

M | LSA MUSEUM OF PALEONTOLOGY

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

2023-2024 YEAR IN REVIEW



University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Dear friends and colleagues,

Greetings from the Museum of Paleontology! It has been a busy and exciting year for all of us in Ann Arbor. Just a few weeks ago we welcomed over 800 paleontologists to town for the 12th North American Paleontological Convention (NAPC), giving us the opportunity to showcase Michigan paleontology to an international audience. Delegates came from every continent apart from Antarctica, with more than 30 contributed symposia and thematic sessions. Meeting excursions made their way to the Research Museums Center and Ordovician, Silurian, Devonian, and Carboniferous strata in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky. One of the highlights for NAPC was a session honoring the contributions of Dan Fisher. Dan entered retirement and became curator emeritus at the beginning of 2024, freeing up his schedule for more innovative research! We all look forward to what the coming years will bring. You can read more about NAPC and the Fisher symposium later in this newsletter. We also spent this past year growing UMMP, and are excited to welcome two new faculty curators in the coming academic year. Luke Weaver, who will join us with a joint appointment in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences in fall semester, studies the evolution of Cretaceous and early Paleogene mammals with a particular emphasis on multituberculates. Anshuman Swain, who will join us with a joint appointment in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology in winter semester, uses a complex systems approach to study major questions in paleoecology and macroevolution. An article on Luke and his research appears later in this newsletter, and Anshuman will feature in our next issue. Several postdocs, graduate students, and staff members will also start next year, bringing novel ideas and perspectives, as they take our program in new directions. In the middle of all this activity, members of the UMMP community have managed to do what they do every year: make new discoveries, mentor the next generation of paleontologists, share our work with the public, and enhance the remarkable collections that lie at the heart of it all. Read on to learn about just a fraction of this remarkable work!

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

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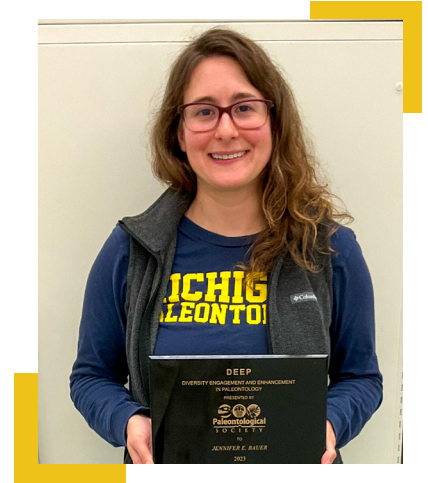
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Dr. Jennifer Bauer Receives DEEP Award from the Paleontological Society

The University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology (UMMP) is delighted to announce that Dr. Jennifer Bauer, UMMP Collection Manager, has been selected as the recipient of the 2023 Diversity Engagement and Enhancement in Paleontology (DEEP) Award by the Paleontological Society. This prestigious award recognizes early career professionals and students who have significantly contributed to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within the global paleontology community.

Dr. Bauer has been a champion for diversity and inclusion both at the UMMP and in the wider paleontological discipline, demonstrating unwavering dedication to fostering a more inclusive environment within the paleontological community.

Jen is co-founder and current co-president of Time Scavengers, a non-profit organization aimed at increasing accessibility to science and scientists. Time Scavengers boasts a substantial online presence, providing educational resources and highlighting the diversity of backgrounds and perspectives in paleontology through features like "Meet the Scientist". The organization has created and raised funding for the Tilly Edinger Grant and the Virtual Internship Program for Science Communication, both designed to support diversity in paleontology.



Dr. Bauer has also played a pivotal role in advocating for an anti-racist plan for geoscience societies. Her efforts, alongside a diverse coalition of colleagues, resulted in a petition that garnered over 26,000 signatures, earning recognition with a Presidential Citation from the American Geophysical Union. Additionally, Dr. Bauer was a co-author on "An actionable anti-racism plan for geoscience organizations" (Nature Communications, 2021).

Within U-M, Dr. Bauer serves as the Museum of Paleontology's Inclusive Culture Liaison, ensuring that staff is updated on DEI efforts and resources. She has actively worked with our college's DEI office and disability navigators to raise issues with accessibility issues in our offsite research collections, and as the Museum's liaison to the Friends of the University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology, Jen organizes talks by diverse speakers to broaden perspectives and has secured funds for paid opportunities, aiming to increase diversity among future generations of paleontologists.

The University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology congratulates Dr. Jennifer Bauer on this well-deserved recognition and is proud to have her as a leader in advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in paleontology. Her efforts continue to inspire positive change within the discipline and beyond.



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS AT UMMP

We are thrilled to celebrate Adam Rountrey's remarkable decade of dedication as the Collection Manager for Vertebrates and Plants at the University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology. Adam's expertise as a 3D Specialist has revolutionized our collection, ensuring our specimens are preserved and accessible for generations to come.

Support the UMMP:



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A Mammoth New Book: *Evolution and Fossil Record of African Proboscidea*



The University of Michigan's Museum of Paleontology's (UMMP) Dr. William (Bill) Sanders has written a comprehensive publication, *Evolution and Fossil Record of African Proboscidea*, that covers the entirety of the fossil record of elephants and their ancestors in Africa and Arabia, spanning 60 million years of time. Proboscideans are one of the longest-known placental mammal groups and the most deeply embedded eutherian mammal group in all of Africa. They have been continuously present on the continent for all of the 60 million years. Moreover, nearly all significant evolutionary events in proboscidean evolution occurred in Africa: their origins, origins of deinotheres, the initial appearance of elephantimorphs (mastodons, gomphotheres, stegodonts, and elephants), and the origins of elephants, including the ancestors of mammoths and modern African and Asian elephants.

While other researchers previously attempted to survey the entire proboscidean fossil record, the record wasn't as complete when they attempted to do so, or accounts were made in partial attempts, such as in different volumes. This publication provides a comprehensive view of proboscidean evolution and their fossil record, answering questions about ancestry and descent, migration, temporal extent of taxa, their habitats, and why some were successful while others failed over time.

The database used in the publication represents about 40 years of Bill Sanders' research. The book took eight years to write and is the most comprehensive volume of its kind. Bill's interest in elephants stems from the fact that they are threatened by human agency, such as poaching, land use, and climate change. He wrote this publication to increase understanding of how long it took elephants to evolve and the tortuous path that evolution took to get there. He hopes by showing people the magnificence and complexity of the journey, there might be a stronger feeling of value and worth in protecting these animals.

In addition to Dr. Sanders' impressive research and publication, Carol Abraczinskas, UMMP's Scientific Illustrator, contributed significantly to the book's production. Specifically, Carol's vital work focused on many of the book's figures, including the maps and charts that are crucial to understanding the evolutionary history of proboscideans.

The cover of the publication was drawn by Karen Laurence-Rowe, a renowned conservation artist, whose daughter helps to manage an elephant conservation site in Kenya. The cover depicts a real herd of elephants (adult females and their young) in Tsavo, Kenya.

This book is a substantial reference volume, full of data and illustrations. It is the capstone of Bill's career, providing a comprehensive and detailed view of proboscidean evolution and the fossil record. It is also an eye-opening reminder of the importance of protecting elephants and their habitats for the sake of our ecosystem's health and survival.

This publication was released at the end of summer 2023 by CRC Press (Taylor & Francis) and is available for purchase on the Taylor & Francis website.

Support the UMMP:



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Museum of Paleontology Welcomes New Assistant Curator, Lucas Weaver

We are thrilled to welcome Luke Weaver as our new Assistant Curator at the University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology (UMMP).

Hailing from the scenic surroundings of Boulder, Colorado, Luke Weaver embarked on his academic journey at Colorado State University (CSU), where he earned his B.A. in Biological Anthropology with a Minor in Geology in 2015. It was at CSU that Luke's passion for paleontology was ignited, particularly during a transformative field course in the Bighorn Basin, Wyoming. Under the mentorship of renowned paleontologist Tom Bown and CSU professor Kim Nichols, Luke delved into the rock and fossil record, with a keen focus on early mammals.

Luke pursued his Ph.D. at the University of Washington, collaborating with Greg Wilson Mantilla in the Department of Biology and the Burke Museum. His research in the Wilson Lab opened the door to the fascinating world of Mesozoic mammals and the Cretaceous-Paleogene mass extinction. Luke's dissertation shed light on multituberculates, an extinct group of rodent-like mammals, revealing unexpected behavioral and reproductive diversity.

After completing his Ph.D. in the summer of 2021, Luke joined the University of Michigan as an NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellow, working with Catherine Badgley and other experts to explore how mountain building influenced mammalian diversification during the Cretaceous. Last fall, Luke accepted an Assistant Professor position in the Department of Earth Sciences at Kent State University. However, the opportunity to return to U-M was too compelling to pass up. We are delighted that Luke will join UMMP and the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences as an Assistant Curator and Assistant Professor in fall 2024.

Luke's new lab at UMMP will focus on the evolution of mammals during the Mesozoic and early Cenozoic eras. Joining him are Anna Wisniewski (postdoc), Athena Vohs (Master's student), Rory Sweedler (Ph.D. student), Jared Shiffert (Ph.D. student), and numerous undergraduate collaborators engaged in both field and lab research.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Luke and his wife, Chloe, are avid live music enthusiasts, particularly of jam bands like Phish, with frequent visits to venues like the Blind Pig in Ann Arbor. As a native of the Denver area, Luke is a devoted fan of the Colorado Broncos, Nuggets, and Avalanche, though he has also developed a deep affection for Michigan's football, basketball, and hockey teams. When not attending concerts or sports events, Luke enjoys culinary adventures in the kitchen and outdoor activities.

This summer, Luke and Chloe celebrated the arrival of their first child, a baby boy named Nile. With a summer birthday, Nile is set to experience the thrill of birthdays in the field, starting with Wyoming.

Please join us in welcoming Luke Weaver to the UMMP community, where his expertise and enthusiasm will undoubtedly contribute to our continued success and growth.



NAPC - A Resounding Success

The University of Michigan proudly hosted the 12th North American Paleontological Convention this June, welcoming over 800 delegates to Ann Arbor from all continents except Antarctica. An opening plenary, “Paleontology for All”, kicked off four days of talks and posters. These presentations, spread between more than 30 thematic sessions and symposia, covered all aspects of paleontology. A mid-conference break featured hands-on workshops, field trips to local sites, and collections tours at the Research Museums Center. Overnight pre- and post-conference fieldtrips highlighted the fossil record of Michigan and surrounding states. Despite a heatwave with temperatures in the 90s and high humidity, the conference proceeded smoothly, showcasing the resilience and enthusiasm of the participants. The success of this event is a testament to the dedication of the organizing committee, volunteers, and delegates. The next North American Paleontological Convention will take place in 2028 at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

NAPC celebrates the contributions of curator emeritus Dan Fisher

Among the over 30 sessions at the North American Paleontological Convention, “First Principles, Boundless Curiosity - Celebrating the Contributions of Daniel C. Fisher” represented a highlight for the extended Museum of Paleontology community. Organized by Sandra Carlson and Paul Koch, this symposium featured over a dozen presentations given in honor of Dan Fisher on the occasion of his retirement and subsequent appointment as curator emeritus. Speakers included Dan’s colleagues, friends, and mentees. Reflecting the diversity of questions tackled by Dan during his five decades at the Museum of Paleontology, presentations examined topics ranging from horseshoe crabs to morphological polymorphism to chemical approaches to inferring the lifestyles of extinct species. After the session, over 80 Michigan paleontologists past, present, and future gathered for a “family photo”.





Silica Shale trip



RMC tour



Grand Ledge trip



Dinosaur cookies at opening reception



Cleveland Shale trip

A Paleontologist's Journey

In November 2023 UMMP grad student, Lynnea Jackson, was invited onto the Kelly Clarkson Show. The catalyst for this extraordinary opportunity was a viral tweet featuring two poignant photographs. The first depicted Lynnea at the age of seven, captivated by the wonders of paleontology, and the second, at 23, standing amidst the esteemed collections of the Field Museum in Chicago.

The tweet resonated deeply across social media, catching the attention of the show's producers, who were moved by the heartfelt narrative of Lynnea's journey into paleontology. During her appearance, Lynnea recounted a pivotal childhood visit to the Field Museum. It was there, surrounded by a sandbox brimming with fossil casts, that her passion for paleontology ignited—a transformative moment that would shape her future.

Under the guidance of Dr. Peter Makovicky, a former curator at the Field Museum renowned for his contributions to vertebrate paleontology, Lynnea pursued her Master's degree at the University of Minnesota. Reflecting on her journey, she fondly recreated a cherished childhood photo, connecting her past with her present pursuits.

Since sharing her story on the show, Lynnea has been catapulted into a whirlwind of opportunities. She has been featured in Signal Kids Magazine and authored a children's book. Most significantly, her story has resonated globally, inspiring future researchers and underscoring the importance of representation for Black women in the field of paleontology.

At the University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology, we celebrate Lynnea Jackson's journey as a testament to the enduring allure of discovery and the profound impact of following one's childhood dreams.

Challenging Dinosaur Myths: New Insights from Recent Discoveries

The University of Michigan Museum of Natural History has a new exhibit, "Dinosaur Discoveries: Ancient Fossils, New Ideas." This traveling exhibit, developed by the American Museum of Natural History in New York, challenges common preconceptions about dinosaurs.

A Michigan-exclusive feature of the traveling exhibit is a locally developed display highlighting UMMP's Jeffrey Wilson Mantilla. His featured research focuses on the discovery of a small sauropod, a herbivorous dinosaur. Visitors can explore his findings through an interactive touchscreen display. Wilson Mantilla's team analyzed a fossil found in Jordan, determining whether it was a juvenile or a fully grown sauropod. "We cut the femur bone and made a thin section that allows light to pass through, revealing microscopic details of the bone cells and the growth record of that animal," he explained. "That growth record tells us this is an animal that is done growing, so it's a small adult and evolutionary dwarf animal."

The exhibit also explores dinosaur biomechanics, behavior, and the evolutionary link between birds and dinosaurs, featuring fossils with preserved integumentary structures from China. Additionally, it includes a hands-on discovery cart, allowing visitors to touch real artifacts or replicas and learn from museum docents. Dinosaur Discoveries runs through September 15th, 2024 and is free to the public.



Lynnea Jackson's viral tweet



University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology Graduate Students Awarded Prestigious Research Grants

The University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology (UMMP) proudly announces that three of its graduate students, Kevin Velez-Rosado, Lindsey DeHaan, and Hadeel Saad, have been awarded the Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, marking a significant boost to paleontological research.

Kevin Velez-Rosado has received a grant of \$3,000 to support his research project, "Understanding the current Caribbean biodiversity hotspot from a paleontological perspective." Velez-Rosado's work delves into the evolutionary history and changes in paleobiota within the Caribbean since the end of the Cretaceous period, 66 million years ago. By utilizing fieldwork, collection-based analysis, anatomical comparative techniques, and geological data, his study aims to uncover the abiotic and biotic patterns shaping the current biodiversity hotspot. His research includes a field expedition across fossil-bearing localities in Puerto Rico and collaborations with several prestigious institutions, such as the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, the Florida Museum of Natural History, and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. This project is expected to provide invaluable insights into the evolutionary history of the Caribbean region.



Kevin Velez-Rosado

Lindsey DeHaan has also been awarded a Rackham Research Grant to facilitate research visits to three museums in Japan: the Kitakyushu Museum of Natural History, the Tokyo National Museum, and the Hokkaido University Museum of Zoology. DeHaan's research focuses on large-scale patterns of morphological evolution in spiny-rayed fishes, a group that experienced significant diversification in the early Cenozoic following the end-Cretaceous mass extinction. Her work aims to bridge a geographical gap in the fossil record, which is currently biased towards European and North American deposits. By examining fossils from the Japanese archipelago, DeHaan seeks to integrate additional species into her analyses, providing a more comprehensive understanding of the diversification of spiny-rayed fishes.



Lindsey DeHaan

Hadeel Saad has been granted funds for research at museums in Germany, the Netherlands, and France. Saad's study investigates the origin of the Indo-West Pacific biodiversity hotspot, which today boasts the highest global diversity for many organisms, including corals, fishes, and snails. While some invertebrate fossils suggest this hotspot is geologically young, likely developing in the Miocene, earlier hotspots were located in the now-closed Tethys seaway. Saad's research focuses on assessing this hypothesis for fishes by examining fossil specimens from the Indo-West Pacific and adjacent areas. The Rackham funds have enabled her to study important fish fossils ranging in age from the Eocene to Miocene from regions such as Iran and Indonesia. This research aims to fill in geographic gaps and provide a clearer picture of the biodiversity hotspot's historical migration.



Hadeel Saad

These prestigious grants not only recognize the merit and potential of Velez-Rosado, DeHaan, and Saad's research but also underscore the University of Michigan's commitment to advancing cutting-edge paleontological research. The success of these projects promises to pave the way for further advancements in our understanding of Earth's paleontological history.

Celebrating Fundraising Success

The past year saw remarkable success of our fundraising efforts in support of student engagement in paleontology. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors, we surpassed our expectations and raised over \$7,000 on Giving Tuesday. These funds will directly benefit the George Junne Fieldwork Internship Award Fund, providing invaluable training opportunities to students from diverse backgrounds.

The George Junne Fieldwork Internship Award Fund is dedicated to encouraging students who are not traditionally represented in paleontology, including low-income and first-generation college students, to engage in fieldwork. This initiative aims to increase overall interest and diversity within the field of paleontology, ensuring a more inclusive future for our discipline.

In addition to our Giving Tuesday success, we are proud to announce the establishment of the Stocker-Nesbitt Professional Development in Paleontology Fund. This fund, created through the generosity of University of Michigan alumna Michelle Stocker and Sterling Nesbitt, is dedicated to supporting the Stocker-Nesbitt Professional Development in Paleontology Award. This award provides crucial financial assistance to undergraduate students, enabling them to attend professional conferences in vertebrate paleontology.

The Stocker-Nesbitt Professional Development in Paleontology Fund represents a significant commitment to advancing the field of paleontology and supporting the professional growth of our students. By attending these conferences, students gain valuable insights from leading experts, engage with the broader scientific community, and build essential networks that will shape their future careers.

Our fundraising efforts for the Stocker Fund on Giving Bluesday were also met with enthusiasm and generosity. Donors who contributed to this fund are directly advancing the field of paleontology and playing a key role in nurturing the next generation of paleontologists. Your donations make it possible for undergraduate students to engage with the scientific community at a professional level, fostering their growth and development as future leaders in paleontology.



STOCKER FUND SUCCESS

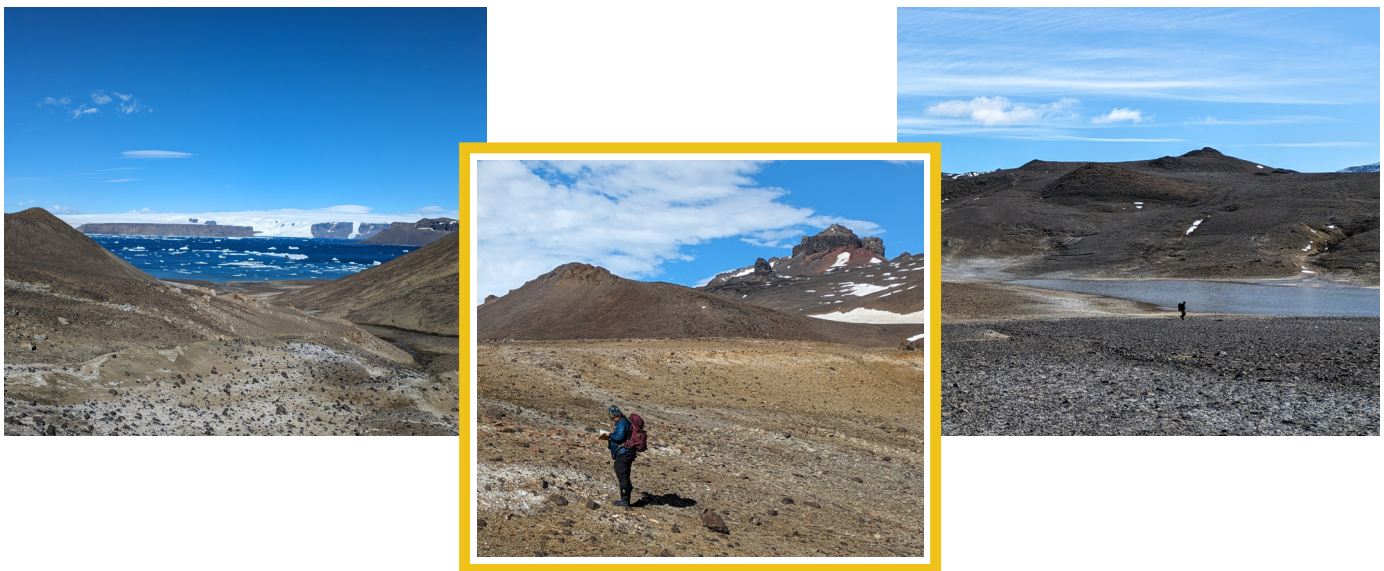
Austin Babut received the inaugural Stocker Fund Award, which enabled him to attend the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) conference in Cincinnati, OH.

Michigan Paleobotanists Join 40-day Expedition in Antarctica.

Between January and March of 2024, Mónica Carvalho and Selena Smith joined a team of 7 paleobotanists and geologists in James Ross Island, off the eastern coast of the Antarctic Peninsula. The team, comprised by scientists from the University of Kansas, University of Michigan, The Colorado State School of Mines, and Museo Paleontológico de Bariloche, aimed to explore the sedimentary sequences of the Late Cretaceous Santa Marta Formation – a sedimentary sequence that preserves an outstanding record of high-latitude shallow marine environments from 70-80 million years ago. During this time, warmer global temperatures and the shallow marine connection between the southern continents kept Antarctica ice-free and enabled rainforests to thrive in these sites. Leaves, stems, seeds and fruits from these coastal forests would make their way into shallow marine environments, where they became delicately preserved in calcareous concretions together with ammonites and other marine invertebrates. The objective of this expedition was to find and collect permineralized plant fossils to unveil the taxonomic affinity of these Late Cretaceous Antarctic rainforests.

The team sailed from Punta Arenas, Chile on January 17th and arrived at James Ross on January 24th . During 40 days, they lived at a campsite of their own making, explored the island, and collected 4.5 tons of fossiliferous concretions containing thousands of permineralized leaves, stems, fruits and seeds that will be deposited in the Biodiversity Institute and Museum of Natural History at the University of Kansas. Researchers at the University of Kansas and University of Michigan will study these collections using anatomical peels and CT scanning to characterize the morphology and anatomy of the fossils and establish their natural affinities.

This expedition was funded by NSF and the US Antarctic Program under project G-074E granted to S. Smith and B. Atkinson, and was provided with logistic support by the British Antarctic Survey.



Updates From the Friends of the Museum of Paleontology

The Friends have been busy in 2024! We continue to host monthly meetings with a hybrid Zoom option for our members that can't attend in person at RMC. This format has worked great to encourage guest speakers from all over the United States and Canada. The Friends also supported the North American Paleontological Convention in June. Our members gave multiple presentations, co-chaired a session highlighting the avocational paleontology community, and helped organize two field trips to the Devonian and Mississippian of Michigan. During the NAPC poster session, a new cyclocystoid was introduced and named after long time Friend, Stan Hyne. This new species will be formally described in a manuscript currently in review. This manuscript will define the morphology of these strange echinoderms and was possible through the donation of ~75 specimens from another Friend, Joe Koniecki, to the UMMP.

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.

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
- Engage in public outreach at the annual ID Day at the Museum
- 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



HAPPENINGS IN THE COLLECTIONS



NEW UMMP HOLOTYPES

Didelphodus caloris, Eocene mammal (**Gingerich**, Folie, and Smith)



TAXA NAMED BY UMMP RESEARCHERS

- *Ampelocissus wena*, Miocene grape (Herrera, **Carvalho**, Stull, Jaramillo, and Manchester)
- *Cissus correae*, Miocene grape (Herrera, **Carvalho**, Stull, Jaramillo, and Manchester)
- *Leea mcmillanae*, Eocene grape (Herrera, **Carvalho**, Stull, Jaramillo, and Manchester)
- *Lithouva susmanii*, Paleocene grape (Herrera, **Carvalho**, Stull, Jaramillo, and Manchester)
- *Macroprosopon hiltoni*, Eocene bonytongue fish (**Capobianco**, Zhou, and **Friedman**)
- *Militocodon lydae*, Paleocene periptychid mammal (**Weaver**, Crowell, Chester, Lyson)
- *Mukawastrobus satoi*, Cretaceous conifer (Rothwell, Stockey, **Smith**)
- *Rhamphoichthys taxdiotis*, Cretaceous long-snouted fish (El Hossny, Cavin, Kaplan, Schwermann, Samankassou, **Friedman**)
- *Tutcetetus rayanensis*, small Eocene whale (Antar, Gohar, El-Desouky, Seiffert, **El-Sayed**,



IMPORTANT ADDITIONS

- Over 200 fish-bearing Carboniferous nodules from the Graford Formation, Texas (1)
- Over 20 rare Eocene fishes from the Laney Member of the Green River Formation, Wyoming (2)
- 140 Carboniferous vertebrate trackway slabs, plus invertebrate and plant material from the Union Chapel Mine, Alabama. (3)



1



2



3

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HAPPENINGS IN THE COLLECTIONS

NSF GRANT TO DIGITIZE SPECIMENS

This collaborative research project uses a holistic approach via multiple analyses, addressing changes in ecology, biogeography, and heterochrony through extreme climate events that occurred hundreds of millions of years ago, to explore aspects of Paleozoic echinoderms' evolutionary history and long-term consequences. The broader impacts include mobilizing UMMP's echinoderm holdings, collating resources related to echinoderm research, producing open access textbook chapters, and hosting a digitization workshop to train the next generation of museum curators, educators, and researchers.



Focus stacked image of UMMP 56720, *Megistocrinus* sp., by Shea Vatalaro for the Devonian Field Guide on the Digital Atlas of Ancient Life.

WINCHELL COLLECTIONS WORK

The U-M Museum of Paleontology houses the collected fossil specimens, original ledgers and catalogs, and associated notes from the Alexander Winchell Collection. Alexander Winchell was a former professor in many departments across U-M from 1853-1891. Serving in these roles and as the director of the Michigan Geological Survey, he collected and described significant paleontological findings from the state. This collection of material contains type-material that is scientifically irreplaceable and must be preserved into the future. The specimens and labels are undergoing conservation to ensure the scientific value of this irreplaceable resource.



UMMP 78588 from the Winchell Collection. Technicians clean, image, and store old labels separately to prevent damage. Old and new labels are kept together for reference.

SPECIAL THANKS

2023-2024 VOLUNTEERS

Sally Labadie, Dave Thompson, Auguste Eberle, Doug Scales, John Klausmeyer

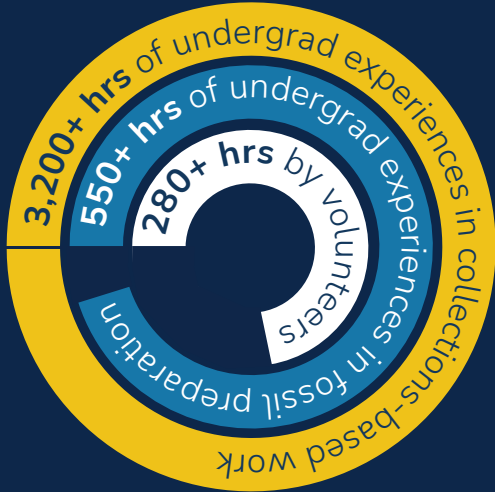
A special thank you to our volunteers for donating over 280 hours of work in our collections unpacking the Michigan State University transfer of specimens for accessioning, evaluating the Don White Collection for pyrite disease and subsequent accessioning, imaging the type collection, organizing invoices, and digitizing the card catalogs



Sally Labadie posing next to museum collections material

HAPPENINGS WITH THE UMMP

UMMP BY THE NUMBERS



259

Loaned Specimens

139

Specimens Donated

4,359

Specimens Cataloged

177

Public Inquires

33,760

UMORF Sessions

113

3D Models Added to
UMORF

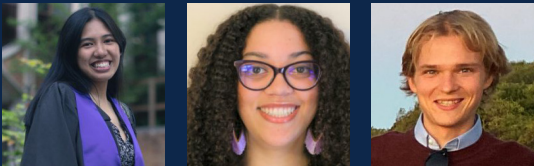
924

Students Given
Collections Tours

COMINGS AND GOINGS



NEW GRAD STUDENTS

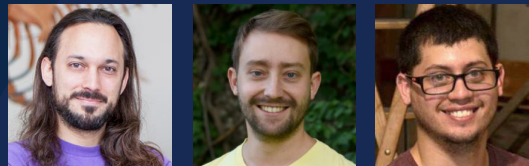


Welcomed in 2023:

Brielle Canares, Lynnea Jackson, Teddy Matel



DEPARTING GRADUATES



Defended in 2024:

Rodrigo Tinoco Figueroa, Zachary Quirk,
Rafael Rivero-Vega, Ethan Shirley, Kevin Velez-Rosado

Giving Opportunities to Support Students at UMMP

Consider giving to the [George Junne Internship Fieldwork Award Fund](#) and help financially support students not traditionally represented in paleontology to participate in opportunities to join UMMP researchers and faculty on field work across the world.

Support the UMMP:



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AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

- **Austin Babut** Stocker-Nesbitt Professional Development in Paleontology Award
- **Jennifer Bauer** NSF award EAR 2312212 “Collaborative Research: Paleozoic echinoderms as model systems for the study of evolutionary modes”
- **Lindsey DeHaan** Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant
- **Sanaa El-Sayed** Gold Star Award, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences
- **Sanaa El-Sayed** Winifred Goldring Award
- **Matt Friedman** NSF award DEB 2341834 “Collaborative Research: The age of cichlids: a fossils-to-genomes approach to dating divergence and tracing ecomorphological change in a key model of vertebrate evolution”
- **Matt Friedman** NSF award IOS 2402410 “Collaborative Research: RUI: Testing the link between skeletal labyrinth morphology and habitat in sharks”
- **Matt Friedman and Selena Smith** NSF award EAR 2331991 “Conference: 12th North American Paleontological Convention, Ann Arbor, MI - June 17 to June 21, 2024”
- **Matt Friedman and Miriam Zelditch** NSF award DEB 2333684 “Collaborative Research: Phenotypic and lineage diversification after key innovation(s): multiple evolutionary pathways to air-breathing in labyrinth fishes and their allies”
- **Anjali Goswami** (BS 1998) elected to the Royal Society (UK)
- **Lynnea Jackson** Golden Nebula Award, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences
- **Zachary Lyons-Weiler** NSF GRFP Honorable Mention
- **Michael Machesky** Outstanding Masters Research Award
- **Theodore Matel** Golden Nebula Award, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences
- **Jeronimo Morales Toledo** Isabel Cookson Award, Botanical Society of America
- **Hadeel Saad** Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant
- **William Sanders** nominee, Daniel Giraud Elliot Medal, National Academy of Sciences (for Evolution and Fossil Record of African Proboscidea)
- **Ethan Shirley** Outstanding Graduate Student Service Award, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences
- **Rodrigo Tinoco Figueroa** Biodiversity Postdoctoral Fellowship, Harvard University
- **Kevin Velez-Rosado** Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant
- **Kevin Velez-Rosado** Ermine Cowles Case Lecture Student Award



Austin Babut



Jeronimo Morales Toledo and Selena Smith

PUBLICATIONS

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