ron Martin**

**David K. Watkins**

#### TREASURER

**Richard H. Fluegeman**

**Don Van Nieuwenhuise**

*Please check one candidate for each office*

Please send a copy of your completed ballot before **January 15, 2007** to:

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Or E-mail your choice to: [Robert.Campbell@shell.com](mailto:Robert.Campbell@shell.com) (Subject: NAMS Election)

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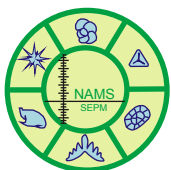
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