

M | LSA MUSEUM OF PALEONTOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

2025—2026 YEAR IN REVIEW



University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear friends and colleagues,

Greetings from Ann Arbor and the Museum of Paleontology! The past year has been a busy one at the museum, with a buzz of activity in our research labs and collections. Members of the museum traveled the world to conduct fieldwork, study collections, collaborate with colleagues, and attend conferences. Major research contributions came from all corners of the museum, ranging from new hypotheses of how dinosaur extinction shaped terrestrial landscapes to the role of the tropics in harboring fish diversification to clues about brachiopod paleoecology gleaned from other animals encrusting their shells. Museum researchers contributed to the naming of ten new species, and these were joined by a pair of additional new species with holotypes deposited in our collections. One of these graced the cover of *Journal of Paleontology*. The many individual achievements and accolades from the past year also stand out. Museum trainees received awards and other special recognition from the Geological Society of America, Paleontological Society, International Biogeography Society, and American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, Association of Women Geoscientists, National Science Foundation, and others. Adam Rountrey, research collection manager for vertebrate paleontology and paleobotany, was recognized with the Candace J. Johnson Award for Staff Excellence, the highest honor for U of M staff. Finally, associate research scientist Miriam Zelditch led the publication of the third edition of the now-classic *Geometric Morphometrics for Biologists*. Throughout all of this, we've kept our focus on supporting the next generation of paleontologists and enhancing the collections that make that training possible. Thanks to many of you, fundraising efforts brought in a record sum for the Edward P. Krasny Undergraduate Paleontology Lab and Collections Support Fund, which supports summer undergraduate interns. We've also welcomed new students and said farewell to mentees at every level—undergraduate, graduate, postdoctoral—as they head into exciting new roles. At the same time, our collection has developed through curation of existing specimens and new fossils from museum fieldwork and donations from the avocational community. 2026 marks a major milestone for the Museum of Paleontology: the upcoming centennial of the museum's founding. We've told part of that story as part of a new temporary exhibit developed with our partners in the U of M Museum of Natural History. We'll be recognizing this centennial in other ways over the coming academic year. Our collections have grown tremendously in the past century, as have the range of questions asked of those fossils. But as always the core of the museum is its people and the community that supports them. We look forward to starting our next century with your partnership.

- Matt Friedman, Director of the University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology

Support the UMMP:



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Museum of Paleontology Contributes to ID Day



Museum of Paleontology students, postdocs, staff, and faculty took part in the U of M Museum of Natural History's ID Day. There they were joined by members of the Friends of the Museum of Paleontology, who also participated. This event gives the public opportunities to meet researchers and have questions answered about objects they've found. This year's participants staffed multiple tables with a range of vertebrate, invertebrate, and plant fossils. A printmaking activity developed by graduate student Hadeel Saad allowed visitors to make images of fossil specimens and related living species.

(L to R) Laura Puente, Lynnea Jackson, Adam Rountrey

Staff Wins Prestigious Award

Adam Rountrey was recognized with the Candace Johnson Award for Staff Excellence. This is U of M's highest staff award, with Adam joining two other awardees from across the entire university. Adam's technical colleagues—Scientific Illustrator Carol Abraczinskas, Research Collection Manager Jen Bauer, and Chief Vertebrate Preparator William Sanders—unanimously nominated him for this award. Their unified support speaks to the breadth of Adam's contributions to our museum, our discipline, and our wider community. Awardees exemplify excellence, demonstrate generosity, and practice compassion. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition, Adam!



(Above) Provost Laurie McCauley presenting Adam Rountrey with the Candace Johnson Award for Staff Excellence

SPECIAL THANKS

2025-2026 VOLUNTEERS

Doug Scales, Dave Thompson, Sally Labadie, Mason Ruhfel, Melina Tsourapas, John Klausmeyer, Blake Briggs

A special thank you to our volunteers for donating over 660 hours of work. These efforts included organizing and adding the RMC invertebrate collection to the database and preparing, molding, casting, and reconstructing fossil specimens. Their work is invaluable to the collections management aspects of the Museum of Paleontology!



New Research from the Museum of Paleontology

Rise of modern marine fishes captured in an early Paleocene Lagerstätte

Sanaa El-Sayed, recent PhD graduate, and a group of researchers from Egypt and Michigan investigated a new rare fossil site that contains specimens from just after the extinction that killed non-avian dinosaurs. The Qreiya 3 site, located in the Eastern Desert of Egypt, yielded over 500 diverse examples of well-preserved fish skeletons from around 62.2 million years ago. These specimens lacked major fish groups common in the Cretaceous, but did include diverse representatives of a group called percomorphs. This gave evidence that diverse fish types developed rapidly after the extinction. Reference: El-Sayed et al. (2026) *Science Advances*.

Dinosaur extinction can explain continental facies shifts at the Cretaceous-Paleogene boundary

Museum of Paleontology paleontologists Luke Weaver and Mónica R. Carvalho, along with colleagues from several other universities, investigated how the extinction of non-avian dinosaurs shaped the environments on land. The team analyzed the difference in rock composition between the Cretaceous and Paleogene. Cretaceous sediments suggest environments with open habitats and water-logged soil, while Paleogene sediments contained evidence of thick forests. They found that, without large dinosaurs preventing dense tree clusters from forming, rivers became more constrained to defined riverbeds. Reference: Weaver et al. (2025) *Communications Earth & Environment*.

Palaeocampa anthrax, an armored freshwater lobopodian with chemical defenses from the Carboniferous

Richard J Knecht, postdoctoral fellow at Michigan, worked with colleagues from Columbia and Harvard to re-evaluate a lobopodian specimen that had been misidentified for over a century. Using FTIR spectroscopy and infrared light, they uncovered evidence that suggested that *Palaeocampa anthrax* was a freshwater dweller and potentially amphibious. This contrasts with scientists previously believing that aysheiid lobopodians were solely marine species. This represents an additional example of the invasion of continental settings by lobopodians, joining tardigrades and velvet worms. Reference: Knecht et al. (2025) *Communications Biology*.

Impacts of Pleistocene extinctions on the biomass and energy use of local mammal assemblages around the world

Benjamin Carter, along with coauthor John Alroy, investigated the impacts of Pleistocene megafaunal extinctions on surviving mammal populations around the world. After quantifying the biomass and energy usage of over 650 Late Quaternary fossil assemblages and 562 individual species, they found the biogeographic distribution of energy use patterns were changed. Energetic variation in post-extinction communities primarily reflects geographical differences in anthropogenic domestication patterns in the Holocene, whereas continental variation prior to the extinctions was solely due to natural ecological differences. Reference: Carter and Alroy (2025) *Ecography*.

Macroevolutionary role reversals in the earliest radiation of bony fishes

Museum of Paleontology postdoc Emily Troyer and her coauthors reviewed CT models of the mandibles for 86 species of lobe-finned and ray-finned fish from the Silurian and Devonian periods. Models were examined for jaw shape and the mechanical advantage these shapes would give the species. This led to the observation that lobe-finned fishes had significant amounts of jaw diversity, rapid developments in jaw structure, and new adaptations for feeding. Ray-finned fish had slower evolutionary rates and low levels of jaw diversity, even though they are the dominant fish group today. Reference: Troyer et al. (2025) *Current Biology*.



Museum of Paleontology Welcomes New Staff

We are thrilled to welcome Karly Mitchell, Carla Huhn, and Sarah Dix to the staff of the Museum of Paleontology.

Karly Mitchell

Karly serves as Chief Administrator for the Museum of Paleontology and the Department of Earth and Environmental Science. In her role, she works closely with unit leadership to ensure excellence in operations. She is a proud alum of both the University of Michigan (Masters in Business Administration) and the University of Arizona (BA in English Language and Literature, minor in Music). When not at work, Karly enjoys watercolor painting and plays French horn in the Ann Arbor Concert Band. She has two very spoiled cats, Elmer and Ida, who enjoy supervising these artistic endeavors.



Carla Huhn

Carla serves as the Operations Administrator for the Museum of Paleontology. Her role touches on financial management, curatorial affairs, HR, unit operations, and events/communications management. She is a proud alum of UM-Dearborn (AB in Psychology). In her free time, Carla enjoys cross-stitch, seeing live shows, and hanging out with her family (partner and young adult children: bio kids, step kids, and their partners).



Sarah Dix

Sarah is the Communications & Compliance Coordinator for the Museum of Paleontology. She holds a BA in English, with a creative writing focus and a minor in Political Science, and a MA in Professional Writing. She is a third-generation Michigan supporter, as well as a dedicated alumna of the University of South Carolina and Carnegie Mellon University. In her free time, she appreciates writing creatively, reading books, playing board games, and rooting for Detroit sports.

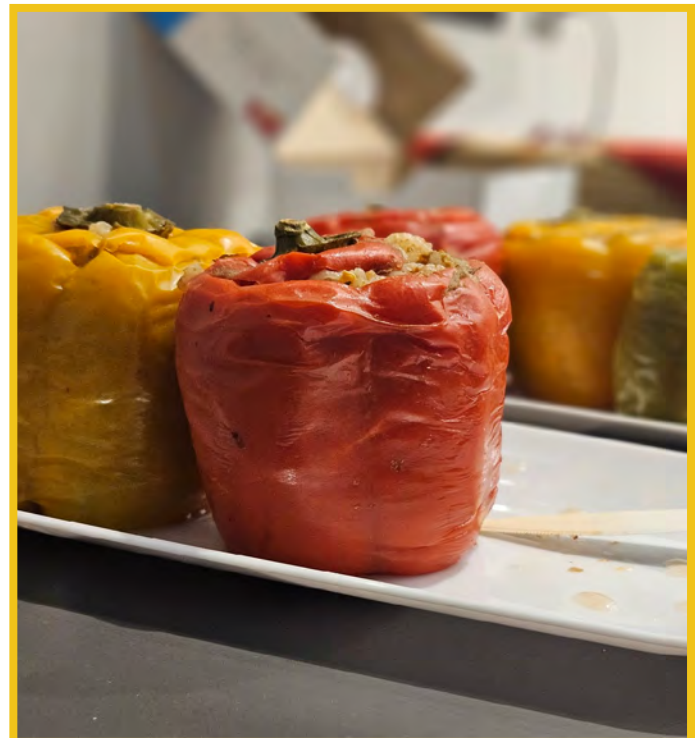
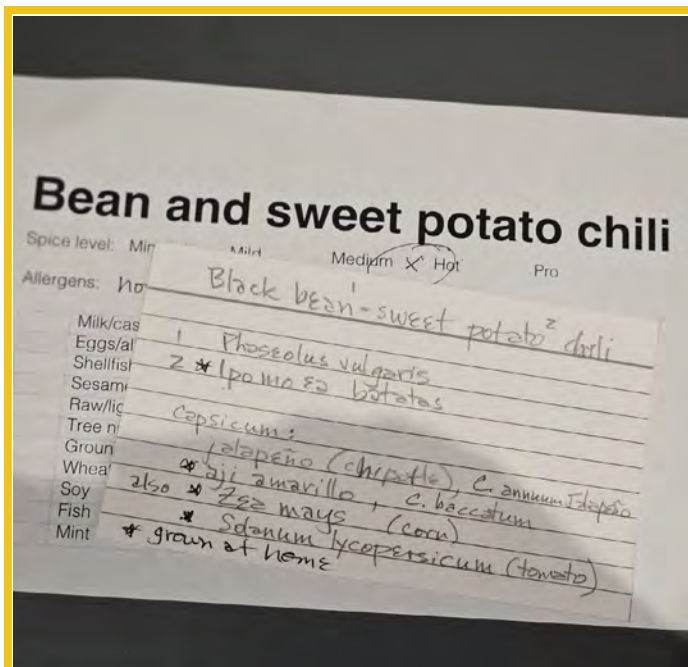


Chilli Cook-Off Back from Extinction

At the end of spring's classes, the Museum of Paleontology community revived a longstanding Paleo tradition: the chili cook-off. This year's competition brought a distinctly phylogenetic perspective, asking contestants to identify their ingredients and consider their geographic origins. The nightshade family Solanaceae, including tomatoes and chilies, originated in the Americas, where chili peppers were later domesticated. After 1492, chilies traveled through Europe and along trade routes to Africa and Asia, transforming culinary traditions from Ethiopia to China—much as species moving between North and South America during the Great American Biotic Interchange reshaped ecosystems on both continents in the Miocene. Catherine Badgley won the vegetarian category with a bean and sweet potato chili, Laura Puente earned wildcard honors with a chili-infused cheesecake, and the Swain Lab claimed the omnivore prize with “The Diplomatic Event”. Future cook-offs will keep pairing good food with lessons about its evolutionary and biogeographic history.



(L to R) Anna Wisniewski, Luke Weaver, Jared Shffert, Athena Vohs, Rory Sweedler





Gatito in Wyoming.
photo credits:
Mónica Carvalho



Mata Mata Creek, Parque Nacional
Amacayacu, Amazonas, Colombia.



Looking for fossils at the Bridger Formation,
South Pass, Wyoming. photo credit: Anne Kort



Touching the K-Pg boundary
in Bighorn Basin. photo credit:
Jerónimo Morales Toledo

Where in the World Are We?



Qhemegha,
South Africa.
photo credits:
Lynnea Jackson



Zigong Dinosaur Center
photo credit: Jeff Wilson Mantilla



Friedman Lab members (Zach Lyons-Weiler, Hadeel Saad)
and alumni (James Andrews, Rodrigo Figueroa) conduct
fieldwork in Montana. photo credit: Hadeel Saad

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Barro Colorado Island.
photo credit: Laura Puente



Instructors and attendees of Flower
Morphology and Angiosperm
Diversification at Freie Universität Berlin.
photo credit: Kaitlyn Krinsky



Group photo in the Bighorn Basin. photo credit: Luke Weaver



Camp Davis.
photo credit: Selena Smith

Where in the World Are We?



Katarina Keating and Evan
Unruh-Friesen, Hoback
Basin, Wyoming.
photo credit:
Evan Unruh-Friesen



UP, Michigan.
photo credit:
Matt Friedman



Macroevolution of
Cereal Mascots.
photo credit: Carla Huhn

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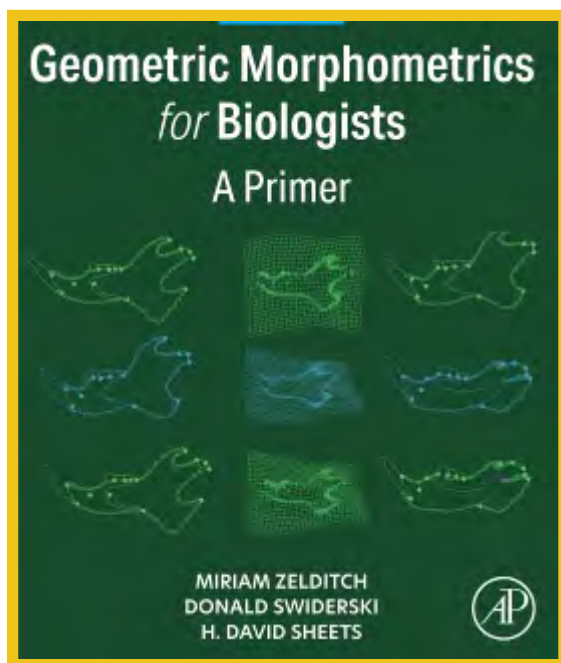
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Prep Lab Graduates

Two students working as lab assistants in the Vertebrate Fossil Preparation Labs (at BSB and RMC) graduated with their undergraduate degrees at U of M this Spring: Ava Berger and Leilani (Lani) Reyes. Ava has started graduate work in Art History, with an emphasis on Chinese Art and Archeology, at Columbia University, and Lani is taking a gap year and continuing to work with us in the prep labs as a Research Assistant, essentially filling the role of an assistant preparator. Lani majored in Earth and Environmental Sciences as an undergraduate and will also continue her research affiliation with Luke Weaver. As with Austin Babut (and many others!) before them, they developed superb micropreparation skills, undertook difficult prep and conservation projects, and made important technical contributions to our educational and research missions. Ava was the beneficiary of a student salary fund generously donated by Doug and Wendy Scales, while Lani's summer work was supported with a Edward Krasny Award.



(L to R) Bill Sanders, Ava Berger, and Leilani (Lani) Reyes



A Third Edition for Geometric Morphometrics for Biologists: A Primer

2025 marked the publication of the much anticipated third edition of *Geometric Morphometrics for Biologists: A Primer*. Led by Associate Research Scientist Miriam Zelditch, the text has been an indispensable resource for biologists and paleontologists alike going back to the first edition in 2004. Referred to as “the green book” by the research community, *Geometric Morphometrics for Biologists* provides an accessible overview of the analysis of organismal shape that is widely applicable to a range of questions. The impact of the manual is clear from how often it has been cited in research papers: roughly 6,500 times across all editions. “The most substantial updates are the new chapters on phylogenetic comparative methods for analyzing evolutionary dynamics, the relationships between diversity and disparity across space, time and lineages, and the new methods for analyzing modularity and morphological integration,” says Miriam Zelditch about the new edition. “We hope that this edition will inspire novel research questions by demonstrating methods that can answer them.”

IN MEMORIAM

Tom Churchill (1958-2026)

Tom Churchill was an integral part of Museum of Paleontology's fieldwork in the Bighorn Basin since the 1970s. The Churchill family more generally has been working with paleontologists in the Bighorn Basin since the early 20th century, and they were honored with one of the first Skinner Awards from the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology. The Paleocene–Eocene mammal collections in the Museum of Paleontology would not be what they are today without Tom and the rest of the Churchills.

Tom Churchill started farming when he graduated from high school. He helped the Museum of Paleontology in innumerable ways, which included hauling matrix for screenwashing out of the badlands in his jeep and telling the team where he found fossils himself. Tom was a friend to all of the many U of M students, professors, postdocs, and collaborators that worked in Wyoming over the past ~50 years, and he spent one autumn field season working with Elwyn Simons' Duke University team in Egypt. Tom worked hard and lived well, and over the years he made a thousand friends.



Luke Weaver and Tom Churchill

Empowering Future Paleontologists: Stocker-Nesbitt Fund Supports Student Professional Development

The Museum is proud to celebrate the success of this year's recipients of the Stocker-Nesbitt Professional Development in Paleontology Award: Alex Redman and Leilani Reyes. This award, supported by generous contributions to the Stocker-Nesbitt Professional Development in Paleontology Fund, provides undergraduate students with financial assistance to attend professional conferences in vertebrate paleontology, fostering invaluable academic and professional growth.

Alex Redman had this to say about the experience of winning the award: "Getting to go to SVP all the way in Birmingham [UK] was an unforgettable experience. Being able to be fully immersed amongst so many prominent researchers in different areas of paleontology transformed how I viewed the field. I was able to have some really great conversations and listen to some very interesting talks not only from other universities but from here too. Seeing all of those influential researchers in one place made me want to strive to become a prominent researcher in my own right one day. My favorite part was going to a pub during lunch with Jeff and having a very strong onion and cheese sandwich while listening to him and his colleagues talk about paleontology in Spanish."

Leilani Reyes described it as "one of the most unique experiences of my life. It was my first time attending a professional event like that, where I was able to make connections, meet so many incredible people, and learn so many new things. It was almost surreal. Every conversation has stuck with me, whether it was about career paths, methods, or just a mutual love of science. I'll forever be grateful I was able to attend."



(L to R) Lani Reyes, Alex Redman, and Matt Friedman

If you wish to contribute to the **Stocker-Nesbitt Professional Development in Paleontology Fund** and assure that these experiences continue to make a difference, please [click here](https://lsa.umich.edu/paleontology/giving.html)

Support the UMMP:



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Centennial logo design: C. Abraczinskas,
University of Michigan Museum of
Paleontology

Museum of Paleontology Celebrates 100 Years

To celebrate the Museum of Paleontology's centennial, there is a new collections case at the U of M Museum of Natural History that highlights how the collections began and how their scientific value continues to evolve.

The exhibit, Library of Life, follows the development of the collection from its formal establishment in 1926 to present day. Fossils are displayed alongside archival photographs, field notes, illustrations, and publications that reveal how collecting practices and research questions evolved over time. The exhibit illustrates how the history of the collection intersects with broader events in U.S. history, from fossils gathered during Michigan's early geological surveys, to specimens connected to the California Gold Rush and World War II. Visitors can also see how new technologies, such as CT scanning and digital models, are giving old specimens new scientific lives.

Most importantly, the exhibit highlights that the museum and its collections are a collaborative effort. Maintaining, studying, and growing Museum of Paleontology's collection has depended on a community of curators, collection managers, researchers, students, staff, and Friends of the Museum since its inception.

Library of Life is located on the museum's first floor and will remain on view for a year.



Library of Life in the Collections Case Exhibit, celebrating 100 years
photo credit: Elliot Zirulnik

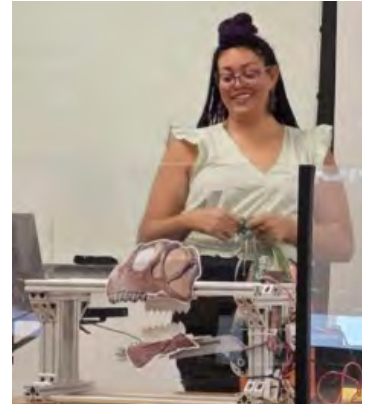
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Updates From the Friends of the Museum of Paleontology

The Friends of the University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology (FUMMP) continue to be active with monthly meetings and a range of field trips and social events. Speakers at this year's meetings covered an impressive range of topics, including Michigan trilobites, Cretaceous mammals, the paleontology of Egypt, fossil sharks, and new educational opportunities through the Museum of Natural History. A robotic dinosaur named "Chomper" that munched on carrots made for a particularly memorable meeting. Members participated in field trips to Mt. Orab, Arkona, and Milan. They also celebrated at the holiday party and summer BBQ, where trilobite cookies were served. The club contributed to UMMP in several ways throughout the year, from assisting with ID Day to providing support for high school students working in the collection with Dr. Jen Bauer. Following honorary memberships awarded to several longstanding members last year, the honor was extended to three more deserving individuals: Scott Vergiels, Alex Fabian, and Prof. Dan Fisher. Their names, along with those of other honorary members, now appear on a plaque that will hang in our regular meeting room at the Research Museums Center.



Lynnea Jackson with "Chomper"

Anyone with a passion for paleo is welcome to join FUMMP. Individual membership is still only \$20. Active U-M community members can join for free.



Trilobite Cookies at Summer BBQ

Benefits include:

- Monthly meetings with exciting speakers covering a broad spectrum of topics
- Ability to assist with the research of scientists at the University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology
- Exclusive access to our field trips in various quarries, which do not allow the general public
- On-line Archive of FUMMP materials, including past meeting minutes and Newsletters
- Learn how to properly identify, prepare, and preserve fossils and generally engage with fossil collectors and other like-minded individuals of all experience levels

Additional information can be accessed through [this link](#), or by contacting me directly.

David Clark
President, FUMMP
fummpinfo@gmail.com



NEW FACULTY/POSITIONS FOR RECENT ALUMNI



2025-2026 Updates

- **Brielle Canares** MS '25; now Adjunct Faculty Scholar at Green River College
- **Abby Waller** Paleontology minor and Weaver lab alum '25; now Master's student at University of Washington
- **Rodrigo Figueroa** PhD '24; now Assistant Professor at Stony Brook University
- **Sanaa El-Sayed** PhD '26; now Lecturer at Mansoura University Vertebrate Paleontology Center
- **Fabian Hardy** PhD '23, postdoc completed '24; now Assistant Professor at Slippery Rock University
- **Emily Troyer** Postdoc completed '26; now Assistant Professor and Assistant Curator at University of Oklahoma and Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History
- **Jacob Berv** Postdoc completed '23; starting Assistant Professor at University of North Carolina at Charlotte in January 2027
- **Ava Berger** Prep lab alum '26; now Master's student at Columbia University
- **Athena Vohs** MS '26; now PhD student at University of Colorado
- **Tariq Abdul Kareem** MS '26; now CT lab technician, U-M Museum of Zoology



Athena Vohs



Sanaa El-Sayed



Emily Troyer

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HAPPENINGS IN THE COLLECTIONS



TAXA NAMED BY MUSEUM OF PALEONTOLOGY RESEARCHERS

- *Sandrawia scottii*: Tiffney, **Krinsky**, Judd and Manchester, 2025: a Paleocene fruit from Wyoming with affinities to Ericales
- *Malvaciphyllum checuorum*: **Puente-Santos, Carvalho**, and Herrera, 2026: a Paleocene species of leaf from Colombia with affinities to Malvoideae
- *Zamites ambigua*: **Morales-Toledo**, Zepeda-Martínez and Cevallos-Ferriz, 2026: a cycadeoid from the Jurassic of Mexico
- *Hexagonokaryon nixonii*: Manchester, Correa-Narvaez, **Krinsky**, Judd, and Tiffney, 2026: a Paleocene fruit from Wyoming with affinities to Fagaceae
- *Paradoxopteris huertasii*: Palma-Castro, **Carvalho**, Mason-Gamer, Bomfleur, and Herrera 2026: an Early Cretaceous fern from Colombia
- *Punctiuga bachue*: **Puente-Santos, Carvalho, Shirley**, and Herrera 2026: a Paleocene white pear from Colombia
- *Palaeophytocrene paramoae*: **Puente-Santos, Carvalho, Shirley**, and Herrera 2026: a Paleocene white pear from Colombia
- *Goweria bacatana*: **Puente-Santos, Carvalho, Shirley**, and Herrera 2026: a Paleocene white pear from Colombia
- *Quebecocystites gorgo*: Deline, Limbeck, Baldwin, **Bauer**, and Cournoyer 2026: an Ordovician paracrinoid from Quebec
- *Masripithecus moghraensis*: Al-Ashqar, Seiffert, **El-Sayed**, Salem, Gohar, El-Saka, Amin, and Sallam 2026: a Miocene ape from Egypt



NEW HOLOTYPE

- *Archaeobatophora gulliverensis*: LoDuca, 2025: a Silurian macroalga from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan
- *Brechincycloides stanhynei*: Kolata, Mooi, Guensburg, and Koniecki 2026: an Ordovician cyclocystoid echinoderm from Canada



NEW ADDITIONS

- Casts of Devonian, Cretaceous, and Oligocene fishes from the American Museum of Natural History and the Museum of the Rockies
- Specimens, replicas, and models of Silurian jawless fishes from Joe Koenicki and Lapworth Museum
- Bivalves from the Plio-Pleistocene of Virginia, South Carolina, and Florida collected by Sierra Petersen and research group
- Blastoids from the Middle Devonian of Michigan and Mississippian of Missouri, Indiana, and New Mexico from John and Michael Topor, Alex Fabian, and Brad Macurda
- Algae from the Silurian of Michigan, collected by Steve LoDuca

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HAPPENINGS IN THE COLLECTIONS



Paradoxopteris huertasii: an Early Cretaceous fern from Colombia



Quebecocystites gorgo: an Ordovician paracrino from Quebec



Holoptychius jarviki: cast of a Devonian lobe-finned fish from the American Museum of Natural History



Malvaciphyllum checuorum: a Paleocene species of leaf from Colombia with affinities to Malvoideae



Americaspis americana: a Silurian jawless fish donated by Joe Konecki

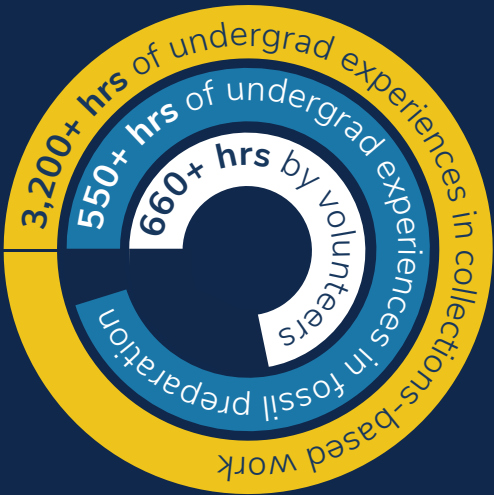
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HAPPENINGS WITH THE MUSEUM OF PALEONTOLOGY

BY THE NUMBERS



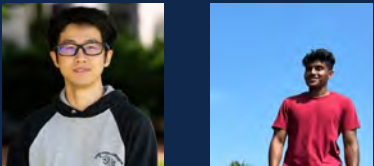
650 Loaned Specimens **2,400** Specimens Donated **6,590** Specimens Cataloged

309 Public Inquires **26,000** UMORF Sessions

77 3D Models Added to UMORF **2,024** Students Given Collections Tours

COMINGS AND GOINGS

DEPARTING GRADUATES



Jie Geng, Tariq Abdul Kareem,
Athena Vohs, Sanaa El-Sayed



NEW GRAD STUDENTS



Bradley Ibarra, J. Tyler Carpenter
Laura M. Puente-Santos, Leo Laborieux



Giving Opportunities to Support Students at UMMP

Consider giving to the [Edward P. Krasny Undergraduate Paleontology Lab and Collections Support Fund](#) and help support undergraduate students working in the museum's labs and collections.

Support the UMMP:  [Isa.umich.edu/paleontology/giving.html](https://lsa.umich.edu/paleontology/giving.html)

AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

- **Adriana Brown** - Outstanding Graduate Student Poster, MGU
- **Ethan Davis** - Junior Undergrad Academic Excellence Award, EES; Camp Davis Field Studies Award, EES; Outstanding Undergraduate Student Poster, MGU
- **Lindsey DeHaan** - Ermine Cowles Case Memorial Award, UMMP; Stoye Award for best talk in general ichthyology, Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists
- **Sanaa El-Sayed** - Diversity Engagement and Enhancement in Paleontology (DEEP) Award, Paleontological Society
- **Bradley Ibarra** - Golden Nebula Award for best Turner Proposal by a first-year graduate student, EES
- **Abby Kohn** - Undergraduate Excellence in Paleontology Award, Association for Women Geoscientists
- **Zachary Lyons-Weiler** - Russell B. King Memorial Award, UMMP, Jackson School of Geosciences Travel Award, SVP
- **Laura Puente** - Golden Nebula Award for best Turner Proposal by a first-year graduate student, EES
- **Alex Redman** - Stocker-Nesbitt Professional Development in Paleontology Award, UMMP
- **Leilani Reyes** - Edward P. Krasny Undergraduate Paleontology Lab and Collections Support Award, UMMP; Stocker-Nesbitt Professional Development in Paleontology Award, UMMP
- **Emma Risch** - George Junne Student Field Internship Award, UMMP
- **Adam Rountrey** - Candace J. Johnson Award for Staff Excellence, U-M
- **Hadeel Saad** - Best Student Poster Award, International Biogeography Society; Outstanding Graduate Student Poster, MGU



Ethan Davis



Lindsey DeHaan



Hadeel Saad



AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

- **Rory Sweedler** - Brunton Award, Association for Women Geoscientists; Student Travel Award, Paleontological Society; Student Travel Award, GSA North-Central Section
- **Evan Unruh-Friesen** - Russell B. King Memorial Award, UMMP; Lindsay Award, SVP
- **Eric Waters** - National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship
- **Jeff Wilson Mantilla** - US Scholar 2026-7 for Argentina, Fulbright
- **Benjamin Woodmansee** - Senior Undergrad Excellence Award, EES



Ben Woodmansee



Adam Rountrey and his wife,
Melanie Rountrey,



Front row (L to R): Rory Sweedler (Earth and Environmental Sciences PhD student), Ethan Davis (Earth and Environmental Sciences undergraduate), and Aidan Rodriguez (Earth and Environmental Sciences undergraduate). Back row (left to right): Andrew Colón (BS/BMA '23, current vertebrate fossil preparator at the Alf Museum of Paleontology) and Daniel Gluckstein (BS '77).



Evan Unruh-Friesen



PUBLICATIONS

Brook, B. W., S. K. Lyons, **B. E. Carter**, W. Gearty, O. S. Todorov, Z. Aandahl, et al. "Late Pleistocene faunal community patterns disrupted by Holocene human impacts." *Biology Letters* 21(8), 20250151. 2025.

Carter, B. E., J. Alroy. "Impacts of Pleistocene extinctions on the biomass and energy use of local mammal assemblages around the world." *Ecography* 2025(11), e07961. 2025.

Chia, S. Y., **A. Swain**, N. Josephs, L. Lin, W. F. Fagan. "Birds That Don't Exist: Niche Pre-Emption as a Constraint on Morphological Evolution in the Passeroidea." *Ecology Letters* 29(2), e70320. 2026.

Childers, R. R., W. P. Chan, B. Dickson, S. Ashe, L. Cai, J. Crall, M. Cornwall, et al. "Day versus night and the evolution of sexual dimorphism in Lepidoptera." 10.21203/rs.3.rs-7603116/v1. 2025.

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