

Research & Collections News

The Occasional Newsletter of the Research and Collections Staff
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

re•search (rī-sûrch', rē'sûrch) *n.* **1.** Scholarly or scientific investigation or inquiry. See synonyms at **inquiry**. **2.** Close, careful study. **3.** When performed on collections, the *raison d'être* of all great natural history museums.

January, 2005

(covering the months of November and December, 2004)

Collection News

Mineral Sciences

Several very fine mineral and gem specimens were donated to the Museum at the end of 2004 by two long-time supporters, greatly enriching the Gem and Mineral Collection.

Mel Hindin donated three sapphire crystals from Sri Lanka, a rubellite tourmaline crystal from Brazil and a bi-color tourmaline crystal and a pink tourmaline gem from California. Most notable are the two tourmaline crystals. The 15-cm-tall rubellite is from one of the world's most famous tourmaline discoveries, which occurred in 1978 at the Jonas mine in



Minas Gerais, Brazil. The 19-cm-tall green/pink bi-color crystal is from one of California's most famous tourmaline discoveries, which occurred in 2001 and 2002 at the Cryo-Genie mine near Warner Springs in San Diego County. All of the specimens donated by Mel Hindin are already on display in the Hall of Gems and Minerals.

At left: Rubellite Tourmaline – Jonas mine, Minas Gerais, Brazil

At right: Bi-color Tourmaline – Cryo-Genie mine, San Diego County, California

Beverly Savinar donated three exceptional mineral specimens from the collection she and her late husband Hyman built. Perhaps, the most striking is 16-cm-tall crystallized gold on quartz from the Eagle's Nest mine in Placer County, California. The other two specimens, however, rank among the best of their kind ever found: a 13-cm-tall group of rhodonite crystals from the Chiurucu mine near Huanzala, Peru, and a 5-cm-tall group of

jeremejevite crystals from near Swakopmund, Namibia. The three specimens from Mrs. Savinar are not yet on display.



Above, from left to right:
Gold on Quartz – Eagle's Nest mine, Placer County, California
Rhodonite crystals -- Chiurucu mine, Huanzala, Peru
Jeremejevite crystals – Swakopmund, Namibia

Malacology

Databasing of the UCLA Recent mollusk collection has been completed with 15,598 lots entered by MBPC Curatorial Assistant Krista Zala and identifications, taxonomic verifications, and 294 lots databased by Collections Manager Lindsey Groves.

Herpetology

In herpetology, we continue our efforts to catalog the Jay Savage Costa Rican collection. We received a private donation to assist with these and other collection matters in ichthyology and herpetology.

Invertebrate Paleontology

Since November 1, 2004, Mary Stecheson and her team have added data for 768 new localities, including 5,541 specimen lots and 38,585 specimens. This includes important collections from Pliocene rocks of central California donated by Research Associate Bob Stanton. Our online catalog now includes information for more than 530,000 specimens and can be browsed at <http://ip.nhm.org/ipdatabase>.

Field Work

Polychaetes

Leslie Harris (Collections Manager, Polychaetes, shown here heading off to Fiji with 4 cameras, 3 microscopes, 2 fiber-optic lamps, 2 computers, 2000 specimen containers, assorted collecting gear, and \$160 worth of extra baggage



fees) and Darolyn Striley (Curatorial Assistant, MBPC) are currently in the field in Fiji for a month. During the first part of the month they are teaching a workshop to members of the Ministry of Fisheries and students from the University of the South Pacific (Suva) on identification of cryptofauna. The second half will be devoted to a marine biodiversity study of coral cryptofauna in Yaqara Bay, on the northwest coast of Viti Levu, the main island. This area is slated to undergo massive development in coming years as hotels, film studios, telecommunications, and residential projects are built, which can't help but impact the marine environment. The biodiversity study, headed by Dr. Steve Dunbar (Loma Linda University), is a cooperative project with the Fiji Ministry of Fisheries, the local land owner Yaqara Pastoral Company, the developers Studio City Ltd., and the native tribes surrounding the bay. Kirk Fitzhugh (Associate Curator, Polychaetes) will be part of the field team next year.

Ornithology

Ornithology Collections Manager Kimball Garrett and Research Associate Kathy Molina spent 7-18 December 2004 in coastal Sonora and Sinaloa, Mexico, as part of an ongoing study of the population structure and non-breeding movements of Black Skimmers (*Rynchops niger*) banded at the Salton Sea and in coastal southern California, and to continue the assessment of the winter status of the western Gull-billed Tern (*Sterna nilotica vanrossemi*), a subspecies that may number fewer than 600 breeding pairs. This research is funded in part by the Faucett Family Foundation and the Sonoran Joint Venture.



At left: Black Skimmers in coastal Sonora. Note the bands on the legs of two of the birds; the unique numbers can be read with a telescope. Photo by Kathy C. Molina

Vertebrate Paleontology

In December Larry Barnes made a research trip to the Smithsonian, the Calvert Marine Museum, and Howard University, working with colleagues on several projects involving new species of fossil marine mammals, including a tiny and rare pontoporiid dolphin from Maryland, a long-snouted "proto-dolphin" from the Calvert Cliffs, and a nearly

complete sea cow skeleton in our Museum collections. It is the first North American example of a species that was originally recognized in Japan, and is in the same group that includes the historically exterminated Steller Sea Cow of the Aleutian Island chain.

Meetings, Workshops, and Presentations

Mammalogy

John Heyning presented a talk titled "Harmful Algal Blooms and Strandings" at the 9th International Conference of the American Cetacean Society, held at the Queen Mary in Long Beach in November. In addition, a busload of ACS members visited the museum's Marine Mammal Lab for a special pre-conference tour led by collections manager Jim Dines.

Entomology

Brian Brown attended the Entomological Society of America meetings in Salt Lake City, Utah, in November. He presented a paper in a symposium on the NSF-funded "Arthropods of La Selva" project.

Brian Brown also traveled to Maryland in December to serve on a panel reviewing USDA systematic entomology research.

Conservator

Tania Collas presented a lecture entitled, "The Conservation of Natural History Collections," on November 29, 2004 for *Issues in Materials Preservation*, an upper division / graduate course at UCLA, taught by Prof. David A. Scott of the UCLA-Getty Conservation Program.

Rancho La Brea

John Harris coauthored a presentation entitled "Chronology and spatial distribution of large mammal bones in Pit 91, Rancho La Brea" at the annual meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology in Denver on November 4. He was also a discussant in the panel entitled "Cultural History of Lake Rudolf and Beyond" at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association in New Orleans, where he presented a paper entitled "A brief history of the search for early humans in the Lake Rudolf/Turkana Basin" on November 12.

Vertebrate Paleontology

In November at the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology meetings in Denver, Colorado, Dr. Lawrence G. Barnes presented several papers including (1) a description of a new Late Oligocene aetiocetid whale (these are the primitive mysticete [baleen] whales that still retained teeth) from Washington State with co-authors James Goedert and Bruce Crowley of the Burke Museum at the University of Washington, (2) a description of a new Miocene sperm whale from Virginia, with co-authors Alton Dooley and Nicholas Fraser from the Virginia Museum of Natural History, (3) an investigation into the herbivorous adaptive zone for marine mammals in the Eocene and Oligocene of the western Atlantic and Caribbean, with co-authors Mark Clementz, Daryl Domning and

Brian Beatty, and (4) a description of a new Miocene squalodontid (these are the fossil "shark-toothed whales" that are common in deposits from the north Atlantic but very rare from deposits of the north Pacific) from southern California based on a specimen now in our collections. Barnes spent most of the month of December studying various marine mammal groups with colleagues in Washington, D.C. and Virginia.

At the same meeting (SVP in Denver), Dr. Samuel A. McLeod, along with Cathy McNassor from Archives, presented a poster on the results of their NSF-sponsored project for the conservation of deteriorating vertebrate paleontology nitrate negatives. These nitrate negatives were from photos of the vertebrate paleontology field expeditions of the California Institute of Technology from about 1925 to 1950. Our museum acquired the Cal Tech vertebrate fossil collections and the associated records in 1957.

Dr. Luis Chiappe delivered a paper on a Spanish early Cretaceous enantiornithine bird while in France (International Meeting of the Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution) and participated in a workshop on the development of feathers and avian hands at the same meeting.

After France, Luis visited the new Museo de la Ciencia in Barcelona, a state of the art new museum funded by the Spanish bank La Caixa. La Caixa has invited him to lecture at a two day event in February, as part of their current exhibit on the Iguanodontids from Bernissart (Belgium).

After Europe, Luis spent 3 days working in New York, mostly with Mark Norell of the AMNH, and then presented a talk at the San Diego Natural History Museum as part of a series on bird origins connected to their current exhibition on feathered dinosaurs.

Invertebrate Paleontology

Collections Manager Harry Filkorn attended the IX Congreso Nacional de Paleontología meeting in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, last fall and did some field work in the Cretaceous and Tertiary rocks in that area. He presented the results of his study of Eocene corals from Chiapas.

Ken Johnson and Harry Filkorn attended the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America in Denver. They presented "A web-centric approach for sharing paleontology collections data," a discussion of ongoing efforts to develop a modern electronic collections catalog for Invertebrate Paleontology.

Research Associate Elena Perez presented "The influence of methane venting on benthic foraminiferal assemblages in Guaymas Basin, Gulf of California" at the Annual Meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco. In this presentation she discussed biological communities associated with deep-sea cold seeps that she sampled during a cruise on the R/V Western Flyer in 2002.

External Funding

Vertebrate Paleontology

Dr. Xiaoming Wang recently received a \$330,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for his research on "Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoenvironments of the Richest, Endemic-Dominated Vertebrate Assemblage from the Cenozoic of Qaidam Basin, Northern Tibetan Plateau, China." This grant will support a multidisciplinary, multinational team of paleontologists and geologists to search for fossil mammals in the Tibetan Plateau and study their evolution in response to environmental changes.

Anthropology

Anthropology curator W. Warner Wood was awarded a two year Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) Fellowship to begin January 2005. ELP seeks to transform public understanding of environmental issues by training and supporting a diverse network of emerging leaders. The fellowship combines a peer network and intensive workshop/retreats with opportunities for mentoring, project seed money, and technical support. More information is available on the ELP website:

<www.elpnet.org/meet_class2005.html>.

Public Outreach

Mammalogy

Jim Dines, Mammalogy Collections Manager gave a talk on the value of museum collections to research and society at Glendale Community College in November. The talk was part of a lecture series associated with a science exhibit at GCC called "Bones: The Hidden Structures of Life."

Crustacea

In December, in cooperation with the Advancement department, Collection Manager George Davis conducted a behind the scenes tour for four members of the Latham family: Mrs. Lisa Latham, her mother Elsa Gustafson and her two sons, Ian and Jamie. The Lathams, members of the museum, were treated to a tour of the Crustacea and Echinoderm collection room. After introductions, Ian, who was dressed in his bug-hunting camouflage outfit, fired the first question of the day, "What is that smell?" A brief discussion of alcohol and its properties for preservation followed.

While the adults were interested in the methods of storage, the compactor shelf systems, and the numbers of specimens, Ian and Jamie wanted to see the "bugs." They were especially impressed with *Bathynomous giganteus*, a 15" deep-sea isopod (picture a backyard pill bug or roly-poly on mega-steroids; see also the Sept./Oct. 2003 issue of the *Naturalist*). When asked if they would like to have *Bathynomous* wandering around their backyard, both boys indicated they would rather not.

Malacology

Lindsey Groves co-led *Fossil hunting in Silverado Canyon* with LouElla Saul (Invertebrate Paleontology Research Associate) and the Education Division on November

20th. Forty participants collected Late Cretaceous (Turonian) mollusks from the Baker Canyon and Holz Shale members of the Ladd Formation in Silverado Canyon, Santa Ana Mountains, Orange County. Field assistance was provided by Lorelei Sells (Education). Richard Squires (Calif. St. Univ., Northridge), also an IP Research Associate, provided additional field assistance.

Ángel Valdés led a family activity of the Education Division on November 14th. This activity was conducted in collaboration with Lorelei Sells (Education) and included a lecture on nudibranchs, a visit to the Malacology collections, and a tidepooling trip to Abalone Cove, Palos Verdes.

Marine Biodiversity Processing Center

Staff from the MBPC had a delightful time delivering presentations for Illissa Twomey's Arthropod ABCs during the winter Adventures in Nature classes December 28th and 29th (at right). Krista Zala, Nefty Camacho, and Darolyn Striley edified kids and parents about crustacean body segments, mechanisms of growth, and how to tell female crabs from male crabs. Krista also re-enacted the settling of barnacles on substrates, much to the amusement of audiences.



The first Saturday of November saw Regina Wetzer and Nefty Camacho schlepping nets, buckets, and shovels around the building. They used the equipment to demonstrate various sampling techniques to the Scavengers' Safari event where two groups, each comprising roughly 15 adults and children, learned the basics of fieldwork and collections care. The glorious orange buckets from the Puget Sound collection and a smattering of Point Fermin samples illustrated a range of specimen condition. A highlight of the tour came at the moment when Regina slid Petri dishes of Great Barrier Reef specimens toward the younger faction of the group with the instructions "Sort like with like." Quiet descended as children concentrated intensely on properly separating crustaceans, echinoderms, and mollusks. Expect to see jars of assorted invertebrates in toy stores next season.

Distinguished Visitors

Malacology

December was *International Nudibranch Month* in Malacology as nudibranch researchers Yolanda Camacho (University of Costa Rica), Shireen Fahey (University of Queensland

& California Academy of Sciences) and Rebecca Johnson (University of California Santa Cruz & CAS) visited the collection.

Rancho La Brea

Distinguished Visitors to the Rancho La Brea collections included Drs. Robin O'Keefe (New York College of Osteopathic Medicine), Steve Wroe (University of Sydney), and Jean-Renaud Boisserie (Université de Poitiers). Jeri Rogers (University of Texas) scoured the collections in search of heart bones (os cordis).

Recent Publications (alphabetical by author's last name)

Ardila, N. E. & **Valdés**, A. 2004. The genus *Armina* (Gastropoda: Nudibranchia: Arminidae) in the Southern Caribbean, with the description of a new species. *The Nautilus* 118: 131-138.

Campbell, K.E., Jr. (Ed.). 2004. *The Paleogene Mammalian Fauna of Santa Rosa, Amazonian Peru*. Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Science Series, 40: 1-163. (See below for more information on this publication)

Chiappe, L. M., Schmitt, J. G., Jackson, F. D., Garrido, A., Dingus, L., and **Grellet-Tinner**, G. 2004. Nest structure for sauropods: Sedimentary criteria for recognition of dinosaur nesting traces. *Palaio* 19: 89-95.

Chiappe, L. M. 2004. The closest relatives of birds. *Ornitología Neotropical* 15 (Suppl.): 101-116.

Codorniu, L. and L. M. **Chiappe**. 2004. Juvenile pterosaurs (Pterodactyloidea: Pterodaustro guinazui) from the Lower Cretaceous of central Argentina. *Canadian Journal of Earth Science* 41(1): 9-18.

Deng, T., and X. **Wang**. 2004. Late Miocene *Hipparion* (Equidae, Mammalia) of eastern Qaidam Basin in Qinghai. *Vertebrata Palasiatica* 42 (4): 316-333.

Gonzalez, L. & B.V. **Brown**. 2004. New species and records of *Melaloncha* (*Udamochiras*) bee-killing flies (Diptera: Phoridae). *Zootaxa*. 730: 1-14. *This paper is a collaboration of NSF-funded student intern Lisa Gonzalez and Brian Brown, describing 9 new species and a new host record for these interesting bee parasitoids. A PDF version of the paper (and others associated with this project) is available at www.phorid.net/phoridae/Melaloncha/products.html.*

Gosliner, T. M., Ortea, J. & **Valdés**, A. 2004. New data on tropical eastern Pacific Chromodorididae (Nudibranchia: Doridina) with description of a new species of *Mexichromis* Bertsch, 1977. *Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences* 55: 590-599.

Grellet-Tinner, G. and L. M. **Chiappe**. 2004. Dinosaur eggs and nesting: Implications for understanding the origin of birds. In P. J. Currie, E. B. Koppelhus, and M. A. Shugar (eds.), pp. 185-214, *Feathered dragons: studies on the transition from dinosaurs to birds*.

Grellet-Tinner, G., Chiappe, L. M., and R. A. Coria. 2004. Eggs of titanosaurid sauropods from the Upper Cretaceous of Auca Mahuevo (Argentina). *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences* 41: 949-960.

Hermosillo, A. & **Valdés, A.** 2004. Two New Species of Dorid Nudibranchs (Mollusca, Opisthobranchia) from Bahía de Banderas and La Paz, Mexico. *Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences* 55: 552-562.

Hou L, **Chiappe, L. M.,** Zhang F., and Chuong C-M. 2004. New Early Cretaceous Fossil from China Documents a Novel Trophic Specialization for Mesozoic birds. *Naturwissenschaften* 91: 22-25.

Martin, J. W., and S. L. Boyce. 2004. Non-cladoceran branchiopod crustaceans. Pp. 284-297 In: Yule, C. M., and H. S. Yong (editors), *Freshwater Invertebrates of the Malaysian Region*. Academy of Science Malaysia and Monash University. 861 pp.

This guide book is the first ever produced for identifying the freshwater animals of Malaysia and surrounding regions. Our chapter concerns the fairy shrimp and clam shrimp known from Malaysia and nearby countries.

Pol, D., Ji S.-H., Clark, J. M., and L. M. **Chiappe.** 2004. Basal crocodyliforms from the Early Cretaceous Tugulu Group (Xinjiang Province, China), and the phylogenetic position of Edentosuchus. *Cretaceous Research* 25: 603-622.

Snelling, R. R., and J. A. Torres. 2004. The spider wasps of Puerto Rico and the British Virgin Islands (Hymenoptera: Pompilidae). *Journal of the Kansas Entomological Society* 77:356-376.

Thacker, C. E. 2004. Phylogeny and species boundaries in the gobiid genus *Gnatholepis* (Teleostei: Perciformes). *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*. 142(4): 573-582.

Thacker, C. E. 2004. Population structure in two species of the reef goby *Gnatholepis* (Teleostei: Perciformes) among four South Pacific Islands. *Coral Reefs* 23(3): 357-366.



At left: One of the subjects of Christine Thacker's and Andrew Thompson's continued work on the coevolution of shrimp gobies and alpheid shrimp, which includes visits from shrimp expert Dr. Arthur Anker.

Valdés, A. & Angulo Campillo, O. 2004. Systematics of pelagic aeolid nudibranchs of the family Glaucidae (Mollusca, Gastropoda). *Bulletin of Marine Science* 75: 381-389.

Valdés, A. 2004. Phylogeography and phyloecology of dorid nudibranchs (Mollusca, Gastropoda). *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society* 83: 551-559.

Valdés, A. & Camacho-García, Y. E. 2004. "Cephalaspidean" heterobranchs (Gastropoda) from the Pacific coast of Costa Rica. *Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences* 55: 459-499.

Wang, X., Z.-x. Qiu, and B.-y. Wang. 2004. A new leptarctine (Carnivora: Mustelidae) from the early Miocene of the northern Tibetan Plateau and implications of the phylogeny and zoogeography of basal mustelids. *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* 142: 405-421.

This paper describes a new genus of a mustelid (weasel, badger, and wolverine family)



carnivore from the northern rim of the Tibetan Plateau. Represented by a beautifully preserved skull, Kinometaxia (meaning carnivore from the Chinese Silk Road) seems to be linked to an extinct badger-like form in North America. Such a long-distance migration across continents indicates

the presence of land connections between Asia and North America during the early Miocene (about 18 million years ago).

Wicksten, M. K., and J. W. Martin. 2004. A new species of caridean shrimp of the family Stylodactylidae from the eastern Pacific Ocean. *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 117(3): 377-384.

These are really weird shrimp with strange, broom-like claws. We think that they actually "sweep" the bottom of the seafloor and gather things to eat that way, but nobody has ever seen a living one. This is the first one reported from the Americas, and the largest species known to date.

Wiles, G. J., N. C. Johnson, J. B. de Cruz, G. Dutson, V. A. Camacho, A. K. Kepler, D. S. Vice, K. L. Garrett, C. C. Kessler, and H. D. Pratt. 2004. New and noteworthy bird records for Micronesia, 1986-2003. *Micronesica* 37:69-96.

NEW PUBLICATION IN MUSEUM'S SCIENCE SERIES

The latest volume in the Museum's "Science Series" was published on 27 December 2004. Entitled "The Paleogene Mammalian Fauna of Santa Rosa, Amazonian Peru," the volume was edited by Ken Campbell (Ornithology). The volume details the first Paleogene, or early Cenozoic, fossil mammalian fauna from the forested, tropical lowlands of the Amazon Basin. The Santa Rosa fauna is thought to be late Eocene in age, or about 35 to 40 million years old. This paleofauna is of special significance

because it produced the oldest fossil rodents from South America, which is of note because one of the most debated issues in South American vertebrate paleontology is how and when rodents arrived in that continent. Based on studies of the Santa Rosa rodents, the thinking in some quarters is that perhaps they have been there, in one form or another, since the breakup of Gondwanaland in the late Mesozoic. Marsupials are also a major component of the paleofauna, and the several new species described will certainly advance our understanding of the evolution of South American marsupials. Sixteen new genera and twenty-two new species are described in the volume, and, by coincidence, they are evenly split between the rodents and marsupials. Other mammals included a bat (oldest known from South America), toxodonts and interatheres (extinct, endemic South American herbivores), and even a mammal that no one could put to an order! These species were not named, as was the case for several rodent species, because the fossils available were not judged suitable to be name-bearing types. Most of the fossils are microfossils that are only a few millimeters in diameter. The smallest species recognized, other than the bat, was a marsupial that was so small the experts could not really decide what it might have eaten! The largest mammal fossils found were teeth from a sheep-sized toxodont.

The Santa Rosa fauna was discovered by an expedition led by Ken Campbell in 1995, and the site was revisited for additional collecting in 1998. Access to the remote Amazonian site is possible only by air, followed by passage by canoe to the river-edge site. The most abundant fossils from the site are fish, but there are also amphibians, turtles, crocodylians, lizards, and birds present in the collection. Those parts of the paleofauna will be published on separately. The fossil site of Santa Rosa is very productive, with several hundred mammal teeth now available, and funding will be sought to return for additional collecting and reconnaissance for new sites. New sites are needed in areas with better stratigraphic control so that the age of the Santa Rosa paleofauna can be determined with greater accuracy.

In addition to editing the volume, Ken also authored the following articles:

Campbell, K.E., Jr. 2004. Preface. In *The Paleogene Mammalian Fauna of Santa Rosa, Amazonian Peru*. *Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Science Series*, 40: i.

Campbell, K.E., Jr. 2004. The Paleogene Santa Rosa Local Fauna: Introduction. In *The Paleogene Mammalian Fauna of Santa Rosa, Amazonian Peru*. *Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Science Series*, 40: 1–2.

Campbell, K.E., Jr., C.D. Frailey, and L. Romero-Pittman. 2004. The Paleogene Santa Rosa Local Fauna of Amazonian Perú: Geographic and Geologic Setting. In *The Paleogene Mammalian Fauna of Santa Rosa, Amazonian Peru*. *Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Science Series*, 40: 3-14.

Campbell, K.E., Jr. 2004. The Santa Rosa Local Fauna: A Summary. In *The Paleogene Mammalian Fauna of Santa Rosa, Amazonian Peru*. *Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Science Series*, 40: 155-163.

Czaplewski, N.J., and K.E. **Campbell, Jr.** 2004. A Possible Bat (Mammalia: Chiroptera)

from the ?Eocene of Amazonian Perú. In *The Paleogene Mammalian Fauna of Santa Rosa, Amazonian Peru*. *Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Science Series*, 40: 141-144.

Frailey, C.D., and K.E. **Campbell**, Jr. 2004. Paleogene Rodents from Amazonian Peru: The Santa Rosa Local Fauna. In *The Paleogene Mammalian Fauna of Santa Rosa, Amazonian Peru*. *Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Science Series*, 40: 71-130.

Miscellaneous

Polychaetes

Leslie Harris participated in the doctoral exam for Victor Delgado-Hugo, at El Colegio de la Frontera Sur, Chetumal, Mexico. At the invitation of his major professor, Dr. Sergio Salazar-Vallejo, she spent 10 days in November at his lab working with Victor and his other doctoral students. Dr. Salazar is a frequent visitor to our museum and held the position of visiting curator while on a Fullbright scholarship last year.

History

Congratulations to Dr. Janet Fireman and Dr. Tom Sitton, both of whom have been appointed Adjunct Professors in the USC Department of History.

Rancho La Brea

Congratulations to Dr. John Harris, who was appointed to the Board of Directors of the new Foundation for Quaternary Paleontology of Venezuela, and also to Chris Shaw, who was appointed to the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board.

Malacology/ Art

Michelle Schwengel (R&C/Malacology) and Robert Reid (Art & Design) are showing selections of their artwork at the San Bernardino County Museum as part of the "Natural Illustrations" exhibit. They are among the twelve members of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators-Southern California chapter whose works are on view through 16 January 2005.

Invertebrate Paleontology

We regret to announce that Yvonne Z. Albi passed away in October. Yvonne was a wonderful colleague and volunteer who worked closely with many of us in Invertebrate Paleontology, Malacology and Echinoderms. She was generous not only with her expertise but with her good cheer and friendship as well. Yvonne was an artist, poet and teacher and had broad interests in living and fossil invertebrates. Her work in marine biology and paleontology resulted in the publication of 24 scientific papers. Yvonne collected a wide array of fossil and recent echinoids and mollusks over the past 40 years, and her collections have been donated to the museum. We will miss her gracious presence.

In December, the Paleontological Research Institute presented the prestigious Gilbert

Harris Award to LouElla Saul. LouElla is a Research Associate and former Collections Manager in the Department of Invertebrate Paleontology. She received this prestigious award in recognition of excellence in contributions to systematic paleontology. The citation states that LouElla is "a scientist who, through outstanding research and commitment to the centrality of systematics in paleontology, has made a significant contribution to the science." Congratulations LouElla!

We would also like to congratulate Mary Stecheson for the completion of her thesis "Systematic paleontology of gastropods from the upper Cretaceous Chatsworth Formation, Simi Hills, Southern California." In December, Mary received the degree of Master of Science in Geology from Cal. State Northridge.

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