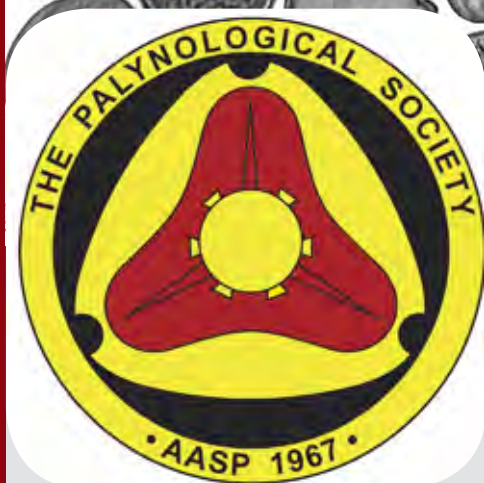


AASP - THE PALYNOLOGICAL SOCIETY

PROMOTING THE SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING OF PALYNOLOGY SINCE 1967



Newsletter

December 2015

Volume 48, Number 4

Published Quarterly by AASP - The Palynological Society



AASP-TPS NEWSLETTER

Published Quarterly by AASP - The Palynological Society

December 2015 Volume 48, Number 4

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A.A.S.P.

The Palynological Society

The American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists, Inc. - AASP-The Palynological Society - was established in 1967 by a group of 31 founding members to promote the science of palynology. Today AASP has a world-wide membership of about 800 and is run by an executive comprising an elected Board of Directors and subsidiary boards and committees. AASP welcomes new members.

The AASP Foundation publishes the journal *Palynology* (triannually), the *AASP Newsletter* (quarterly), and the *AASP Contributions Series* (mostly monographs, issued irregularly), as well as several books and miscellaneous items. AASP organises an Annual Meeting which usually includes a field trip, a business luncheon, social events, and technical sessions where research results are presented on all aspects of palynology.

AASP Scientific Medal recipients

Professor William R. Evitt (awarded 1982)
Professor William G. Chaloner (awarded 1984)
Dr. Lewis E. Stover (awarded 1988)
Dr. Graham Lee Williams (awarded 1996)
Dr. Hans Gocht (awarded 1996)
Professor Svein B. Manum (awarded 2002)
Professor Barrie Dale (awarded 2004)
Dr. David Wall (awarded 2004)
Dr. Robin Helby (awarded 2005)
Dr. Satish K. Srivastava (awarded 2006)
Professor Estella B. Leopold (awarded 2013)

AASP Honorary Members

Professor Dr. Alfred Eisenack (elected 1975)
Dr. William S. Hoffmeister (elected 1975)
Professor Leonard R. Wilson (elected 1975)
Professor Knut Faegri (elected 1977)
Professor Charles Downie (elected 1982)
Professor William R. Evitt (elected 1989)
Professor Lucy M. Cranwell (elected 1989)
Dr. Tamara F. Vozzhennikova (elected 1990)
Professor Aureal T. Cross (elected 1991)
Dr. Robert T. Clarke (awarded 2002)
Professor Vaughn M. Bryant (awarded 2005)
Professor Alfred Traverse (awarded 2005)
Professor Bernard Owens (awarded 2011)
Dr. John E. Williams (awarded 2013)
Mr. Paul W. Nygreen (awarded 2013)

AASP Board of Directors Award recipient

Dr. Robert T. Clarke (awarded 1994)
Dr. Thomas D. Demchuk (awarded 2014)

Teaching medal recipients

Professor Aureal T. Cross (awarded 1999)
Professor Alfred Traverse (awarded 2001)
Professor Bill Evitt (awarded 2006)
Professor Vaughn M. Bryant (awarded 2013)

AASP Distinguished Service Award recipients

Dr. Robert T. Clarke (awarded 1978)
Dr. Norman J. Norton (awarded 1978)
Dr. Jack D. Burgess (awarded 1982)
Dr. Richard W. Hedlund (awarded 1982)
Dr. John A. Clendening (awarded 1987)
Dr. Kenneth M. Piel (awarded 1990)
Dr. Gordon D. Wood (awarded 1993)
Dr. Jan Jansonius (awarded 1995)
Dr. D. Colin McGregor (awarded 1995)
Professor John H. Wrenn (awarded 1998)
Professor Vaughn M. Bryant (awarded 1999)
Dr. Donald W. Engelhardt (awarded 2000)
Dr. David T. Pocknall (awarded 2005)
Dr. David K. Goodman (awarded 2005)
Professor Owen K. Davis (awarded 2005)
Dr. Thomas Demchuk (awarded 2009)
Professor Reed Wicander (awarded 2014)



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Jen O'Keefe, Editor

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AASP WEBMASTER

Fabienne Marret, aaspwebmaster@gmail.com, website: <http://www.palynology.org>

AASP NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jen O'Keefe, palynologylexington@gmail.com, 404-A Lappin Hall, Department of Earth and Space Science, Morehead State University, Morehead, KY 40351.

The AASP-TPS Newsletter is published four times annually. Members are encouraged to submit articles, "letters to the editor," technical notes, meetings reports, information about "members in the news," new websites and information about job openings. Every effort will be made to publish all information received from our membership. Contributions which include photographs should be submitted two weeks before the deadline.

Deadline for submission for the next issue of the newsletter is **February 15**. All information should be sent by email. If possible, please illustrate your contribution with art, line drawings, eye-catching logos, black & white photos, colour photos, etc. **We DO look forward to contributions from our membership.**

A Message From Our President



30. November 2015

It's that time of change in AASP once again. Time for a new board and, for a fleeting year (or less in my case), change to a new president to steer the society through its annual cycle of meetings and activities. As I enter the board as president, I'm struck that the board has a gender balance that should be the envy of many other professional societies and an age profile that is weighted more towards the early- to mid- career stage. It's a great time to chair the society from that perspective and, in many ways, that's thanks to the hard work and perseverance of many previous board members.

So my first missive as president has allowed me a chance to read through the past newsletters for our organisation to gain insight into what makes a presidential opening letter. It's been instructive. It's also been entertaining. For me it was an opportunity to see what exactly I had written as part of my pitch for the presidential election. Interesting stuff. I confess my aspirations have matured in the intervening months. The downturn in the energy sector and the continued drop in grant money for universities and research institutes mean this is not the golden year for micropaleontology of any sub-discipline. Perversely, I think this might create stimulus for palynology as a discipline and force us to ask different questions of our data, how we collect and analyze those data, who we work with and, ultimately, how we could bridge between disciplines. The enormous diversity that encompasses palynology plays to our strength. Creativity may favor also the young researchers in our field seeking a niche and a professional identity. So far, my job as president has involved agreeing to sponsorship of sessions at GSA 2016 that really demonstrate palynology is embedded in some of the more interesting topics in paleobiology and Phanerozoic Earth history.

These thoughts lead me to consider the direction that our meetings have taken. My term will be book-ended by two large joint meetings. I started with the annual meeting of 2015 in Baltimore, which was under the GSA umbrella. The organizers did a great job. For me, the beauty of this meeting was being able to interact with many colleagues (and old friends) in different branches of paleontology and to consider the approaches they are taking. My outgoing meeting will be Houston in 2016, another joint meeting complementing palynology with the field of organic petrography. Personally, I would greatly encourage more meetings like these. I think they may help to reach-out to a wider geosciences community and ultimately energise further our membership. While my predecessors have aspired for more members, I would like to see increased engagement with the many members we have. What do they want from the society? Personally I think the most valuable parts of our organisation are the journal, the student support and the ways we communicate – the newsletter and the website. The journal is going from strength to strength and that is testament to the tireless work of the editorial team. We continue to support a good number of students, we have a student member on our board and in the last GSA we co-sponsored a large number of sessions in some diverse subjects ranging from early life to biostratigraphy.

In my short term as President I'm pleased that several projects will come to fruition. The reality is that the AASP presidencies are too short a duration to actually do anything but merely to shepherd projects along. I guess that's deliberate. The most important of these will be the launch of the new website. I'm excited because this one projects represents a substantial amount of work from various board members sustained over the year, and by a myriad of people who have given time and effort generously in helping to shape the content. In all my years of professional service on different boards, the same issues seem to arise. Central among them is the website and specifically the content. More specifically, it's a question over who will do what ad nauseum. I'm pleased that one mammoth project will be completed and it will be an achievement we can all make use of for interacting with the society. It's the most expensive item on the board agenda for several years, but it's vital. It is our public window that sells our subject. My one disappointment this year was that there were no nominations for our top awards. Why was this? Did we not know about them, know the deadlines or submission protocols, or did we not think of worthy candidates? I'm hoping it's not the latter suggestion. I urge you to nominate worthy colleagues in 2016! I also hope that in the next year we will have a diverse set of candidates standing for election. As a veteran ballot master of 2 elections, the participation to vote has run at c. 50% of our members (or less). The willingness of members to stand has been fantastic. While stability on a board can maintain a corporate knowledge (a good thing and possibly also a bad thing), the election of new faces to the board brings fresh ideas to the table. It also means that some of the more exasperating traditions can be challenged. It's always a pleasure to serve a professional society and it's my privilege to serve AASP for 2015-2016.

Guy Harrington,
Birmingham, UK



MANAGING EDITOR'S REPORT

The November 2015 issue of Palynology (volume 39, Part 3) is now published, both online and in print. By the time you are reading this newsletter, all paid-up members should have received their copies. This part includes six research articles which are listed below. One of these is a fabulous paper by Graham Williams, Sarah Damassa, Rob Fensome and Raquel Guerstein on the dinoflagellate cyst subfamily Wetzelielloideae. They have used the archaeopyle as the principal taxonomic discriminant of this important group. These authors have been working on this landmark paper for many years so it is great to have it for Palynology. There is also an article illustrating an online key for the determination of modern dinoflagellate cysts by Karin Zonneveld and Vera Pospelova.

I will finalise the running order for articles in volume 40, part 1 early in the New Year; this issue will be paper-published in March 2016. It will include a high-impact paper on protocols in forensic palynology by Pat Wiltshire and a short editorial reviewing the past and looking forwards. Next year's front cover is red (to acknowledge the ruby anniversary of the journal), and features a SEM image of a thecate cell of the modern dinoflagellate *Protoperidinium divergens* with a specimen of the coccolithophore *Emiliania huxleyi* resting on the flange of the cingulum. We may well have two Supplements to Volume 40 next year. One of these is a thematic set on the dinoflagellate cyst *Spiniferites* which is being guest edited by Kenneth Mertens and colleagues.

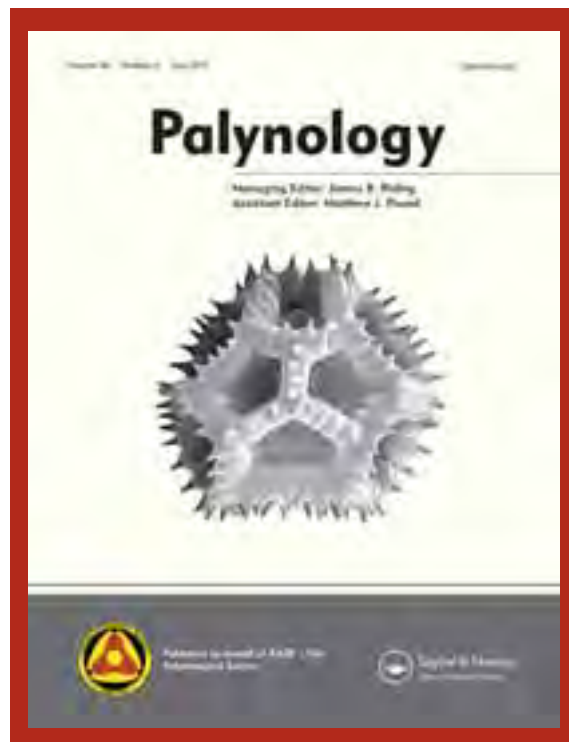
In other news, Rob Fensome has kindly agreed to join the editorial board as an expert on all matters systematic and taxonomic. Our production editor Zöe Taylor has moved on to pastures new in Taylor and Francis. We thank Zöe for all her hard work on Palynology during the past two years and wish her all the best in her future career. Our new production editor is Joanna Perry (email: Joanna.Perry@informa.com), who took over in mid-November. Welcome to the team Joanna!

James B. Riding
Managing Editor – AASP – The Palynological Society
British Geological Survey
Keyworth
Nottingham NG12 5GG
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)115 9363447
E-mail: jbri@bgs.ac.uk

7th December 2015

The contents of *Palynology* Volume 39, Part 3 (November 2015)

1. Williams, G.L., Damassa, S.P., Fensome, R.A. and Guerstein, G.R. *Wetzeliiella* and its allies – the 'hole' story: a taxonomic revision of the Paleogene dinoflagellate subfamily Wetzelielloideae. pp. 289–344.
2. Machado, G. and Flores, D. An effective method for the observation and documentation of highly mature palynomorphs using reflected light microscopy. pp. 345–349.
3. Villota, A., León-Yáñez, S. and Behling, H. Mid- and late Holocene vegetation and environmental dynamics in the Llanganates National Park, Anteojos Valley, central Ecuadorian Andes. pp. 350–361.
4. Olivera, D.E., Zavattieri, A.M. and Quattrocchio, M.E. The palynology of the Cañadón Asfalto Formation (Jurassic), Cerro Cóndor depocentre, Cañadón Asfalto Basin, Patagonia, Argentina: palaeoecology and palaeoclimate based on ecogroup analysis. pp. 362–386.
5. Zonneveld, K.A.F. and Pospelova, V. A determination key for modern dinoflagellate cysts. pp. 387–409.
6. Thomas, M.L., Pocknall, D.T., Warny, S., Bentley, S.J. Sr., Droxler, A.W. and Nittrouer, C.A. Assessing palaeobathymetry and sedimentation rates using palynomaceral analysis: a study of modern sediments from the Gulf of Papua, offshore Papua New Guinea. pp. 410–433.





Farewell, Zoë Taylor – Production Editor for Palynology

Alongside my time obtaining a BA honours degree in English Literature from Bath University, I began undertaking long-term work experience with the renowned children's publishers, Chicken House, set-up and run by no other than Barry Cunningham, the man who discovered J.K. Rowling and the Harry Potter series.

After graduating in 2012, Imogen Cooper (Chief Editor at Chicken House Publishing) approached me and asked whether I would be interested in helping her set up "Golden Egg Academy" – a company which offers a range of support to authors of children's and YA's fiction through professional talks, writing courses, workshops and one-to-one editorial support with experienced editors. My responsibilities in this role included mind-mapping and helping prepare for the weekend workshops as well as taking an active part in group discussion and creative tasks set, creating the company website and manuscript database, and reading submitted manuscripts ascertaining their suitability and quality to proceed further in the academy.



Alongside this role, I also became Editorial Assistant at the home of BBC audiobooks, AudioGO, in Bath, working closely on the Large Print Books list licensing artwork and clearing permissions as well as being the main point of contact for any editorial queries.

Looking for a senior role in publishing and wanting to move into the Academic realm, I had the pleasure of joining Taylor & Francis as Journals Production Editor in late 2013. I am now responsible for project-managing 20+ academic journals at any given time which range in host area from science and technology to arts and humanities. I take full control of the production process for both the online and print publications; responsibilities include liaising with Academic Editors to obtain copy for publication to agreed schedules and page budgets, selecting and monitoring freelance copy-editors and their work, creating reports for Editorial board meetings, and managing external typesetters as well as providing feedback to improve the quality of their work and timeliness of returning files to us.

I also collate author and editor corrections following agreed journal styles and workflows, identify ways to improve processes, keep to department speed and quality targets and act as the first port of call for any production-related queries from authors, editors, suppliers, societies and other internal departments such as Editorial, Marketing and Manufacturing.

In my spare time, I often enjoy visiting my much-missed hometown of Falmouth, Cornwall where pasties are aplenty. I am also a keen (amateur) baker and regularly practice Pilates and yoga.

In Memoriam...

Alfred Traverse: A man of letters 1925 - 2015

Fredrick Rich and Paul K. Strother

Dr. Alfred Traverse was born in Port Hill, Prince Edward Island, Canada, on Labor Day, 1925. Not much is known of his early family life except that they moved to the United States in 1928. He was educated in St. Joseph, Michigan, where he graduated from high school as Valedictorian in 1943; this was a pattern he was to follow for the rest of his career. He entered Harvard University in June, 1943, graduating three years later *summa cum laude* and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. After securing a Lady Julia Henry Fellowship, Al travelled to Cambridge, England, where we worked under Sir Harry Godwin at the Botany School of Cambridge University. At their first meeting, Godwin, famous for his work on plant succession, was quite apologetic about having been on the wrong side of a prior scientific argument. It turned out that Al had never read these papers and was completely unaware of the scientific argument involved, so the apology meant nothing to him. Lesson learned: “never apologize in advance.” In August 1947 he returned to Harvard to resume graduate work, concentrating on fossil palynomorph studies. He received his MS from Harvard in 1948 (age 23). Al stayed on at Harvard, becoming the second PhD student of Elso Barghoorn, who was then working on the Oligocene Brandon Lignite in Vermont. Elso had set Bill Spackman, his first student, to work on identifying the fossil wood. Al was assigned the pollen and spores, and in the 1970’s Bruce Tiffney (UC Santa Barbara) worked up the fruits and seeds. The Brandon was a messy field site, requiring a repaired gas engine pump to keep the water out. This was well before the days of “big” science – Al once commented that the only travel money he got from Barghoorn was a \$10 bus ticket to Vermont. Al earned his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1951, at the age of 26. All of this intellectual progress was distinguished, and was to serve as the model for the rest of his career.



Dr. Traverse at Locality 17BB in the Bighorn Basin, Wyoming. Photo courtesy of Martin Farley.

In June, 1951, he married Elizabeth Jane Insley (Betty, to those of us who knew her well), who remained his life-long lab assistant at The Pennsylvania State University. Prior to his assignments at Penn State, Al held positions at the U.S. Bureau of Mines in Grand Forks, North Dakota, the Federal Center in Denver, Colorado, and at Shell Oil, Houston, Texas. He resigned from Shell in 1962, and enrolled in the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, where he graduated with a Master of Divinity degree in 1965 as the top-ranked student. In May, 1966, he was ordained Priest, and in that same year he and Betty moved to State College, PA, to join the faculty at Penn State. Al set up a modern palynological processing facility in the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences and proceeded to teach palynology to both undergraduate and graduate students for the remainder of his career. His years of teaching are manifest in what became the only modern textbook of palynology, *Paleopalynology*, now in its second edition.

In 1967 Al Traverse was one of the 32 cofounders of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists (AASP, now AASP-The Palynological Society). Al’s preferred vote for the name of the fledgling society was, Society of North American Palynologists, aka SNAP. The survival and subsequent success of the society was



Dr. Traverse at his home, “Alphabet Arboretum.” Photos this page courtesy of Paul Strother.

a great source of pride for Al. He was the first Secretary-Treasurer for the society, and served as President in 1971. He was awarded Honorary Member in 2005 and received the second AASP Medal for Teaching Excellence in 2011. He was also a member of the Botanical Society of America and Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Geological Society of America. Al had a classical botanist’s penchant for taxonomy and nomenclature – he served as Secretary of the International Association for Plant Taxonomy Committee for Fossil Plants from 1969 to 1994. He maintained his own personal herbarium, and up until his death, was actively curating the herbarium at Penn State as Adjunct Curator, writing just last year, “I still work full time at the herbarium, but I have to be in bed by 8 p.m.”

There can be no doubt that Alfred Traverse was a remarkable contributor to science. His research in stratigraphic palynology ranged throughout the Phanerozoic, extending in a co-authored work to the systematics of middle Ordovician cryptospores that represent evidence of the earliest land plants.

His 1988 paper², “Plant evolution dances to a different beat” is a classic result of the great stratigraphic breath of his expertise in paleopalynology and paleobotany.

Al was a skilled mentor to all his students. He was forthcoming with basic sound, advice. Those of us who were fortunate enough to have worked well with him benefited much from his uncomplicated approach to problem solving, and his straight-forward means of solving problems. This was alluded to above, but is further illustrated by this comment in the Preface to the first edition of *Paleopalynology*:

“Bibliographies are not presented chapter-by-chapter as is often done in this sort of text, because I have frequently been annoyed by this. When one wants to find a certain reference, it is often maddening to have to figure out after which chapter to look.”

There was never any doubt as to what he believed, or would endorse.

Another personal observation relates to the character of the man we now recognize. Dr. Traverse commonly had students over to the Traverse residence for evening discussions, a practice rare amongst academics today. One year, during Spring, he came into the house after having been in the back yard, and held a branch in his hand. It was a branch of American chestnut, and it bore flowers. He was so excited to show us chestnut flowers, but it seems we were all too dim to realize that the American chestnut rarely survives to maturity because of the chestnut blight that was introduced early in the Twentieth Century. If anyone deserved to have American chestnut flowers in his backyard, it was Dr. Alfred Traverse.

We remember him fondly.

¹Paul K Strother, Alfred Traverse and Marco Vecoli, Cryptospores From the Hanadir Shale Member of the Qasim Formation, Ordovician (Darrivilian) of Saudi Arabia: Taxonomy and Systematics, Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology, 212 (2015), 97–110.

²Traverse, A. 1988. Plant evolution dances to a different beat. *Historical Biology* 1: 277–301.



2015 Annual Meeting Retrospective

REPORT ON THE 2015 AASP-TPS ANNUAL MEETING AT THE GSA ANNUAL MEETING, BALTIMORE, MD, OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 5.

Peter McLaughlin and Jen O'Keefe

The 48th Annual Meeting of AASP-The Palynological Society was held in conjunction with the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America in Baltimore, Maryland from October 31 to November 5, 2015. Conference activities were centered at the Baltimore Convention Center, which is located in the popular Inner Harbor area of "Charm City." The joint meeting with GSA provided a great opportunity for "palynological infiltration" into the broad spectrum of geosciences represented by the more than 6,000 attendees present at the conference. Although the co-location at GSA makes a definitive headcount difficult, an estimated 75 members attended at least one AASP-TPS activity associated with our 2015 Annual Meeting.

The 2015 Meeting was chaired by Pete McLaughlin of the University of Delaware's Delaware Geological Survey, with essential support added by Annual Meeting Committee members Lucy Edwards and Debra Willard of the US Geological Survey. The conference committee did their best to assemble a variety of scientific, business, and social activities for the 2015 meeting with the broader and larger range of activities that comprise the Geological Society of America meeting program. AASP-TPS-sponsored technical sessions included palynology-specific oral and poster sessions, as well multidisciplinary sessions that allowed interesting and novel works from palynological disciplines to highlight the significance of palynology alongside other geologic topics. The schedule also included two field trips, two board meetings, the society business luncheon, a short course, and an evening "ice breaker" social event.

AASP-TPS activities started with a pre-conference field trip to examine modern wetland and coastal vegetation of the Chesapeake Bay region. The trip, entitled "Coastal and Wetland Ecosystems of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Applying Palynology to Understand Impacts of Changing Climate, Sea Level, and Land Use" was led by USGS scientists Debra Willard, Christopher Bernhardt, Cliff Hupp, and Wayne Newell. A group of 12 participants examined wetlands at three locations. At Patuxent River Park in Maryland, the group visited a tidal marsh and a forested wetland where the short-term and long-term controls on the marsh – forested wetland gradient were discussed. At Bridges Creek Landing, in George Washington Birthplace National Monument in Virginia, the group examined surficial deposits and considered the impacts of anthropogenic land-cover changes on vegetation and geomorphology. The third site was Westmoreland State Park in Virginia, where geologic exposures at Fossil Beach and Westmoreland Cliffs were visited and sea level and Quaternary climate change were discussed near a wetland site and an upland site. The day concluded with an enjoyable stop at Ingleside Vineyards, where participants had a chance sample some fine Virginia wines at the oldest vineyard on the Northern Neck of Virginia.



Westmorland State Park, VA. Photo Courtesy of Katie Glover

Also on Saturday, six students were fortunate to attend the AASP short course “Applied Biostratigraphy in Petroleum Exploration and Production” taught by Iain Prince and Katrin Ruckwied of Shell Oil. The students were given a series of lectures and exercises designed to help them better understand the types of biostratigraphic data and knowledge needed to resolve geologic problems in oil and gas exploration and production. Thanks to the generous support of Shell, this course was offered at a very low cost and included course materials and refreshments.

In the evening, the meeting of the outgoing AASP-TPS Board of Directors was held high above Baltimore at President Jen O’Keefe’s suite at the Embassy Suites Inner Harbor. Society activities since last year’s board meeting were reviewed and discussed, reports from society officers and committees were given, and the status of activities for the Baltimore meeting was outlined. In addition, significant work was completed on several issues, including the new website!

The technical program began on Sunday morning. In all, AASP-TPS was the sponsor or co-sponsor of eight technical sessions within the GSA meeting program. This represented a total of 107 talks or posters, with approximately 75 covering at least some aspect of palynology. Three AASP-TPS sessions were held on Sunday: the general “Palynology” oral session; “Timing of the Origins and Evolution of Unicellular Eukaryotes” oral session; and the “Palynology” poster session in the afternoon. To cap the day, 45 AASP-TPS members gathered and took over one of the upstairs rooms at Baltimore’s well-loved Pratt Street Alehouse for a Sunday-evening Icebreaker social gathering. A great selection of hors d’oeuvres, a diverse offering of beverages including house brews, and the company of interesting friends and colleagues made for a great evening!



John Marshall & Jen O’Keefe



Cortland Eble & Lanny Fisk



Left to right: Nikolas Wiggan, Iain Prince, Kimberly Bell, Guy Harrington, Catherine Smith, & Heda Agic



Thirty-seven of the attendees at the AASP-TPS Icebreaker. Front Row, L-R: Peter McLaughlin, Marie Thomas, Lucy Edwards, Shannon Ferguson, James Doyle; 2nd Row, L-R: Katherine Glover, Morgan Black, Francesca Oboh-Ikuenobe, Fabienne Marret, John Marshall, Katrin Ruckwied, Francine McCarthy, Jan Hennisson, Alan Crompton (Taylor & Francis), Lanny Fisk, Curtis Klug; 3rd Row, L-R: Kimberly Bell, Sharon Brooke, ?, ?, Nick Wiggan, Heda Agic, Gilda Lopez, Vera Pospolova, Cortland Eble, Jen O'Keefe, Stephen Louwye, David Pocknall; 4th Row, L-R: ?, Thomas Steeman, Pieter Gurdebeke, Guy Harrington, Chris Dennison, Gunn Mangerud; 5th Row, L-R: Daan van der Velden, Stephen Stukins, Iain Prince. Photo courtesy of Peter McLaughlin

Monday had no AASP-TPS sessions, which allowed members to attend sessions in other disciplines, wander through the exhibits and posters, join in social events for schools and other societies, or to simply enjoy the Inner Harbor area. A common meeting point for members was the newly re-done AASP-TPS booth. The booth, located on one end of "Paleo Alley," saw significant traffic and enhanced the visibility of palynology as a discipline within paleontology. The new booth design left plenty of room for book displays on the table, and the AASP Foundation had very good sales at the meeting.

Tuesday's program was a full one for attendees, with four AASP-TPS-sponsored technical sessions being held. "Paleoecological Patterns, Ecological Processes, Modeled Scenarios: Crossing Temporal Scales to Understand an Uncertain Future" featured a mix of talks from palynology and other disciplines highlighting interesting ecological problems. "Integration of Microfossils and Sedimentology in Stratigraphic Analysis," highlighted the application of palynomorphs and other microfossils to sedimentologic and stratigraphic studies. "From Peat to Coke: Honoring the Legacy of William Spackman," gathered specialists on organic sediments and paid tribute to the work of William Spackman in the fields of paleobotany, palynology, organic petrography, and coal geochemistry. An AASP-TPS-sponsored poster session ran concurrent with these, part of GSA's effort to recognize the 200th anniversary of the publication of William Smith's geological map: "200 Years and Going Strong: The Role of Paleontology in Geologic Mapping."

The Business Luncheon was held mid-day on Wednesday at the Hilton Baltimore with 35 attendees. Outgoing President Jen O'Keefe presided over the business portion of the meeting, starting with President's address, then passed the podium on to Stephen Stukins for the Secretary's Report, Rebecca Hackworth for the Treasurer's Report, and Bob Clarke for the Foundation Report. Jen rounded out the "business" portion of the luncheon with an Invitation to the 49th meeting of AASP-TPS, joint with TSOP and ICCP in Houston, TX next year. Jen and Stephen then presented the 2015 meeting winners of the L.R. Wilson Award (Morgan Black, Morehead State university; Honorable Mention, Qiang Yao, Louisiana State University) and the winner of both the Vaughn M. Bryant, Jr. Best Student Poster & Best Overall Poster (Catherine Smith, University of South Florida). Following recognition of the outgoing board members and welcome of the incoming board members, Jen officially transferred power to 2015-2016 President, Guy Harrington. Guy gave a brief address, encouraging continued participation in the society and praising the large number of students in attendance.

On Wednesday afternoon, the last session sponsored by AASP-TPS, "What Makes a Juicy Rock? Global Climate Events and Deposition of Organic Rich Shales through Time," brought together scientists to explore source rocks from multiple perspectives.

In the evening, a cordial meeting of the incoming AASP-TPS Board of Directors was held, again at the Embassy Suites Inner Harbor. Activities at our Baltimore meeting were reviewed, plans for the 2106 AASP-TPS Annual Meeting in Houston and 2017 Meeting in Nottingham were discussed, and a more detailed review of material for the new AASP-TPS website was made. It was decided that the mid-year board meeting will be held in Houston, TX in spring of 2016.



Left: Morgan Black receives the L.R. Wilson Award from Stephen Stukins. Right: Qiang Yao receives the L.R. Wilson Honorable Mention.



Left: Business meeting attendees. Right: Jen O'Keefe passes the society copy of Robert's Rules and the Gavel to Guy Harrington.



Photos courtesy of Peter McLaughlin.

AASP activities wrapped up with a Thursday field trip, "Cretaceous Stratigraphy and Palynology of the Maryland Coastal Plain." The trip, led by Pete McLaughlin and by Heather Quinn of the Maryland Geological Survey, provided an opportunity for 18 participants to see local geology and discuss the paleontological record, including fossil pollen and plants. On a foggy, drizzly morning, the first stop was Maryland Dinosaur Park, south of Baltimore, which is probably the most notable location for dinosaur fossils on the East Coast of the United States. The group received a very interesting presentation on the paleontology and geology of the site by local dinosaur expert Ben Miller of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and then was able to examine up close the clays, siderite concretions, and fossil wood and charcoal in the Lower Cretaceous Arundel Clay (Potomac Group). The second stop was at Elk Neck State Park, south of the town of Northeast, Maryland, where bluffs along the fog-shrouded bay offered a chance to examine the paleosols, fluvial sands, and muddy overbank deposits of upper part of the Potomac Group; numerous important fossils flowers and fruits have been described from these bluffs. The highlight of the trip was the final stop at Stancill's Quarry, at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay near Perryville, Maryland. Gravel mining has left a broad exposure of a variety of Potomac Group lithologies in the wall of the quarry. Quarry owner Terry Stancill was kind enough to put his backhoe operator at our service, which we took advantage of to have several fresh trench exposures dug. And, the sun even made a few brief appearances during this stop! The field trippers were returned to Baltimore just before 6 pm, bringing our conference activities to a close.

After the wide variety of interesting and enjoyable activities held over the week, the 2015 joint meeting of AASP-TPS with the Geological Society of America can be declared a success. One challenge of holding a smaller society meeting like ours at a large conference like GSA is the numerous sessions in other disciplines that run concurrently with the AASP-TPS-sponsored sessions. However, in spite of this competition, the AASP-TPS oral sessions had healthy attendance, with the smaller sessions having up to 50 audience members and the larger sessions up to 100 at peak. The poster presenters benefitted from GSA's appealing poster session format, which provided the opportunity to have posters seen by hundreds of attendees from a great variety of fields, with free afternoon drink tickets to encourage attendance and discussion. AASP-TPS can be proud of the scientific sessions that we sponsored. The session chairs were effective advocates and assembled interesting rosters of presentation. We were fortunate to have so many presenters offer high-quality talks and posters made, which resulted in a dynamic and informative technical program. In addition, we appear to have been successful in infiltration of palynology into sessions that covered a variety of other disciplines. The abstracts for the entire conference are available on the GSA web site; direct links to the abstracts for the AASP-TPS-sponsored sessions are also provided on the AASP2015 meeting mini-website: <https://sites.google.com/site/aaspbaltimore2015/home/program>. On behalf of the Conference Committee, the session chairs presenters are sincerely thanked for taking part in the AASP-TPS sessions and for their part in making for a successful conference.

AASP-TPS was also fortunate to receive generous financial support for the 2015 Annual Meeting from three sponsors, ExxonMobil, Hess, and our publisher Taylor and Francis. The conference committee sincerely appreciated their support, which allowed AASP-TPS to offer an attractive program of activities and to welcome students to the Business Luncheon at no cost.

With the 2015 AASP-TPS Annual Meeting now on the books, members can look forward to the certain-to-be-excellent 2016 Annual Meeting in Houston next September, co-organized by Thomas Demchuk, Thomas Gentzis, Joe Curiale, and Jen O'Keefe. The 2016 meeting will be another joint meeting, this with The Society for Organic Petrology and the International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology, and will enjoy a great location at the historic Magnolia Hotel in downtown Houston. We hope to see you there!



Top and Middle Right: Post-meeting field trip participants at Maryland Dinosaur Park. Bottom Left: along the very foggy Chesapeake Bay. Bottom Right: a colorful, charcoal-rich Potomac Group exposure. Photos courtesy of Peter McLaughlin and Jen O'Keefe



XVIII International Congress on the Carboniferous and Permian, ICCP 2015, Kazan, Russia

In August I had the opportunity to attend the XVIII International Congress on the Carboniferous and Permian held in Kazan, Russia. It was a fantastic chance to present my MSc research on the palynology of Permian coals of South Africa and get feedback from scientists working around the world. Kazan itself is a wonderful location with friendly people, great food and a rich culture. The conference itself was perfectly organised and diverse in its topics. Micropalaeontology as a discipline was well represented though fewer talks were focused on palynology. The study of the Permian has made strong progress in recent times and I think palynology will play a key role in future research, especially in the correlation of marine and non-marine sections.

The post-conference field trip to type sections of the Volga and Kama region provided insight into the Permian geology of Russia and a fascinating look at the oil-rich province of Tatarstan. As an African, I'm used to field work in the dry veld under sunny skies, so the muddy forests alongside the Volga were an absolute eye opener but definitely not an unpleasant experience.

I would like to thank the AASP for the travel grant which allowed me to attend the event. The next (XIX) ICCP congress will be held in Cologne, Germany in 2019. I look forward to presenting my continued research and meeting my international colleagues once more.

Alexander Wheeler, University of Pretoria



Participants on the ICCP 2015 post-conference field trip to Middle and Upper Permian of the Volga and Kama region. Photo courtesy of Alexandra Wheeler.

SOCIETY AWARDS

Martin Farley, Awards Committee Chairman

AASP-TPS has a number of awards that recognize accomplishments of palynologists. Here I deal only with awards not directly associated with society officers or students (other than the Undergraduate Awards) or awards at the Annual Meeting.

The deadline is March 1 of each year for submission of nominations to the Awards Committee. The basic nomination procedure is similar for most awards (main letter of nomination accompanied by letters of support, these to include documentation of accomplishment). Details on the procedures for each award can be found at <http://www.palynology.org/content/awardproced.html>, while a complete list of the people who have received these awards in the past can be found on the third page of this newsletter.



Distinguished Service Award

This award recognizes individuals who have generously supported the Society with their work and resources over a number of years and whose efforts have advanced the Society. Typically, recipients have held society office, participated in committees, or dealt with publications or meetings. There have been 17 recipients of this award, most recently Reed Wicander in 2014.

Honorary Life Membership

This is actually the oldest AASP award with the first awards dating to 1975. This award is given either to people making fundamental contributions to the science of palynology or people who have given the AASP devoted service or both. Honorary Life Membership has been awarded to 15 individuals, most recently to John Williams and Paul Nygreen in 2013.

Medal for Excellence in Education

This medal recognizes leaders in palynological instruction. Nominees are expected to have considerable experience and accomplishment in all aspects of academic education involving palynology, including training of new scientists for the field. The medal has been awarded four times, most recently to Vaughn Bryant in 2013.

Medal for Scientific Excellence

The Society's highest award for achievement in the science of palynology is the Medal for Scientific Excellence. The official description lists "fundamental contributions to the development of the science of palynology" as the main criterion. Recipients should have a substantial research history in the field. The medal has been awarded 11 times in the history of the Society, most recently to Estella Leopold in 2013.

Undergraduate Student Awards

In order to support the teaching of palynology at the undergraduate level, and to encourage and reward student achievement, AASP-The Palynological Society announces the AASP Undergraduate Student Award.

The awards are made annually to students nominated by faculty members teaching courses with significant palynological content. One student recipient, with meritorious achievement in some aspect of the course, can be nominated per year per institution.

The following institutions already have approved courses from which undergraduate students may be selected: University of Southampton, Louisiana State University, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, University of Portsmouth, Morehead State University.

A faculty member, who is a member in good standing of AASP, and who teaches an appropriate course, may nominate the course using the Registration Format found below. This should be cut-and-pasted into a word document and sent to the awards committee chair at: mbfarley@sigmaxi.net. Upon approval by the Awards Committee, faculty teaching approved courses may nominate a student to receive the award at any time of the year on the basis of their qualifying criteria by reporting the name and address of the recipient to the Awards Committee Chair. The Chair will collate a list of recipients each year for presentation at the Society's Annual Meeting, in the Newsletter, and on the website.

Each award consists of one year's free membership in the Society to include two issues of the Society's publications, the journal Palynology and the quarterly newsletter, discounts on other AASP publications, discounted registration fees at Society meetings, and eligibility for Society awards.



AASP Undergraduate Student Award – Course Registration Form

Nominating faculty member:

University/Higher Education Institution:

Course Name:

Course Description and level:

Average number of students registered in the course annually:

Number of hours of palynological instruction:

Criteria used to determine the winning student:

Date:

2016 AASP STUDENT RESEARCH GRANTS

The Society will entertain applications for Student Research Grants with a deadline of:

March 31, 2016

This year there will be three grants of US\$3000 each, two regular Student Research Grants and the McNeilly Student Research Grant.

AASP is pleased to announce that through the generosity of a donation by Juanita McNeilly to honor the memory of her late husband, Roy McNeilly, there will be a McNeilly Research Grant to support student research in Cenozoic tropical palynology. For the purposes of this Grant, Cenozoic tropical palynology covers student projects that address any scientific question using terrestrial palynomorphs or terrestrial with marine palynomorphs.

In addition, AASP offers two Student Research Grants to support research in any area of palynology. Ordinarily, the grants will be offered to beginning graduate students, but advanced undergraduates may also apply. Student Research Grants are to be used for costs directly connected to carrying out research, such as fieldwork and laboratory expenses. The qualification of the student, the originality and imagination evident in the proposed project, and the likelihood of significant contribution to the science of palynology are factors that will be weighed in the selection of award winners. Previous winners of this award are eligible only if they are pursuing a different degree than the one they were pursuing when they received the previous award.

AASP Student Research Grants are available to all students of palynology in all countries and these students need not be members of AASP.

Application forms can be downloaded from our website at <http://www.palynology.org/student-support>. Inquiries and completed application materials should be sent electronically to the Chair of the AASP Awards Committee:

Martin Farley

Dept. of Geology & Geography, University of North Carolina at Pembroke

mbfarley@sigmaxi.net

ADVICE ON PREPARING AN EFFECTIVE APPLICATION FOR AN AASP STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT

The single most valuable piece of advice is “know and write to your audience.”

You have only a very limited space to describe your project, so use the words wisely. Writing briefly is more difficult than writing at length, but is worth the effort. Literature review should be at a minimum. Keep in mind that the Awards Committee does not know all the context for your project, and may not even have a closely related specialty in palynology. Thus it is important to write for this broader audience. It can be a good idea to show your text to someone who is not a palynologist or involved in the project to see if they understand your description well. It is fine to have a project that integrates palynology with other data, but be sure to make clear what palynological work you will be performing. If there is prior palynological work, explain how your approach is new or different.

NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION

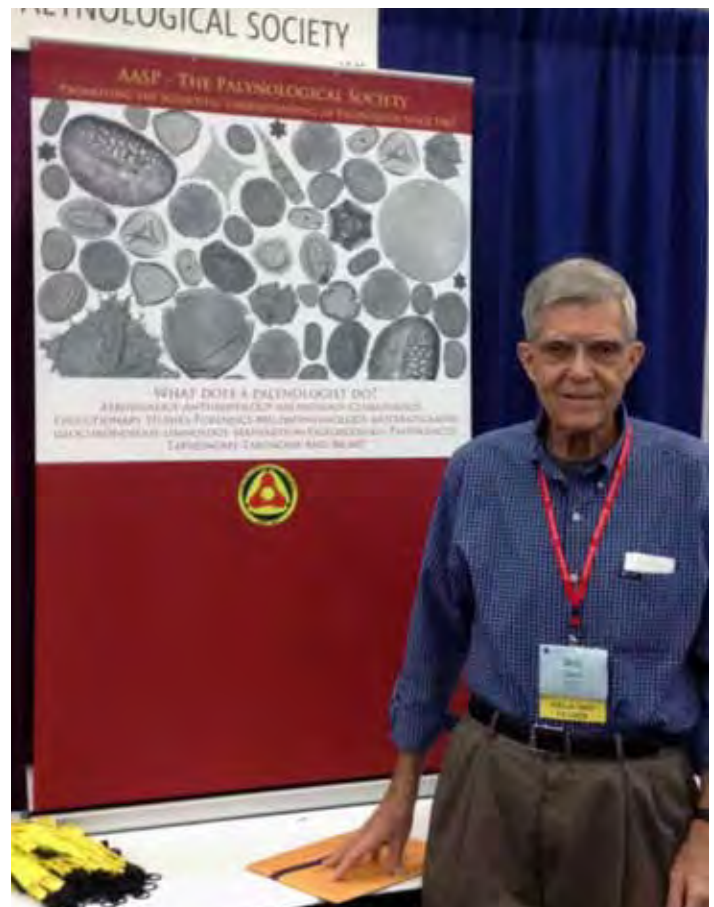
The AASP Foundation was separated from AASP Incorporated in 1976, and incorporated as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization with the purpose of supporting AASP publications, excepting the quarterly *Newsletter*. Any contributions to the foundation are fully tax-deductible from United States federal income tax returns; additionally, some employers have a matching gift program where personal gifts to non-profit organizations are matched.

The trust agreement for the AASP Foundation mandates that it must be a completely separate entity from AASP-The Palynological Society. Thus, no current officer of the AASP-TPS can serve as a trustee of the foundation, and in the new iteration of the website, publication sales are entirely separate from membership sales.

The first board of trustees for the AASP Foundation was composed of Chairman Norman Norton, Treasurer Robert T. Clarke, and Secretary Raymond A. Malloy. In 1977, Raymond was replaced by Richard W. Hedlund to avoid conflicts in officers. Richard was later replaced by Vaughn M. Bryant, who remains as Secretary today. Judy Lentin has been the long-term foundation publications editor.

Publications sales and support remains the primary goal of the foundation, however we have begun to also support student research through directed donations. Please support our efforts through donation to the Century Club!

In 2014, Norman Norton indicated his readiness to step down from a role he has filled for 39 years. Much thought was given to his successor. At the AASP-TPS outgoing board meeting, our choice of successor was approved by board members, with said individual to take office following the Business Luncheon, when he would no longer be an officer of AASP-TPS. It is with great pleasure that we share the appointment of Dr. Thomas D. Demchuk to the chairmanship of the AASP Foundation board of trustees. Thomas' dedication to the society and society publications has been unswerving and we are certain that the foundation continues to be in very capable hands.



Robert T. Clark setting up the AASP-TPS Booth and AASP Foundation Publication Sales table at the 2015 Annual Meeting in Baltimore. Photo courtesy of Jen O'Keefe

CONSIDER HELPING OUR MISSION

AASP FOUNDATION CENTURY CLUB

What?

The Century Club of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists Foundation is an organization founded by the Trustees of the Foundation in order to provide persons with the opportunity to support activities of the AASP Foundation.

Why?

1. To develop an established level of giving that will continue to provide a solid financial base for the Foundation.
2. To provide unrestricted funds to support the various publishing activities of the Foundation.
3. To provide a meaningful organization and method of recognition of dedicated "friends" of the AASP Foundation.

How?

Your tax-deductible contribution of \$100 or more to the AASP Foundation entitles you to belong to the Century Club. The 2015 "membership" drive is on now. Your contribution may be made by personal check or by a pledge which is ***payable on or before December 31, 2015.***

Join!

To join the Century Club, simply complete the attached Contribution/Pledge Form and mail to the address listed below.

The AASP Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit, public organization registered in the United States. This means that contributions to the AASP Foundation are fully deductible on your U.S. Federal Income Tax return. Also, many employers have a matching gift program whereby they match your personal gift to not-for-profit organizations. It is well worth the effort to explore this possibility concerning your gift to the AASP Foundation.

2015 AASP Foundation Century Club Contribution Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mail to: Robert T. Clarke, Treas.
AASP Foundation
3011 Friendswood Dr.
Arlington, TX 76013-2033

Contribution Enclosed: \$ _____

I wish to pledge: \$ _____



JOINT MEETING TSOP - AASP - ICCP

The Society for Organic Petrology, AASP-The Palynological Society
and the International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology

September 18 – 23, 2016

Houston, Texas USA

THIRD CIRCULAR

We are pleased to present the third circular regarding this first historic joint meeting of these three related geological, geochemical and biological scientific societies. We have finalized our schedules of technical sessions including the Symposia and Theme Sessions, and further finalized the pre-meeting Short Course, and the two fieldtrips. Some of the social events are yet to be decided upon, so look for additional information on those in the near future.

The purpose of this joint meeting is to bring together a diverse group of scientists to discuss the close relationships between organic petrology and palynology, to foster thoughtful discussion and address issues that may be of benefit to furthering the respective sciences. Key themes to be addressed during joint activities include source rock/source-rock reservoir resource assessment, microscope methods of characterizing microporosity, coal characterization, and palynofacies/kerogen.

The venue for this meeting will be the historic Magnolia Hotel in downtown Houston. The Magnolia was built in 1926 as the former Post-Dispatch Building. It was re-purposed in 2003 as The Magnolia Hotel, and further underwent a significant upgrade in 2009. The hotel is centrally located in downtown within walking distance of excellent restaurants and pubs. Over the past several years downtown Houston has undergone a major revitalization with many new office buildings, exciting arts and entertainment venues, and several world-class restaurants. We believe the downtown will provide exciting possibilities for every need and want.

SHORT COURSE

Saturday All-day Short Course: It is the pleasure of the Organizing Committee to present an all-day pre-meeting short course entitled, ***“Integration of microscopy and geochemistry in petroleum source rock evaluation”***. The course will be taught by Dr. Richard Tyson (GeTech,UK). The course will be presented in a classroom setting, and will emphasize the integration of microscopy and geochemistry to better understand and characterize source rocks in both conventional and unconventional exploration. Microscope methodologies discussed will include both palynofacies and organic petrographic techniques. Additional details of the short course are being finalized and will be published in upcoming announcements.

SYMPOSIA/THEME SESSIONS

After considerable discussion, a number of integrated Symposia and Theme Sessions have been finalized. These will include:

1. **Microscope methodologies in recognizing and characterizing organic microporosity** (Joint TSOP/ICCP Theme Session: Monday PM)
2. **Palynofacies and Kerogen** (Joint TSOP/ICCP/AASP Theme Session: Tuesday PM)
3. **Multi-modal Characterization of Source Rocks, including Source-Rock Reservoirs** (Joint TSOP/ICCP/AASP Symposium: Wednesday All-Day)
4. **Palynofloral Contributions to Source Rocks** (AASP/TSOP Theme Session: Thursday AM)
5. Additional AASP-sponsored Sessions will include an **Alfred Traverse Symposium**.

At this moment, a list of Invited/Keynote Speakers has been finalized, and invitations will be sent out very shortly. For many of the proposed joint sessions, at least one organic petrography/geochemistry and one palynology Keynote Speaker will be invited. All interested scientists will be strongly encouraged to contact us and propose to submit their abstract(s) for one or more of these Sessions and the all-day Wednesday Symposium. Exact details regarding these sessions will be forthcoming in the next respective Newsletters, and will appear on respective websites very soon.

FIELD TRIPS

Friday-Sunday Pre-Meeting Field Trip: This 2+ day field trip will visit Eagle Ford Formation outcrops in west Texas, and will be led by Barry Warwack (Manager of Reservoir Geology, Core Laboratories, Houston). The field trip will depart on the afternoon of the Friday prior to the meeting, and return by Sunday late afternoon or early evening. The Eagle Ford Formation is a world-class source-rock reservoir resource in the subsurface of south Texas, and the accompanying strata have been researched extensively in stratigraphic, geochemical and biostratigraphic studies.

Saturday Post-Meeting Field Trip: This will be a one-day excursion to Cretaceous through Eocene strata of east-central Texas. These strata are equivalent to the important Wilcox Formation that forms major reservoirs in the subsurface of the deepwater Gulf of Mexico. The field trip will leave early Saturday morning from the Hotel, and return early evening back to Houston. Final details of both field trips will be presented in upcoming Newsletters and on the respective Society websites.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Multiple social activities of interest to all participants are being discussed and should be finalized in the very near future with the hotel and off-site venues.

Monday PM Icebreaker: The Monday evening Icebreaker will take place on the rooftop patio of The Magnolia Hotel (weather permitting). The patio offers a great view of the Houston downtown skyline and sunset.

Tuesday PM Happy Hour: On the Tuesday late afternoon, a Happy Hour will accompany an opportunity to view the posters that will be part of the technical aspect of the meeting. Drinks and finger food will be served and there will be sufficient opportunity to chat with authors about their poster displays.

Mid-Meeting Event: A special event is being planned for the Wednesday Evening at a nearby locality in Downtown, preferably within walking distance of the Hotel. The hope is to find an outdoor venue to view the Houston skyline and enjoy the early Fall weather. This event will immediately follow the end of the Wednesday all-day Symposium, so it is our hope to continue the discussions and renew friendships in this relaxed atmosphere. Details of this event are still being determined.

In addition to all these events, attendees will have sufficient opportunity to enjoy the Houston downtown with its numerous world-class restaurants, and abundant drinking establishments.

SOCIETY BOARD MEETINGS

Along with the technical and social activities, the respective Societies will have their necessary Board of Directors meetings, and Business Luncheons. The current schedule includes:

ICCP Council Meeting:	Sunday	September 18th	16:00-21:00
TSOP Council Meeting:	Sunday	September 18th	17:30-21:00
TSOP/ICCP Business Luncheon:	Tuesday	September 20th	12:00-14:00
TSOP Council Meeting:	Tuesday	September 20th	19:00-21:00
AASP-TPS Outgoing Board Meeting:	Tuesday	September 20th	19:00-22:00
ICCP Council Meeting:	Thursday	September 22nd	18:00-21:00
AASP-TPS Business Luncheon:	Friday	September 23rd	11:30-13:30
AASP-TPS Incoming Board Meeting:	Friday	September 23rd	17:00-18:30

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Houston is a significant transportation hub and the Intercontinental Airport (IAH) is serviced by all major airlines from Europe and Asia. Both airports (IAH and HOU) are serviced by the major US-based airlines: IAH is a major hub for United Airlines, and HOU is a major hub for Southwest Airlines. All the major American airlines (e.g. Delta and American) fly into IAH numerous times through the day. All major European, Asian and Middle East airlines (e.g. KLM, British Airways, Air France, Lufthansa, Singapore, Korean Air, JAL, Emirates, and Qatar Airways) fly once a day in and out of IAH. Transportation to and from the downtown area from both airports is available via taxi, shuttle, and MetroBus. Further information on fares and routes from the two airports will be distributed in later circulars.

The Magnolia Hotel: Our current negotiated room rate at The Magnolia hotel is US\$179/night (single occupancy). Double- and triple- occupancy will be priced accordingly. This room-rate includes complimentary hot breakfast, a late afternoon happy hour (complimentary beer/wine), a complimentary bedtime cookie buffet, and free internet. A listing of alternative nearby hotels and hostels will be made available to meeting participants, however, in order to meet our hotel commitments, all attendees are strongly encouraged to stay at the host Hotel.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The local Organizing Committee consists of Thomas Demchuk (RPS), Jen O'Keefe (Morehead State U.), Thomas Gentzis (Core Laboratories) and Joe Curiale (Independent). Over the next several months as the technical and social programs are finalized, we will do our best to keep the societies and membership informed of new events, the associated costs, and deadlines. We look forward to a great joint meeting in September of 2016.

THE 50TH ANNUAL MEETING OF AASP – THE PALYNOLOGICAL SOCIETY ~THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY MEETING~ HELD JOINTLY WITH CIMP AND THE MICROPALAEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY PALYNOLOGY GROUP NOTTINGHAM, UK – 3rd–7th SEPTEMBER 2017

Convenors:

James B. Riding (BGS)

Jan A.I. Hennissen (BGS)

Maria Wilson (BGS)

Matthew J. Pound (Northumbria University, representing TMS)

Reed Wicander (CMU, Mount Pleasant, USA, representing CIMP)

FIRST CIRCULAR

The 50th annual meeting of AASP – The Palynological Society will be held at the British Geological Survey (BGS), Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5GG between the 3rd and 7th of September 2017. This will be the seventh time our yearly meeting has been held in Europe, and only the third occasion it has been in the UK. This conference is to be held jointly with CIMP and The Micropalaeontological Society (TMS) Palynology Group. The team of convenors look forward to welcoming you to the headquarters of BGS for this three-day meeting with the opportunity to participate in two one-day field trips to widely geologically contrasting areas of the East Midlands of England. We hope to make this annual meeting extra special because it is the 50th such event! This announcement is the first one, and the convenors will begin planning in earnest during early 2016. The basic plan is detailed below; the fine details will be fleshed out during the months to come. We intend to offer participants a designated conference hotel in central Nottingham. Other accommodation, of course, will be in plentiful supply. BGS HQ is located at Keyworth which is ca. 7 km south of downtown so we will run a return bus service each day so that delegates can travel easily between the conference hotel and the BGS office. Other public transport solutions are also available! Morning tea, lunch and afternoon coffee will be all included in the registration package.

Delegates have the opportunity of going on a one-day pre-conference field excursion to the stunning Peak District of Derbyshire to examine Carboniferous carbonate and siliciclastic sedimentary rocks on Sunday 3rd September. The icebreaker will be held on that evening. We intend to hold the now-traditional AASP-TPS business evening at a suitable venue in central Nottingham on Monday 4th September. The conference dinner will be on Tuesday 5th September, and we hope to book the Long Room at the legendary Trent Bridge cricket ground immediately south of downtown Nottingham. Trent Bridge is widely held to be the most beautiful of all our cricket stadia, and has witnessed many famous tussles between England and our distinguished pantheon of cricketing adversaries from around the world.

No specific social event is (at this stage) planned for the evening of Wednesday 6th September, which is when the conference proper closes. There will be a post-conference field trip to Bradgate Park in Leicestershire on Thursday 7th September where you will have the opportunity to hunt for (but not collect!) Ediacaran fossils. You will see the site where the very first representative of this world famous biota was discovered in the early 1960s.

Please put September 3rd–7th September 2017 in your calendars for AASP 2017. Subsequent circulars will provide details of the conference hotel, registration, scientific programme etc. If you would like to offer any workshops, offer sponsorship etc., please get in touch.

We hope to welcome you to Keyworth for the golden anniversary meeting in 2017!

Jim Riding (on behalf of the organising committee)

Conference plan:

Saturday 2nd September 2017 – arrival in the Nottingham area

Sunday 3rd September 2017 – pre-conference field trip to the Peak District of Derbyshire (Carboniferous sedimentary and igneous) rocks]/arrival/icebreaker at the conference hotel

Monday 4th September 2017 – Day 1 of conference – evening activity = AASP-TPS informal business evening; venue to be decided

Tuesday 5th September 2017 – Day 2 of conference – evening activity = conference dinner (planned to be) at Trent Bridge Cricket Ground possibly with guest speaker(s)

Wednesday 6th September 2017 – Day 3 of conference followed by a free evening in Nottingham's glittering downtown area

Thursday 7th September 2017 - post-conference fieldtrip to Bradgate Park, Charnwood Forest, Leicestershire [Precambrian metasediments, Ediacaran fossils, and some younger rocks]/departure

Friday 8th September 2017 - departure



The BGS Rock Walk. Photo courtesy of James Riding.



The Congress (<http://icpsg.com/>) is organized jointly by the **Department of Physics and Geology (University of Perugia, Italy)** and **Arianzamin Pars Geological Center of Teheran, Iran**. It will be addressed to promote interdisciplinary approaches, to make the state-of-the-art and to expand the knowledge on the Palaeozoic Gondwana realm. The Congress aims to provide an opportunity for constructive interactions between academia and industry in exchanging ideas, perspectives and challenges.

Venue

Perugia is a charming and historically important city in central Italy with an international vocation as venue for major meetings. It is a cultural center known from many centuries and home to many creative spirits in the fields of science, music and art. Attendants to the Congress will enjoy the beauty of Italian architecture during early spring days, and have a taste of the large variety of the excellent food and wines the region is famous for.

Perugia amalgamates all the advantages of a small city with the facilities and services usually found in much larger cities! It provides a unique environment to meet colleagues in a relaxing atmosphere.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, we look forward to introduce you to Perugia. We are sure the city will offer the ideal place to discuss cutting-edge geology, stratigraphy and oil exploration, as well as to explore new scientific frontiers that are relevant to the various societal challenges facing the 21st century.



courtesy of Christian Brenci

The conference will host the:

International Workshop on PALAEOZOIC SMALLER FORAMINIFERA

Organizers: Daniel Vachard (President; University of Lille, France), Demir Altiner (Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey); Roberto Rettori (University of Perugia, Italy).

The workshop will be held on April 13rd in a pre-Congress session. Topics will focus on taxonomy, biostratigraphy, evolution and palaeobiogeography of Palaeozoic Smaller Foraminifera. The contributions will be published in the “Rivista Italiana di Paleontologia e Stratigrafia” (ISSN:0035-6883; IF: 0.93) after peer review.

CIMP “Commission Internationale Microflore Paléozoïque” Special Session

Organizer: Amalia Spina (Department of Physics and Geology, University of Perugia).

This session will be held on April 15th. Topics will focus on taxonomy, biostratigraphy and palaeogeographic distribution of Palaeozoic Palynomorphs.

Preliminary schedule

April 13 rd 2016	
From 16:00	Registration
From 18:00	Icebreaker Party at Hotel Giò
April 14 th 2016	
09.00-10.00	Opening session
10.00-10.45	Keynote lecture
11.00-11.30	Coffee break
11.30-13.00	Scientific session
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-16.00	Scientific session
16.00-16.30	Coffee break
16.30-18.00	Scientific session
April 15 th 2016	
09.00-11.00	Scientific session
11.00-11.30	Coffee break
11.30-13.00	Scientific session
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-16.00	Scientific session
16.00-16.30	Coffee break
16.30-18.00	Scientific session
20:00	Social dinner
April 16 th 2016	
09.00-11.00	Scientific session
11.00-11.30	Coffee break
11.30-13.00	Scientific session
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-16.00	Scientific session
16.00-16.30	Coffee break
16.30-17.00	Closing ceremony

The program will be constantly updated. The final schedule will be published on the Conference website in early March 2016.

Congress Location

The Congress will be held at **Hotel Giò – Perugia Congress Centre**. With its 206 rooms, 26 meeting rooms and Auditorium seating for up to 700 places, Hotel Giò proposes itself as a functional structure, reference point for the entire central part of Italy. Two halls with areas expressly devoted to informal meeting, living bar for aperitif and coffee break and comfortable working and reading corners will be available.

Language of the Congress

English will be the official language of the meeting. No translation facilities will be available.

Access

Perugia is not far from Rome, Pisa and Florence and can be easily reached from these three cities by train, bus or car.

- The major international gateway is Rome's Airport "Leonardo da Vinci", known as Fiumicino (FCO) (30 km/19 mi southwest of Rome, phone: (+39)0665951; www.adr.it).
- Pisa's Airport "Galileo Galilei" (PSA) (12 km/7 mi south of Pisa and 80 km/50 mi west of Florence, phone: (+39)050500707; www.pisa-airport.com) has flights from London, Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris and other European cities, as well as connections to Rome and Milan.
- Florence's Airport "A. Vespucci", known as Peretola (FLR) (10 km/6 mi northwest of Florence, phone: (+39)0553061700; www.aeroporto.firenze.it), has connections to Brussels, Paris, London, Rome, and Milan.

Flying time is approximately 9 hours from New York, 11 hours from Chicago, 12 hours from Dallas (via New York), 12 hours from Los Angeles, 2 hours from London (to Milan), and 24 hours from Sydney.

The solution that we suggest to you to reach Perugia by air is to land to Rome and to continue for Perugia with bus or by train.

Daily bus connections (www.sulga.it) are from Roma Fiumicino Airport (International Departure Terminal "C") and Perugia (Ple Partigiani).

Several trains daily connect Perugia with both Florence (via Terontola) and Rome (via Foligno or via Terontola). For the timetable and information please visit the website www.trenitalia.com.

Local Airport

Perugia's Airport "Sant'Egidio" (PEG) (phone: (+39)075592141) has flights to and from Rome, Munich, London, Bruxelles, Barcelona and other European cities. For information about Perugia's Airport Sant'Egidio please visit the Airport website (www.airport.umbria.it).

Accommodation

Hotel Giò is a unique building with 206 rooms, divided into two thematic areas. These areas are linked by a musical arcade with secluded listening points and peculiar Business Cellar with Internet Positions. Free Wi-Fi is available in the whole Hotel. Parking and Garage are free for the Guests. Moreover, Perugia and its vicinity have over 5000 rooms in more than 90 hotels. Many hotel rooms at different levels have been already blocked in order to secure the best rates. Lodging in student housing of the University can also be available.

Registration Fees

The registration fees which includes opening ice-breaker, coffee breaks and lunch packages are as follows:

	Until November 30 th	Until February 28 th	On site
Regular participant	300 €	400 €	550 €
Student participant	200 €	250 €	300 €
Accompanying person	150 €	200 €	250 €

Key Dates

November 30th 2015 – Deadline for an ‘early-bird’ (low) registration fee

November 30th 2015 – Deadline for abstract submission (talks and posters)

February 1st 2016 – acceptance of abstracts for oral or poster presentation

March 31st 2016 – deadline for regular (full) registration fee

March 2016 – distribution of the 3rd Circular with final programme

Scientific and Organizing Coordinators

Roberto Rettori

Mansour Ghorbani

e-mail: comitato.gondwana@unipg.it

Organizing Committee

Roberto Rettori (University of Perugia, Italy)

Simonetta Cirilli (University of Perugia, Italy)

Caterina Petrillo (University of Perugia, Italy)

Mansour Ghorbani (Arianzamin, Iran)

Enrico Capezzuoli (University of Perugia, Italy)

Marco Cherin (University of Perugia, Italy)

Amalia Spina (University of Perugia, Italy)

Lucia Angiolini (University of Milano, Italy)

Anoshiravan Kani (Arianzamin, Iran)

Scientific Committee

Demir Altiner (Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey)

Marco Balini (University of Milano, Italy)

Sveva Corrado (University of Roma Tre, Italy)

Jalil Ghalamghash (Geological Survey of Iran)

Hormoz Ghalavand (NIOC, Iran)

Bahaeddin Hamdi (Arianzamin, Iran)

Rossana Martini (University of Geneva, Switzerland)

Shuzhong Shen (Nanjing Institute of Geology and Paleontology, China)

Bahman Soleimani (NIOC, Iran)

Michael Stephenson (British Geological Survey)

Alireza Tahmasebi (NIOC, Iran)

Andrea Zanchi (University of Milano Bicocca, Italy)

More information are available in the Congress website (<http://icpsg.com/>).

Looking forward to seeing you in Perugia!



Dino11TH FIRST CIRCULAR

11th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MODERN AND FOSSIL DINOFLAGELLATES

The next 11th dino. meeting will be held in Bordeaux (France) in mid
July 2017 (save the date!)

Organization Committee

Local organization (EPOC laboratory, Université Bordeaux):

Frédérique Eynaud, Laurent Londeix (paleoclimatology team/ biostratigraphy and paleobiodiversity),
Yolanda Del Amo (Ecology and Biogeochemistry of Coastal Systems), with the help of **Marie-Hélène Castera**,
Linda Rossignol, Ludovic Devaux (webmaster)

Honor president: Jean-Louis Turon

French partners:

- **Mohamed Laabir** (ECOSYM « Ecology of Marine Coastal Systems » Laboratory - UMR CNRS Montpellier II University, CC 093 – Place E. Bataillon – 34095 Montpellier cedex 05)
- **Rodolphe Lemée** (Observatoire Océanologique de Villefranche sur mer, Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Laboratoire d'Océanographie de Villefranche, CNRS UMR 7093 -BP 28, 06234 Villefranche-sur-mer –France)
- **Edwige Masure** (UMR CNRS/MNHN/UPMC 7207 Centre de recherche sur la paléobiodiversité et les paléoenvironnements, Université Pierre et Marie Curie)
- **Aurélie Penaud** (Laboratoire Domaines Océaniques (LDO), IUEM, Place Nicolas Copernic, Technopôle Brest-Iroise, Université de Bretagne Occidentale, 29280 Plouzané)
- **Thomas Servais** (UMR 8198 Evo-Eco-Paleo, Université Lille 1, UFR des Sciences de la Terre, 59655 Villeneuve D'Ascq cedex)

Sessions:

1. MODERN DINOFLAGELLATES
 - 1.1 Systematic and molecular approaches
 - 1.2 Dinoflagellate ecology

1.3 Toxic dinoflagellates : from cells to cysts

1.4. Marine to freshwater transition and gradient in the Dino's world

1.5. From theca to cyst: modern dinoflagellates as a sedimentary component

2. FOSSIL DINOFLAGELLATES

2.1 Quaternary and modern dinocysts in paleoceanographical studies

2.2 Phanerozoic time scales

2.3 Dinocyst systematic

2.4 dinocyst preservation / carbon cycles

2.5. integrated studies derived from "dinos": from recent past to modern scales

Scientific Committee

People who already accepted to be part of the Dino11th International Scientific Committee:

Elisa Berdalet (Institut de Ciències del Mar de Barcelona, Spain)

Kara Bogus (International Ocean Discovery Program Texas A&M University, USA)

Susan Carty (Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio, USA)

Alain Couté (Muséum MNHN de Paris, France)

Anne de Vernal, (GEOTOP, Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada)

Mariane Ellegaard (Department of Biology, University of Copenhagen, Denmark)

Martin Head (Department of Earth Sciences, Brock University, Canada),

Mona Hoppenrath (German Centre for Marine Biodiversity Research, Wilhelmshaven, Germany)

Stephen Louwye (Ghent University, Belgium)

Fabienne Marret (School of Environmental Sciences, University of Liverpool, UK)

Kazumi Matsuoka (Institute for East China Sea Research, Nagasaki, Japan)

Antonella Penna (Lab. of environmental Biology, University of Urbino, Italy)

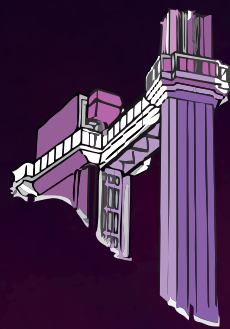
André Rochon (Institut des sciences de la mer de Rimouski, Université du Québec à Rimouski, Canada)

Sophia Ribeiro (Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland –GEUS, Denmark)

Gerard Versteegh (Organic Geochemistry Unit, Bremen University, Germany)

Karin Zonneveld (Department of historical geology/palaeontology, University of Bremen/MARUM, Germany)

More information and updates at: <http://www.laplif.org/dino11/calquedino11.htm>



XIV IPC
X IOPC

*Palaeobotany and Palynology:
towards new frontiers*

*XIV International Palynological Congress
X International Organisation of Palaeobotany Conference*

SALVADOR - BAHIA - BRAZIL

OCTOBER | 23 - 28 | 2016

FIRST CIRCULAR

Every four years the world community of palynologists and palaeobotanists are gathered to discuss the latest advances in their researches, and exchange technical developments. Hence, the meeting of these two communities will take place in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil. This will be the first time that both the XIV International Palynological Congress (IPC) and the X International Organisation of Palaeobotany Conference (IOPC) will gather together in a joint congress in the southern hemisphere. The joint event will be on 23-28 October 2016. It will be an excellent opportunity for Brazil, a country rich in plant fossil sites and boasts a highly diverse flora in the world, to host the leading experts in various disciplines and promote scientific innovations.

VENUE

Founded in 1549 by Portuguese navigators, Salvador is now the third largest city in Brazil, famous for its Carnival and its afro-Brazilian culture. Salvador is also the biggest black city out of Africa. It is rich in historical sites, which includes it to the UNESCO World Heritage List, especially the “Baía de Todos os Santos”.

The Elevator Lacerda was the first urban elevator in the world. It was built to connect two cities that existed (and exist) within the city of Salvador: the Lower Town and the Upper Town. Its choice is a reference to the theme of the event “Palaeobotany and Palynology: towards new frontiers” that is allusive to the role of Paleobotany and Palynology at the interface with new areas of knowledge. In addition, it is also a way to mark the presence of the two events together in a new land: Salvador, which has the Elevator Lacerda one of its main symbols.

The venue is situated in the beautiful beach of Salvador, and offers exceptional transport links by bus, which takes you to the city centre in just 15 minutes.

The congress sessions will be held in:

Bahia Othon Palace

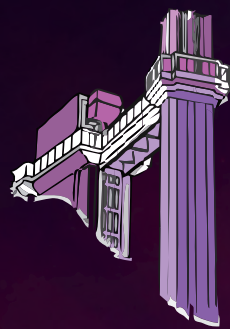
Av. Oceânica, 2294 – Ondina | Salvador - BA, 40170-010.

Phone: + 55 71 2103-7100



SYMPOSIA

A great diversity of palaeobotanical and palynological topics will be presented in symposia and poster sessions at the congress. The Organizing committee will accept symposium proposal (up to 31 October 2015), and after evaluation of Scientific Committee, the selected symposia will be presented for subscriptions. Fill in the form attached for proposing a symposium. Besides symposia, some general sections will be scheduled on many areas of Palaeobotany and Palynology (Morphology, Technique, Taxonomy, Applied Subjects and others).



**XIV IPC
X IOPC**

*Palaeobotany and Palynology:
towards new frontiers*

*XIV International Palynological Congress
X International Organisation of Palaeobotany Conference*

SALVADOR - BAHIA - BRAZIL

OCTOBER | 23 - 28 | 2016

FIRST CIRCULAR

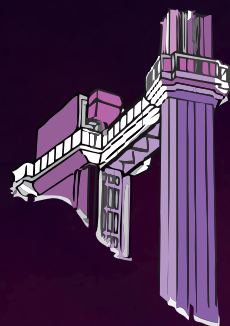
PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Timetable	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
08:30 to 10:30	Pre-Congress Courses		Symposia and general presentations	Symposia and general presentations	Symposia and general presentations	Symposia and general presentations	Symposia and general presentations
10:30 to 11:00		Registrations	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
11:00 to 13:00			Symposia and general presentations	Symposia and general presentations	Symposia and general presentations	Symposia and general presentations	Symposia and general presentations
13:00 to 14:30	Lunch		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
14:30 to 16:30	Pre-Congress Courses		Symposia and general presentations	Symposia and general presentations	Symposia and general presentations	Symposia and general presentations	Symposia and general presentations
16:30 to 17:00		Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	
17:00 to 19:00		XIV IPC XIOPC Opening Ceremony	Oral and poster presentations	Oral and poster presentations	Oral and poster presentations	Oral and poster presentations	XIV IPC XIOPC Opening Ceremony
19:00 to 21:00			Cultural activities	Cultural activities	Cultural activities	Cultural activities	

FIELD TRIPS (POST CONGRESS):

- Baía de Todos os Santos (Bahia State) – one day
- Chapada Diamantina (Bahia State) – four days
- Chapada do Araripe (Bahia State) - five days
- Natural Monument of the fossilized Tocantins trees (Bielândia / Filadélfia, Tocantins State) – five days





XIV IOPC X IOPC

Palaeobotany and Palynology:
towards new frontiers

XIV International Palynological Congress
X International Organisation of Palaeobotany Conference

SALVADOR - BAHIA - BRAZIL

OCTOBER | 23 - 28 | 2016

FIRST CIRCULAR

REGISTRATION FEES

The registration fee includes:

- Access to all congress sessions and the exhibition areas.
- Ice Breaker (Welcome reception).
- Congress documentation and abstracts volume.

Periods	Professional	Student*
Up to DEC.2015	R\$ 600,00	R\$ 450,00
JAN-MAR.2016	R\$ 800,00	R\$ 550,00
APR-SEP.2016	R\$ 1.000,00	R\$ 650,00
OCT.2016	R\$ 1.200,00	R\$ 750,00
Course fee – R\$ 100,00		

*Students must be enrolled in an educational (or scientific) institution (Please send an official proof of student status by email: inscricoes@gt5.com.br)

The Congress fee is mandatory for all attendees including speakers, presenters (oral and poster) and those chairing or attending a session.

There will be grants from IFPS and IOP for those professionals and student who will attend the congress. As soon as possible rules and directions will be released.

COMMITTEES

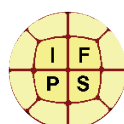
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- Francisco de Assis Ribeiro dos Santos, UEFS, President
- Cláudia Elena Carneiro, UEFS
- Francisco Hilder Magalhães e Silva, UNEB
- Jailson Santos de Novais, UFSB
- Luciene Cristina Lima e Lima, UNEB
- Marileide Dias Saba, UNEB
- Paulino Pereira Oliveira, UEFS
- Ricardo Landim Bormann de Borges, UNEB
- Rita de Cássia Matos dos Santos Araújo, UNEB

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Luciene Cristina Lima e Lima, UNEB, Coordinator
- Luciano Maurício Esteves, IBt/SP
- Paulo Eduardo de Oliveira, USP
- Roberto Ianuzzi, UFRGS
- Tânia Lindner Dutra, UNISINOS
- Vânia Gonçalves Lourenço Esteves, UFRJ/MN

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



+55 71 2102.6600
anapaulacarvalho@gt5.com.br
www.gt5.com.br