Hello Everybody!

I started my term as President of NAMS in late June at the AAPG Annual Convention and Exhibition in Calgary. I have attended numerous meetings over the years such as GSA and IGC but I hadn’t been to an AAPG annual meeting since 1986! It was good to attend talks on a great variety of topics in sedimentology, stratigraphy, and micropaleontology. The presented research gave me a better appreciation of just how much micropaleontology is a part of the big picture of sedimentary geology. As I start my term, I can see that late 2016–early 2017 will be an eventful 12 months for NAMS.

Plans are well underway for “Geologic Problem Solving with Microfossils IV” to be held April 5-9, 2017 in Houston, Texas. The venue for Microfossils IV is the Whitehall Hotel and Conference Center (formerly the Crowne Plaza-Downtown) in Houston. Our conference immediately follows the AAPG Centennial Celebration Conference and Exhibition in Houston April 2-5, 2017.

The Microfossils conferences are held every four years and provide a focus on solving geological problems through the application of microfossil studies. These conferences are international in scope and provide a great forum for the exchange of ideas. The technical program features oral sessions on Microfossils and Biofacies Analysis, High Resolution Biostratigraphy, Cyclostratigraphy, Chronostratigraphy, and Geochronology, Integration of Microfossil and Sequence Stratigraphic Data, and Future Directions of Micropaleontology. The oral sessions at a Microfossils conference run consecutively so attendees don’t have to make difficult choices on which talk to see and which one to skip. Poster sessions are also an option for those who’d like to present their work in a more informal setting. Posters will be up through the entire conference so there will be many opportunities for presenters to interact with their colleagues. A number of workshops are planned for immediately before and after the conference and there is a post-meeting field trip to visit outcrops of the Austin Chalk scheduled. Social events such as the Welcome Icebreaker and the Plenary Dinner with the Dinosaurs at the Houston Museum of Natural Sciences are also planned.

If you have never attended a Microfossils conference before, I encourage you to attend this one. We expect this to be a large gathering of micropaleontologists from around the world. The call for abstracts has gone out and you can submit an abstract until January 10th, 2017. If you are already planning on attending the AAPG Centennial Celebration, please plan on staying a few days more for Microfossils IV. For more information on submitting an abstract and the conference in general, visit our website:

https://nams.wildapricot.org/Microfossils-IV

Many thanks to the Microfossils IV organizing committee: Todd Boesiger (General Chair) Alicia Kahn, Rick Fluegeman, and Jens Schmeider (Technical Program) Lawrence Febo and Maria Bolivar (Conference Courses) Richard Denne and Alicia Kahn (Conference Proceedings Volume) Scott Ishman and Stacie Blair (Publicity) David Bord

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2016 Garry Jones & Brian O’Neill Memorial Grant for NAMS Student Research

Application Deadline: September 30, 2016

The North American Micropaleontology Section (NAMS) of SEPM is pleased to solicit applications for the 2016 Garry Jones and Brian O’Neill Memorial Fund for NAMS student research. The Jones & O’Neill grant is a $1,500 award available to one NAMS student member to support research with a substantial micropaleontological component. The student’s research must involve one or more micropaleontology disciplines, including foraminifers, nanofossils, diatoms, radiolarians, pollen, spores, dinoflagellates or conodonts. Projects may apply micropaleontology to traditional fields such as biostratigraphy, paleoecology, and paleoceanography or to rapidly expanding fields like biogeochemistry and geomicrobiology. The NAMS Council of Officers will rank proposals based on scientific merit, faculty recommendation and financial need. The grant will partially support a M.S. or Ph.D. research project that is not funded through other major grants. Applicants must be student members of NAMS.

To apply, students should request application forms from Todd Boesiger at the address below:

Todd Boesiger
5929 Lee Circle
Lincoln, NE 68506 USA
tboesig@gmail.com

The forms should be submitted to the same address, along with a one to three page summary of the applicant’s research, a Curriculum Vitae, and a budget. A supporting letter of recommendation from the applicant’s faculty advisor must be provided separately to Todd at the address above. Proposals must be submitted by September 30, 2016. The award notification is scheduled for October 15, 2016.

Todd Boesiger
NAMS Past-President

SEPM Student Participation Grants

SEPM has replaced the Mobil Travel Grant with the new SEPM Student Participation Grant. These grants provide travel funds for students that have abstracts accepted to SEPM 'approved' meetings and conferences. An 'approved' meeting is one that SEPM has reviewed and endorses the topic, program and operating organization. These include the AAPG and GSA annual meetings. It is likely that Microfossils IV will be an approved meeting, but at this point it is not yet on the approved list. In 2015 SEPM awarded a total of 37 grants.

For more information, go to:
https://www.sepm.org/Apply-for-a-Student-Travel--Grant

President’s Letter (cont. from page 1)

and Don Van Nieuwenhuise (Conference Site) Emily Browning and Kendra Clark (Food and Entertainment) Kate Greiner and Jens Schmieder (Housing) Iain Prince, and Tony Gary (Sponsorship).

In addition to Microfossils IV, one of the topics I’m interested in for the coming year and one I hope to start a discussion about is the future of micropaleontology. Having worked in a university setting for the past 33 years, I’m interested in the education aspect of this topic. Everyone understands that we need new micropaleontologists and that they will come from the universities. It is true that we need to get undergraduate students interested in micropaleontology but I would like to know something about how they will be developed as micropaleontologists and who will train them. If we look at the 2016 Directory of Geoscience Departments published by the American Geological Institute (AGI) there are 160 geoscientists who self-identify micropaleontology as one of their specialties. The AGI directory is only as complete as its participants and the numbers of micropaleontologists do not include those who have other specialties but may provide instruction in microfossils. Although imperfect, the AGI Directory does represent an organized listing of academic micropaleontologists and a starting point for developing a snapshot of the state of our discipline in universities. Of the 160 geoscientists listing micropaleontology as their specialty, 114 list it as their primary or only specialty. I’m interested in faculty at degree granting universities in North America (we are NAMS after all) so that reduces that number to 85 micropaleontologists on university faculties in Canada, the USA, and Mexico. Among the 85, 27 are listed as emeritus faculty leaving 58 in full time faculty positions; 46 in departments granting a PhD.

The above list represents only a starting point for a discussion. What I hope to do over the coming year and beyond is to contact other department chairs to determine whether or not micropaleontology is a part of their curriculum and if so, how frequently it is offered. I’m very interested in finding out how we bring geoscience students into micropaleontology. I hope to see everyone in Houston in April.

Rick Fluegeman
NAMS President
Treasurer’s Report

As of August 15, 2016 the NAMS treasury has $14,472.18 in accounts. Since the last report posted in the Spring 2016 Newsletter NAMS received an additional $156.77 in membership dues. This included check deposits totaling $90.00 and $66.77 net in PayPal deposits. During this period NAMS paid no expenses.

If your membership has not been paid through 2016, we would appreciate your payment to bring your membership up-to-date at the new $20 per year rate. We suggest for your convenience that you pay for multiple years to reduce the number of professional memberships you need to track each year. Many of our members do so and we appreciate their advanced payments. You may also find it convenient to pay your annual dues to NAMS along with your dues to SEPM by clicking the appropriate box on their payment page and paying the additional dues. Direct electronic payments are available through PayPal.

It has been a privilege to serve you as Treasurer and I look forward to seeing you at future NAMS sponsored meetings.

Don Van Nieuwenhuisen
NAMS Treasurer

Upcoming Meetings

TSOP-AASP-ICCP Joint Meeting: September 18-23, 2016, Houston, Texas

GSA Annual Meeting: September 25-28, 2016, Denver, Colorado

TMS Annual General Meeting: November 17-18, 2016, Lille, France

AAPG / SEPM Annual Convention with MMRG meeting: April 2-5, 2017, Houston, Texas

Microfossils IV: April 5-9, 2017, Houston, Texas

International Nannoplankton Association (INA) 16: September, 2017, Athens, Greece

FORAMS 2018: June, 2018, Edinburgh, Scotland
It saddens me to report that Dr. Robert London Fleisher, micropaleontology consultant and former editor of Micropaleontology, passed away in Houston, Texas, on July 22, 2016, at the age of 72.

Bob graduated from the Montgomery Blair High School of Silver Springs, Maryland in 1962, and went on to attend Amherst College in Massachusetts. Bob majored in Geological Sciences at Amherst, graduating in 1966, and entered the PhD program at the University of Southern California, where he chose to work with the eminent planktic foraminiferal specialist Orville Bandy.

His PhD dissertation at USC was a milestone work on the evolution of planktic foraminifera. His abstract of a portion on that work "Towards the Classical Evolutionary Reclassification of Cenozoic Globigerinacea (Foraminifera)" - based upon wall textures - garnered him and Paul Steineck a Best Paper Award from the Journal of Paleontology when it was published in 1978. Bob also served as a shipboard foraminiferal biostratigrapher on DSDP Legs 23 and 23A, in the Red and Arabia Seas, prior to completing his doctoral studies.

After USC, the newly minted Dr. Fleisher chose to accept a position with the highly regarded biostratigraphy group at the Exxon Production Research Company in Houston, where he worked with Charlie Pflum, Jim Lamb, and Lou Stover, among many others.

After several years with Exxon, Bob was recruited by the Gulf Oil Corporation as part of its effort to reproduce the successes of the Exxon biostratigraphy group. With the teaming of Bob, George Sieglie, Charlie Ross, and Norm Norton, a superb unit came into being in Houston for Gulf. While there, Bob's major focus was on the Cenozoic and Mesozoic foraminifera of West Africa.

1985 saw the beginning of the petroleum industry 'megamergers', and Gulf was an early acquisition of Chevron. Bob accepted a new assignment with the international biostratigraphy team at Chevron Overseas Petroleum Inc., in San Ramon, California. After some six years in northern California, Bob requested (and received) a transfer back to Houston to join Chevron's domestic biostratigraphy team, where he added to his expertise on Gulf of Mexico foraminifers. He remained there through his retirement from Chevron in 1998. Bob then became a Houston-based petroleum industry consultant, and editor of the journal Micropaleontology.

I first met Bob when I joined Exxon as a biostratigrapher myself in the fall of 1978. He took particular care to introduce me to every other biostratigrapher in the Exxon organization, making my own work there infinitely easier. We became associates again at the Gulf/Chevron merger, as I too had left Exxon by then. And we came to work together once more, when Bob accepted the editorship of Micropaleontology at Micropaleontology Press. Through all of our time together, I have never had a better colleague or friend.

I'd like to leave you with this testimony from Marie Pierre Aubry, a long time friend of Bob's: "Bob was a sensitive and sensible, generous and sincere, culturally refined and welcoming being." That is the Dr. Robert L. Fleisher that I too had the pleasure of knowing, and will always remember.

Tom Dignes
CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT:

Geologic Problem Solving with Microfossils IV

proceeds designated for the Garry Jones and Brian O’Neill Memorial Fund for NAMS Student Research and an SEPM Foundation Fund

APRIL 5-9, 2017

The Whitehall Houston Hotel (formerly the Crowne Plaza - Downtown)
Houston, TX - USA

Organized by NAMS/SEPM (North American Micropaleontology Section) with support from the Society for Sedimentary Geology (SEPM)
Microfossils IV Call for Abstracts

The deadline for abstract submission for the upcoming Microfossils IV is **Tuesday, January 10th, 2017.**

**Oral Sessions:**
1. High-resolution Biostratigraphy, Chronostratigraphy and Geo-chronology
2. Microfossils and Biofacies Analysis: Applications and Challenges
3. Future directions in micropaleontology (biomarkers, environmental monitoring, Paleozoic chronostratigraphy, etc)
4. Integration of microfossil and sequence stratigraphic data

**Poster Topics:**
1. Paleoclimate, Paleoceanography and Ocean Chemistry Proxies
2. Paralic and Lacustrine Micropaleontology
3. Microfossils and Unconventional Resources: The New Frontier
4. Reconstructing Past Environments Using Microfossils
5. Taxonomy, Phylogeny and Evolution

**Abstract Submission Guidelines:**
Electronic submissions only, please.
Abstract must be in either Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx). In addition, make sure your abstract conforms to the formatting guidelines below.
Abstract should contain the following identifying information:
title of abstract; author’s name; author’s affiliation; contact email address along with the abstract text itself.
Attach the abstract to an email message with the subject line: “M4 Abstract Submission”. The body of the email message should contain the following information: title of abstract; author’s full name; author’s affiliation; contact email address (if different from the address in the email header); and contact telephone number.
Indicate whether the abstract is for poster or oral presentation at the top of the abstract itself.

**Abstract Formatting Guidelines:**
Line spacing: single
Text alignment: left justified.
Title text: Arial 11pt bold
Author name(s): Arial 10pt with the presenting authors name in bold
Author affiliation(s): Arial, 10pt, italic, including email address of author who will be presenting the work at the conference.
Body text: Arial 11pt.
Paragraphs: do not indent; leave one clear line between paragraphs.
Figures are encouraged: A full color abstract book will be produced, so please include any relevant figure or image with-in the body of the text.
References can be included.
Extended abstracts are encouraged, but should not exceed two pages in length.
Questions about abstracts or the technical sessions? Please contact either Alicia Kahn (kahn@chevron.com) or Richard Fluegeman (rfluegem@bsu.edu).

NAMS Renewal Information

PLEASE DON’T WAIT!
RENEW TODAY!

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Remit to:
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Donald S. Van Nieuwenhuis, Treasurer
Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Dept.
Science and Research Building 1
3507 Cullen Blvd, Rm 312
University of Houston
Houston, TX 77204-5007

Is this a renewal? Y N
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Please indicate your status: A) student, B) academic/government professional, C) industry professional, D) consultant/self-employed/retired

Enclose a check payable to ‘NAMS, SEPM’ for:
$20 for 2016 ($10 for students)
$10 for each year of membership prior to 2016
$0.50 for each late year penalty (dues prior to 2014)

For voluntary contributions to the Garry Jones & Brian O’Neill Fund for NAMS Student Research enclose a check payable to ‘Garry Jones & Brian O’Neill Memorial Fund’. Contributions are deductible as charitable gifts for U.S. Income Tax purposes.
The next issue of the NAMS News will be published before the 2017 AAPG Annual Meeting. Please send news to the Editor through March 1st, 2017. News regarding meetings, symposia, people, books, internet information, software, new journal articles, and just about anything else regarding micropaleontology is welcome. Submit your news by email (preferred), or letter to the Editor:

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