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Fall 2007

American Society of Parasitologists Newsletter, v. 29, no. 3, Fall 2007

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ASP Newsletter

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Fall, 2007

American Society of Parasitologists

Newsletter

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From the *Editor* of the Newsletter

The ASP newsletter accepts information and news of a parasitological nature from all disciplines. Consider publishing your parasite poems, posting a link to your favorite "parasite lecture" providing an actual parasite lecture, or otherwise send "something" in to the editor. Your contribution is valuable and will be considered for publication.

Sincerely,

Scott L. Gardner

Curator, Harold W. Manter Laboratory
of Parasitology
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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THE RETIRED PARASITOLOGIST EDGE

The authors (see Figure 1) have recently retired from careers searching for the ultimate answers in parasitology and are now able to consider even larger questions of life from their rocking chairs. We hope you enjoy this tongue-in-cheek column by two new retirees, Dick Seed and John Oaks." The Editor will make an effort to include "podcast" information supplied by the authors so "the reader" may also



Figure 1

become "the listener." Because these two fellows are "old" we would expect a certain degree and level of crabiness and I am sure that you, the reader, will appreciate the sage advice that these two provide.

The Dear Dick and John Column

D & J column #4

Dick&JohnColumn No.4-2.doc
(includes Dick's corrections)

Revision: Monday, September 10, 2007

Dear Dick and John Column D & J column #4

Dear Dick and John:

In cleaning out my office upon retirement, I realized that I had accumulated literally drawers full of paper clips and binder clips. I believe that I could circle the world many times over with my paper clips alone. I certainly do not want to throw them out. I have offered them to my junior colleagues, but they too discovered that their drawers were full. I have already given boxes of them to my relatives and they were not thrilled with my Christmas and birthday gifts. What do you suggest that I do with them?

*Sincerely,
In-a-bind*

Dear In-a-bind:

Here are a number of ideas that we have used when faced with the same problem. We are sure that you will find a usable alternative among those discussed below.

a.) Need a little extra cash in retirement? Start a business. Possibly you could corner the market, compete with Staples and sell them back to the University at a reduced price. Remind your former department of the positive effect purchasing your clips at a reduce price could have in these times of uncertain budgets. Clearly this would be better than the “EASY” button.

b.) As an alternative to dealing with departmental and collegiate purchasing bureaucracy, we have found that the metal paper clips when strung together make great tinsel for Christmas trees and other holiday decorations. Although seasonal, these are definitely saleable items. If over the years your paper clips have become dull they can be spray painted either gold or silver after they have been strung together. The Christmas lights simply sparkle off them and it gives the tree a whole new dimension.

c.) If you are interested in crafts, make jewelry from the paper clips and/or binder clips. Take some of those clips and interlock them to form a large ring. Guild them with gold spray paint and while the paint is still wet add glitter. Now see if those same ungrateful relatives don't want one of these beautiful gold necklaces now! We have also used them to make earrings for the women in our families. Place a single colored bead from a craft store in the center of a small paper clip and you have a beautiful earring. One of us (the one in the cowboy hat and past life in Texas) has found that these pieces of jewelry are highly saleable in local hand made gift stores and bong shops. There are all sorts of other creative jewelry ideas that you can think up. See photo in Figure 2. A word of caution, because the metal composition of these clips, we accept no liability when these clips are used for jewelry for body piercings.

d.) If you are particularly goal oriented and competitive, try the following: See if you can be named in the *Guinness World Book of Records* (http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/member/how_to_become_a_record_breaker.aspx) for the largest model ever made from paper clips, etc. For example, the categories for largest tapeworm, acanthocephalan and blood-form trypanosome made from paper clips have not yet been recorded. However, if you are considering making a model of the largest pair of incopula schistosomes, we



Figure 2

hear that a group of parasitology graduate students in a large Midwestern university are in the midst of creating a competitive entry large enough that requires space equivalent to a good size milking barn.

If record breaking is not in your future, boaSt models are hot items at auctions or can be placed on your own mantle to be admired by others.

e.) If the intricacies of models require too much time from your retirement schedule, we suggest you just go for numbers. You probably have seen those balls made from left over pieces of string. Some are as high as a man and have also been entered in the Guinness Book of Records. Possibly you could do the same with paper clips and be a new record setter! A constructive use for those paper clips as well as personal fame! But take a small bit of advice. Never build a ball of competitive size on sloping ground. Many a ball, gigantic enough to be competitive, has flattened its creator and prevented these individuals from filing their final application with the *Guinness World Book of Records*.

f.) For those of you interested in art for art's sake, we have used clips to make creative and interesting mobiles (see Fig. 3). These artful kinetic sculptures can be made relevant to your career. For example, all you need is a few dowel sticks, and your mounds of clips. Punch holes in several of your favorite old reprints and string them up in various designs with the extra large paper clips. When finished, you will have some of the most fascinating mobiles in your town. It is also a way for visitors to get a glimpse of some of your most interesting research articles. Why let guest to your home stand idly by enjoying art for art's sake, when they could learning from your break-throughs in parasitology. (If you need help, we have supplied a simple example in the images below to get you started, and if need be, we will supply you with some of reprints of our personal research.)

g.) Finally we have seen creative individuals use paper clips as tools: pipe cleaners, lock picks, to replace tooth picks for holding olives in martinis, etc. Also, when out fishing and you realize that you have just lost your last fishing hook, bend them appropriately and tie one on to the end of your fishing line. It may not actually work but it will allow you to enjoy the rest of the day out on the water relaxing. We do not recommend paper clips use a cotton swab for cleaning ears as we have seen in the medical literature accounts of some severe ear injuries when the paper clip point accidentally performs a tympanectomy. Alternatively, manuscript binder clips can work reasonably well as



Figure 3 - "Interesting" Mobile

temporary wound clips, and you might wish to add these to the emergency kits in your car and house

h.) A final note, because of the versatility of the paper and binding clips, we always keep a hand full in our pockets for emergencies and to provide to the clipless among us. For example, paper clips can be used to help jump start the car when you have misplaced your keys. Prior to becoming a legitimate scientist, one of us (JRS) was an expert in starting motorized land and water vehicles with paper clips and can give lessons. However, JRS wishes to be perfectly clear; he was cleared of all local and federal charges.

We hope these suggestions help you to find a way to overcome that feeling of sadness when you have to dispose of some useful items from your working days. Remember with a little creativity you can find a use for almost anything!

Dick and John, Brothers in Parasitism

Our motto is “you are never too young to consider retirement.” We are only here to help you over those retirement hurdles. Write us if you have problems. The Dick and John Retirement Consults, Inc. are only here to serve you.

The authors of this column might be or might not* be found at the following:

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John Adams Oaks, Professor Emeritus
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*** remember they are retired!**



Figure 4. Noted investigator explains scientific concepts displayed on **parasite data mobile** to eager(?) And interested(?) house guest.



NOTE TO THE MEMBERSHIP FROM THE JOURNAL OF PARASITOLOGY EDITOR JERRY ESCH

10 August 2007

To: Members of the American Society of Parasitologists

From: Jerry Esch, Editor, Journal of Parasitology

Subject: Contract, Allen Press (Alliance Communications Group [ACG])

Before I get to the 'nitty-gritty' part of this message, let me give you a little history. About a year ago, before the ICOPA meeting in Glasgow, I became somewhat concerned about the Journal's so-called Impact Factor (IF). As you may or may not know, this is a gimmicky 'thing' conceived by the ISI publishing group that is used as a way of estimating a journal's impact on the scientific community. In part, the IF is measured by counting the number of times a given journal is cited over a two-year period, divided by the total number of papers published by that journal over the same 2-year period. I have been concerned about IF factors ever since I was told by a number of folks that the IF was sometimes used by granting agencies, promotion committees, etc., in evaluating grant proposals, faculty being considered for promotion, etc. In other words, where is the important science being published? A number of our sister journals make a great deal about the IF, and I must admit to having been caught up in this issue for some time now. This is, in part, why I was stimulated to bring this issue to our Council meeting in Glasgow.

Part of my recommendation to the Council was to review the Society's policy regarding the publication of Research Notes. Why would this be a potential problem? The answer is easy. Research Notes are part of the denominator in the equation used to calculate the IF. I reasoned that Research Notes are not cited as frequently as regular articles. So, by not publishing them, I figured that our IF should automatically rise if we stopped publishing research Notes. Even though some of our sister journals have a higher IF rating, we are, for the third consecutive year, the second most frequently cited parasitology journal in the world, surpassed only by Molecular and Biochemical Parasitology, i.e., 6,017 versus 6,420 (the third place journal is Parasitology at 5,884, followed by IJP at 5,724). It is interesting to note that all 3 of these journals have higher IF's than the



Journal of Parasitology, but they do not publish Research Notes. I asked Tim Yoshino, then President of ASP, to appoint a committee to consider whether we should cease the publication of Research Notes. I also wanted to know what to do about a proposal from the Allen Press (ACG) regarding business and editorial management of the Journal. Tim appointed a committee to consider both of these issues, with Dick Seed as the Chair (see the report of the committee in minutes of the annual Council meeting in the December issue of the Journal).

Committee members contacted a pool of ASP members to inquire about the publication of Research Notes in the Journal. Although there were several people who voiced opposition to publishing Research Notes, the informal survey indicated a much stronger sentiment for continuing with their publication. Accordingly, the committee recommended, almost unanimously, that the Journal keep on publishing Research Notes. Council unanimously approved this recommendation. The Committee's charge for the Editor and Associate Editors was to focus on serving our membership and other readers by reducing the turn-around time for mss., publishing more review papers, improving the quality of the Journal, etc.

At the Merida meeting, the Council unanimously also agreed to enter into a contract with Allen Press (ACG) that will provide a number of new editorial and financial services for the Society. I will not detail here any of the financial part of the agreement, but will leave this in the able hands of our Secretary-Treasurer, John Janovy, Jr. As for the editorial services, it must be made clear that the ASP would still own the Journal, and that all publication decisions and editorial policies will remain with the Editor, as provided by our by-laws. Moreover, the ASP would still own the copyright for anything published in the Journal. Among other things, under the terms of the contract Allen Press will provide: aggressive marketing of the Journal to domestic and international institutions; increased usage of the Journal via liberal licensing, including BioOne; online publishing of the Journal, including a silo (sign-in, log-on) site with searchable full-text and PDF versions of articles, advanced searching, internal and external linking, and electronic publication in advance of print; inexpensive color reproduction of on-line micrographs; a continuation of all services now performed, i.e., AllenTrack, copy editing, full electronic service with respect to submission and final page proofing, publishing management, print production, and distribution; full-text indexing of the Journal website for search-engines, including Google; aid in up-grading and maintaining the website; a direct \$25,000 grant to the editorial office to be used to enhance the operational capabilities of the Editor (plus an automatic 3% increase annually---note that this is NOT a salary line, as the Editor will continue to provide service without charge in the same way as the Associate Editors); and an increase in the total page number of the Journal, to a maximum of 1,600 annually. In summary, these tools will mean



that the ASP and Journal will have all the assets and advantages currently possessed by any journal published by any of the large commercial houses.

As you can see there are several new opportunities that will derive to the Society, the Editor, and the Secretary-Treasurer. For one, the Journal will be actively marketed for the first time, ever. Another good thing is that once a paper is accepted for publication and sent to Allen Press, the paper will be considered as having been published (and be available to the membership on-line), just as though it was printed in hard copy, which will follow several months later; this should cut the turn-around time for authors by at least 6 months. Next, you will be able to publish a color figure on-line for approximately \$75; if you want color figures in hard copy, the heftier charge will be reduced by about one-third. Another advantage that will accrue is that an advanced copy of the Table of Contents will be available on-line as soon as it is set by the Editorial Office; moreover, we will make this copy available on-line so that you can see what is to be published in the Journal well in advance of it appearing in hard copy. There will also be an increase in the total number of pages per volume to 1,600; this will mean that there will not be any manuscript 'log jams' in publishing the Journal in the future. The new \$25,000 fund will give the Editor some discretion in dealing with authors, travel to workshops offered by Allen Press, BioOne, etc. (it should be emphasized again that the Editor would not use these funds as salary). Finally, a process will be set up whereby we will fast-track papers recommended by the Associate Editors for quick turn-around.

Our Secretary-Treasurer is presently negotiating the contract with Allen Press. It will be a 5-year deal, which can be broken at any time by the ASP, if we choose to do so. We are guaranteed that the ASP will lose no money during this period, but incrementally gain revenue annually over the course of the contract.

Dick Seed and his committee were convinced that this is a 'win-win' situation for all involved. As an ad hoc member of the committee, I too was convinced that the deal was totally advantageous. The Council approved the proposal unanimously in Merida.

PARASITIC DISEASE OF THE QUARTER



For those of you who have not visited the CDC web site lately, here is a part of what you will find in the malaria section. This site is extremely well done

Malaria: Topic Home - FROM THE CDC WEB SITE:

Malaria is a mosquito-borne disease caused by a parasite. People with malaria often experience fever, chills, and flu-like illness. Left untreated, they may develop severe complications and die. Each year 350-500 million cases of malaria occur worldwide, and over one million people die, most of them young children in sub-Saharan Africa.

This sometimes fatal disease can be prevented and cured. Bed nets, insecticides, and antimalarial drugs are effective tools to fight malaria in areas where it is transmitted. Travelers to a malaria-risk area should avoid mosquito bites and take a preventive antimalarial drug.

Featured Item: Sweet wormwood plant

Artesunate now available to treat severe malaria in US

To date, only one non-oral drug was available to treat severe malaria cases in the United States. However, the drug can harm the heart and is often not available. A new IND now makes intravenous artesunate available to hospitals treating patients with severe malaria..

Cash Donations Increase to the Manter Laboratory of Parasitology Endowment Fund.

To make the science of parasitology continually available to researchers both nationally and internationally, the Manter Laboratory needs cash donations in order to continue to operate at a high level. A highlight of our fund raising efforts to attempt to raise enough capital to eventually hire another curator in the Manter Laboratory was a recent donation of more than \$30,000 to the Manter Laboratory from the final estate of Dr. Joseph E. Alicata. I include here the text of his autobiography that he wrote in 1982. The Manter Laboratory web site includes his full curriculum vitae (see:<http://yamaguti.unl.edu/alicata>).

Honolulu, Hawaii
July, 1982

MY BOYHOOD AND MY "NEBRASKAN ROOTS"



Joseph E. Alicata

The discussion that follows is a reply to a request from Professor Mary H. Pritchard, Division of Parasitology, University of Nebraska, concerning my "Nebraskan Roots" and how I became interested in Parasitology.

In December 1919, a few years after the end of World War I, at the age of 15, I immigrated from Italy to live with my father who resided in Omaha, Nebraska. I was the youngest in my family, and was 2 years of age when my father left Italy to come to America; there he found work as a carpenter and musician for the Union Pacific Railroad.

My boyhood in Italy took place during periods of wars and political unrest. In Italy I completed Elementary School education, and for lack of funds I had no opportunity for a higher education. The only possible course for me to follow was a trade such as barbering, shoemaking, or carpentry. As a boy I did spend some time in these trades, but my best privilege was serving as an errand-boy for the village Monsignor of the local Catholic church (Carlentini, Province of Siracusa). Through him I had an opportunity to secure some food to eat, and to "rub elbows" with some of the better educated families.

I arrived in New York City during Christmas holidays of 1919, and a few days later traveled to Omaha, eager to accept and become adjusted to new culture and environment. In fact, shortly after my arrival I went to the Court House and applied for my first citizenship paper.

As it would have been expected, my first year (1920) in Omaha was very discouraging. Not only had I difficulty in securing assistance in learning English, but also found that my education had to wait, as my father decided that I should find a job and help with the family income. I soon found work in a shoe-shop owned by a well-meaning Italian gentleman. As time went on he realized that although I was considered a good worker, my future was not to remain a shoemaker. In time he decided to pay me a fairly good weekly wage, with an arrangement that one-half of my salary was to be given to my father and the other half placed in savings at a bank for future educational use. This arrangement was made possible largely because of my acquired ability to resole and place new heels on a pair of used army shoes within a few minutes. These shoes were purchased in large quantities from an Army Surplus Store, and after being repaired by me, they were sold to farmers for a considerable profit.

My life as a shoe repairer was fortunately interrupted about a year later (1921) when I met a young Italian medical student (Carmelo DiStefano) from the University of Nebraska; he was working on part time basis for "Fellowship House" (a local Baptist Mission) teaching English to local Italians. This proved to be my turning point toward securing an education by means of



learning English and by receiving some financial assistance through odd jobs such as mowing grass and doing janitorial work at a local Baptist church.

A year later (1922) I entered one of the local High Schools (South High) with the understanding that I could be able to keep up educationally with the other students. This I did, and by additionally attending summer school sessions, I graduated in 2 1/2 years (1924). In the same year, upon receiving assurance of a part-time dish-washing job at Grand Island Baptist College (Grand Island, Nebraska) I registered as a pre-medical student, with a desire eventually to enter the University of Nebraska Medical School in Omaha.

In Grand Island I was fortunate to have had the scholarly Professor Frank Meserve as my teacher in Biology and Parasitology. Drs. Robert Coatney and Lawrence Ritchie, renowned Parasitologists, also received similar training from Professor Meserve. It must also be stated that Professor Meserve had been a student of Dr. Franklin Barker, a famous zoologist and parasitologist at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

During my college days in 1925, I experienced one of the most important moments of my life in America when I received my final American citizenship paper. In college I had taken courses in American History so that I would be able to answer most questions usually asked for final papers at the Douglas County Court in Omaha. On the examination day the only question that the Judge asked me was: "What are you doing now?" "Attending College" was my reply. The Judge looked at me with a smile and said: "I have no other question to ask." Naturally I was somewhat disappointed at a such brief examination. I left the Court that day as one of the proudest citizens of the U.S.A. -- that warm feeling of being accepted in this "land of opportunity" has never left me!

As a result of my noninterrupted school attendance, which included summer sessions, I was able to complete my college courses in 3 years (1924-1927). The summer of 1926 proved almost tragic for me, because for lack of funds, I foolishly subsisted mostly on canned pork and beans!

Following graduation from college, because of inadequate finances I was uncertain of my ability to attend the medical school that I had hoped for. It was at this time (1927) that luck intervened for me! Dr. William Locy, a prominent zoologist at Northwestern University, had recently died, and Dr. Franklin Barker was appointed in his place. At this time Dr. Barker also appointed his former student Prof. Meserve to join in his Department. In turn, Professor Meserve (my teacher) realizing the uncertainty of my future education, made it possible for me to receive a laboratory assistantship in Zoology at Northwestern University, and in the meantime to take on graduate work toward a Master's degree. This I did, and for a research project Dr. Barker suggested to me a study concerning the fauna of intestinal



parasitism resulting from institutional living at the Chicago State Hospital for mental patients. This was my first research project in parasitology.

Early in 1928, a few months before my graduation, Dr. Maurice Hall, Chief of the Zoological Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C., came to Northwestern University to visit his friend Dr. Franklin Barker. It was at that time that Dr. Barker recommended me for a Federal position in Parasitology in Washington. Soon, having passed the required Civil Service examination, on November 1928 I was appointed Junior Zoologist. My assignment was to work largely on the Swine Parasite Research Project, headed by Dr. Benjamin Schwartz, and I remained in Washington up to 1935. During my stay there I undertook evening graduate studies at George Washington University and received the Ph.D. degree in 1934. In addition, while in Washington I learned many aspects of parasitology in association with outstanding research parasitologists such as Drs. Maurice Hall, Benjamin Schwartz, Eloise Cram, Willard Wright, and Benjamin Chitwood, all of whom served as my mentors and friends.

When in the fall of 1935 the University of Hawaii, Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii, was in need of a parasitologist on a temporary basis to assist in the control of liver flukes in dairy cattle, Dr. Hall recommended me to head the project. This position opened for me the opportunity to work on other important parasites of man and animals. This led to my permanent appointment as Parasitologist at the University of Hawaii and the opportunity also to pioneer and further research in parasitology and microbiology in this area.

Most of my research activities in Hawaii centered on the epidemiology and control of parasites of livestock, and on diseases transmitted from animals to man such as trichinosis, heterophyiasis, fascioliasis, murine typhus, and eosinophilic meningitis. All these were problems of importance in this area. In connection with these zoonotic diseases I became associated with the Hawaii Board of Health, the Public Health Committee of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association and the International Division of the U.S. Public Health Service. Through these and other health related agencies a great deal of my research was carried out not only in Hawaii but also in parts of Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Central and South America, South Asia, and many islands of the Pacific. Finally I retired in 1970 after 35 years of service at the University of Hawaii.

For all this I am pleased to have followed the field of Parasitology and for the opportunity it has given me, with the help of friends, to do some fruitful work, to learn, and to serve.

Thus it epitomizes my early life as a youth in search for something "better under the sun" --- even if I had to start from "scratch." To some extent it demonstrates the value and reward to those in search of knowledge.



It is well said in the words of the prophets of old "...seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you" (Luke 11: 9).

....and finally a salute to Nebraska: the "promised land" of my boyhood's struggles and dreams, a grateful heart from an adopted son, and thanks for having "rescued" me in my time of need!

In Memoriam -

Dr. Newton Kingston died Wednesday, January 17th 2007 in Cheyenne, Wyoming. He was born June 6, 1925 in Akron, Ohio. Newton received his B.A. from Wayne State University in Detroit, MI in 1954 and his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto in 1962. He taught at Geneva Falls College in Beaver Falls, PA before moving to a faculty position in the Department of Microbiology in the College of Agriculture at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, WY in 1968. He retired as professor emeritus in parasitology in 1990. (By Scott Seville)



Stoll-Stunkard Memorial Lecture

Call for Nominations for the 2008 Stoll-Stunkard Memorial Lectureship

Nominations are requested for the 2008 Stoll-Stunkard Memorial Lectureship. The Stoll-Stunkard award recipient is not necessarily a Parasitologist, but has gained prominence in basic research that has enhanced investigation of parasites, hence fostering cross-fertilization of ideas and approaches. The award consists of travel and accommodation expenses, a \$2,000 honorarium, and a plaque presented during the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Parasitologists. The Stoll-Stunkard Memorial Lecturer will be required to give a one hour presentation.

Eligibility:

Nominees should have significant international recognition for substantial contributions to basic scientific research that has impacted the field of Parasitology. Eligibility is not limited to ASP members.

NOMINATIONS WILL CLOSE ON FEBRUARY 1, 2008.

Please contact: Dr. Daniel K. Howe, M.H. Gluck Equine Research Center, Department of Veterinary Science, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, Phone (859) 257-4757 ext. 81113, dkhowe2@uky.edu

NSC ALLIANCE WASHINGTON REPORT October 3, 2007

National Science Collections Alliance Washington Report

INCREASING RATE OF EXTINCTION

Life on earth is disappearing at an alarming rate and will continue to do so unless urgent action is taken, according to The World Conservation Union's (IUCN's) 2007 Red List of Threatened Species, released 12 September 2007.

Of the 41,415 species on the Red List, 16,306 are threatened with extinction, up from 16,118 in 2006. The total number of extinct species has reached 785 and a further 65 are found only in captivity or in cultivation. One in four mammals, one in eight birds, one third of all amphibians, and 70 percent of the world's assessed plants on the 2007 IUCN Red List are in jeopardy. Of the



countries assessed, Australia, Brazil, China, and Mexico hold particularly large numbers of threatened species.

The report was released just days after the House Natural Resources subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans met to discuss funding of the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act of 2007 (H.R. 1464) and the Great Cats Conservation Act of 2007 (H.R. 1771). The bills, introduced by Rep Udall (D-NM) and Brown (R-SC), would authorize appropriation of \$5,000,000 for each fiscal year 2008 through 2012 into a separate account under the Multinational Species Conservation Fund.

H.R. 1464 is scheduled for markup 4 October and would also direct the Interior Department to fund international conservation projects for cats and canids listed under the IUCN Red List, the Endangered Species Act, or the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

Dr. Eric Dinerstein of the World Wildlife Federation testified before the committee in September and noted that "the United States, primarily through programs administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service, has played a critical role in the protection and conservation of these highly endangered species, and the legislation being considered here today furthers the U.S. leadership on these issues."

GOVERNMENT LOOKS INTO HEALTH OF FEDERAL COLLECTIONS

In the October 2007 Washington Watch article in BioScience, Holly Menninger reports on recent federal actions to review the status and health of federally-owned scientific collections.

An excerpt from this article follows:

Researchers at university-based natural science collections have long known that their institutions face daunting budgetary and infrastructure challenges. It is becoming equally apparent that federal collections face comparable challenges.

Recent circumstances at the Smithsonian Institution (SI), the flagship for federal research collections, illustrate some of those challenges. For example, the US Government Accountability Office has reported that a number of buildings within the SI museum complex have deteriorated to the point that some buildings have been closed to the public. And just a few miles from Washington, DC, the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) houses



much of one of the largest entomology collections in the world in the basement of a building constructed in the 1930s. Although BARC is charged with protecting the nation's agricultural enterprise from invasive species, among other endeavors, the facilities for BARC collections lack appropriate ventilation and humidity- and temperature-control systems.

To continue reading this article online, please go to
http://www.aibs.org/washington-watch/washington_watch_2007_10.html .

SHINE A LIGHT ON YOUR INSTITUTION

The NSC Alliance is in the process of updating and modernizing the web site. As this process moves forward, we would like to gather new material from NSC Alliance member institutions for possible inclusion in the Member Highlight section of the NSC Alliance web site. So, if your institution has exciting news showcasing your research accomplishments, recently awarded grants, education and outreach programs, new facilities, or other exciting new developments, please send us a short note. Items may be sent to David Drupa or Robert Gropp at ddrupa@burkinc.com or rgropp@aibs.org.

NSCA-SPNHC JOINT ANNUAL MEETING

Join us in Oklahoma City (OKC), Oklahoma on 13-17 May 2008 for the 3rd Joint Meeting of the Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSC Alliance) and the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC). Together, this is the largest meeting in the country dedicated to natural science/natural history collections preservation, management, and administration. You will not want to miss this important event hosted by the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, to be held in the Bricktown district of Oklahoma's capital city.

The 2008 joint meeting between the NSC Alliance and SPNHC is a reflection of the common goals of these two professional societies. The theme of the meeting is: Collection Stewardship: Challenges in a Changing World, with a focus on subjects and topics relevant to the challenges faced by natural history collections, museums, and the museum community in fulfilling their mission.

Make plans to meet in OKC with colleagues and students from across the nation and beyond. The NSC Alliance and SPNHC communities represent professionals from museums, academic and research institutions, nonprofit



organizations, federal agencies, scientific societies, corporations, vendors, suppliers, and consultants from across the United States, as well as many other countries and continents including Canada, Mexico, Asia, Australia, and Europe. So come to OKC and make new friends, renew professional connections, and be part of these societies' work to promote scientific collections in the 21st century.

The Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History welcomes all participants to the great state of Oklahoma, the most biologically diverse land-locked state in the country. Visit the SNOMNH's state-of-the-art facility and its collections in nearby Norman, OK, and let us introduce you to the monuments, museums, parks and other attractions in the Oklahoma City area.

Bricktown is the revitalized entertainment center of Oklahoma City. This historic commercial district has been completely renovated with 42 restaurants, shopping, and various attractions. Bricktown is a reasonable walk or a short trolley ride from the Myriad Botanical Gardens, the Oklahoma City Museum of Art and the Oklahoma National Memorial & Museum.

The NSCA-SPNHC 2008 Meeting schedule, preliminary list of speakers, call for presentations, workshops, pre-conference tours, registration, and other information will be posted on the conference website <http://www.snomnh.ou.edu/nsca-spnhc> as it becomes available.

ASP ANNUAL MEETING 2008 - Arlington, Texas

The the CALL FOR PAPERS for the 83rd Annual Meeting of the American Society of Parasitologists is on the ASP web site now. Go to the meetings section of our site and follow the directions.

Dates are: June 27 - 30, 2008.

Place: Hilton Arlington, Arlington, Texas.



Position Announcements

Division of Natural Sciences and Engineering

Biology Position beginning 8/16/08

Requisition #043870

Tenure-track, nine-month, Assistant Professor position in Biology to teach on the Spartanburg and/or Greenville campuses with teaching, research and service expectations. Broadly trained, must be able to teach introductory biology, comparative vertebrate anatomy, and human physiology. Area of expertise is open. The candidate must demonstrate the potential to develop a modest research program involving undergraduates.

Required: Ph.D. in Biology or related field by the time of appointment.

Review of applications begins immediately and continues until the position is filled. Official transcripts will be required before hire date as well as a background check. Send inquiries to dkferris@uscupstate.edu.

http://www.uscupstate.edu/about_upstate/employment/jobs/default.aspx?id=8142

FACULTY POSITION EVOLUTIONARY ECOLOGY

The Department of Biological Sciences at Vanderbilt University seeks candidates to fill an assistant professor, tenure-track faculty position in Evolutionary Ecology. We are especially interested in candidates with research programs that complement existing strengths in the department (<http://sitemason.vanderbilt.edu/biosci>). Postdoctoral or faculty experience is preferred. Central criteria for this position are excellence in research and the ability to teach undergraduate and graduate students with a high level of effectiveness. Applicants should send a letter of application together with a curriculum vitae, a statement of current and future research interests, selected reprints, and contact information for at least three references to: Evolutionary Ecology Search Committee, Department of Biological Sciences, Vanderbilt University, VU Station B 351634, Nashville, TN 37235-1634 U.S.A.

Review of applicants will begin October 1, 2007, and will continue until the position has been filled. Vanderbilt University is an Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer. Women and minority candidates are encouraged to apply.



ICoMM postdoctoral position

The Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole is seeking applications for a taxonomist with interests in mobilised biodiversity information on the internet. The person will join a dynamic and moderate sized group of biodiversity informaticians, and will be associated with a Census of Marine Life Project, the International Census of Marine Microbes, and with the Encyclopedia of Life project.

The position information is available at

http://www.mbl.edu/hr/job_search.php?func=detail&par=job_id=612

and any queries can be sent to me.

David Patterson

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Phone: 1 508-289-7260

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<http://www.eol.org>

<http://eolinformatics.mbl.edu>

<http://microscope.mbl.edu>

http://www.mbl.edu/research/resident/lab_baypaul.html



Position Open: AIBS Public Policy Associate
Location: Washington, DC
Reporting to: Director of Public Policy
Open/Close Date: October 2007 – Until filled

General:

The American Institute of Biological Sciences, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit scientific association with a membership of nearly 5,000 biologists and 200 professional societies and scientific organizations, seeks a Public Policy Associate to join its full-time Public Policy Office staff. The Associate will work to advance the AIBS mission in support of biological research and education, with a special focus on environmental biology and research infrastructure policy.

Duties Include:

- Analyze federal science policy proposals and effectively communicate the findings,
- Serve as a communications bridge between the scientific and public policy communities through written and oral presentations, and
- Track federal initiatives related to biological and environmental research, including initiatives related to the National Science Foundation's Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction account.

Minimum Requirements:

1. Excellent written and oral communication skills;
2. Excellent science policy analysis skills;
3. Understanding and appreciation of the scientific community, the nature of science, and the goals and objectives of a professional, membership organization;
4. Reliability and detail oriented;
5. Ability to work under strict time constraints and deadlines;
6. Ability to self-direct, think creatively, and anticipate work needs;
7. Ability to synthesize and accurately communicate complex concepts to varied audiences;
8. Bachelor's degree in a biological science (an advanced degree in a biological science, environmental science, or science policy is preferred); and
9. Prior work experience in public policy/affairs (highly desirable).

To Apply:

Send a cover letter, two-page résumé, writing sample (no more than 750 words, not peer-reviewed), salary history and requirements, and the names of three professional references to PARapplication@aibs.org or FAX to 202-628-1509.

Application Deadline:

Application review begins immediately and will continue until the position is filled.

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Annual Midwestern Conference of
Parasitologists
Helminthological Society of Washington
New England Association of Parasitologists
Northern California society of Parasitologists
Parasitology Section, Canadian Society of
Zoologists
Rocky Mountain Conference of Parasitologists
Southeastern Society of Parasitologists
Southern California Society of Parasitologists
Southwestern Association of Parasitologists

Note to Members

The ASP Newsletter welcomes news stories and articles. Please send your text electronically to Scott Gardner as an e-mail and attach as an MS Word document. Drawings, photographs, charts, or tables can be sent as B/W TIF files at 300 dpi. Please send TIF files one at a time. A general rule is to limit photograph size to 3x5". You may attach both text and graphic files to your email message.

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