

# Rolling Rocks

## Today's Colloquium

Today's colloquium will be held at 3:30 pm in Braunstein 201. The colloquium will be given by Dr. Scott McCoy. University Nevada, Reno. His talk is titled: "Shifting rivers and moving divides: A dynamic view of landscape evolution". This will be followed by refreshments in the Rug Room.

## More on the GSA Annual Meeting

The Department of Geology was well represented at the recent national meeting of Geological Society of America, last week in Denver, Colorado. Some 35 talks and posters were co-authored by 12 UC faculty/researchers and as many graduate students. The Department was well represented at the *Paleontological Society's* annual meeting. In particular, UC alumnus and President of the PS, Dr. Steven M Holland chaired the meeting and then passed the baton of presidency to McMicken's Senior Associate Dean and Geology Professor Arnie Miller. Dr. Brenda Hunda (Cincinnati Museum Center and UC departmental associate) was newly elected as co-editor of *Journal of Paleontology*. Professor Carl Brett presented the Harrell Strimple Award to Mr. Samuel Ciurca, an avocational paleontologist and stratigrapher from western New York who has worked extensively with Carl and former PhD student Dr. Matt Vrazo. Professor Brett was also elected Vice Chair of the *North American Commission on Stratigraphic Nomenclature*.

Below are more titles of presentations to add to the last week's list.

**Czaja, A.D.,** Riedman, L.A. (2016) Mineralogical control on apparent thermal alteration of ancient organic matter as measured by Raman spectroscopy. Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs, 48, 7, doi: 10.1130/abs/2016AM-287445

**Miller, J.H.** and Wald, E. (2016) Antlers of the National Wildlife Refuge: Baselines of biological variability from bones on the tundra (invited presentation). Geological Society of America *Abstracts with Programs*, 48, 7, doi: 10.1130/abs/2016AM-286062

**Miller, J.H.** and Behrensmeyer, A.K. (2016) Taphonomic signatures of mass mortality in a Kenyan large mammal death assemblage. Geological Society of America *Abstracts with Programs*, 48, 7, doi: 10.1130/abs/2016AM-283511.

**Cesta, J.M. and Ward, D.J.** Numerical Modeling Of Late Pleistocene Glaciations Of The Chajnantor Plateau (23°S), Northern Chilean Andes

**Ward, D.J.** Cliff Retreat Dynamics Modulate Signals Of Base-Level Change In Layered Rocks, Colorado Plateau, USA (Invited Presentation)

**Thornton, R.M. and Ward, D.** New Cosmogenic Constraints on Glaciation of the Central Arid Andes (22-25°S): Implications For Moisture Delivery During The LGM-Holocene Transition

**Sheehan, C.E. and Ward, D.** Late Pleistocene Erosion and Retreat of a Colorado Plateau Cuesta: Insights Using <sup>36</sup>Cl

**Paton, T., Brett, Carlton E. and Ward, D.J.** Paleocology And Stratigraphy Of An Upper Ordovician (Katian) Hardground

**Dylan co-chaired a session on:** The Holistic Approach to Landscape Evolution: Incorporating Chronometric Data Into the Geologic History of a Region for: the GSA Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division; Boulder Creek Critical Zone Observatory; GSA Sedimentary Geology Division; SEPM (Society For Sedimentary Geology). Advocates: Dylan Ward, C.E. Lukens and M.A. Foster

## **New Papers**

**Jason recently published a paper based on his MS work in Chile:**

Cesta, J. M., & Ward, D. J. (2016). Timing and nature of alluvial fan development along the Chajnantor Plateau, northern Chile. *Geomorphology*, 273, 412-427.

Brooke just edited an issue of American Journal of Primatology:



## **Ibrahim gets award and gets married**

**Our former graduate students, Ibrahim Ugurlu, received the Best Poster Award from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists at Las Vegas based on the work he did for his Masters with us.**

**And Ibrahim got married to Rachel while in Vegas. Double congratulations to Ibrahim.**



## **Blue Ridge Trip**



**Last weekend, Dylan and Craig led the first annual joint Geomorphology-Mineralogy field trip up the Ohio-Kanawha-New River drainage to the Blue Ridge. The trip culminated with a beautiful hike to the top of Buffalo Mountain, VA, where we could see 3 physiographic provinces and some incredible metavolcanic rocks.**

## **Professor Shuhai Xiao in Town**



Phi Beta Kappa is the oldest undergraduate honors organization in the United States. The Society has promoted its mission of fostering and recognizing excellence in the liberal arts and sciences since 1776.

**Dr. Shuhai Xiao**  
Professor of Geobiology, Department of Geosciences, Virginia Tech

**Oxygen and Early Animals**

Thursday, October 13, 7 p.m.  
Conaton Board Room, Schmidt Hall

Low-oxygen areas in the oceans are sometimes known as dead zones where oxygen-breathing animals are stressed. As global warming continues, dead zones can become a more prominent ecological problem. However, animals first evolved in the Cryogenian (720–635 Ma) or Ediacaran (635–541 Ma) periods when atmospheric oxygen level was presumably much lower than modern  $pO_2$  level. How do geologists learn about oxygen levels in ancient geological past? How did early animals deal with hypoxia? Were their physiology and ecology limited by lower oxygen levels? When did  $pO_2$  levels rise to near modern levels? Did this oxygen rise make a visible impact on the biosphere? In this talk, I will present geochemical and geological data that bear on oceanic redox conditions in the Cryogenian and Ediacaran periods, paleontological data that tell us about the ecology in a low-oxygen world, as well as reflections on the environmental implications of these ancient geological records.

Annual PBK Lecture: free and open to the public; refreshments provided

Presented by Xavier University's Pi of Ohio chapter, Phi Beta Kappa

*Rolling Rocks, October 7, 2016*

**Congratulations to Tim**

Congratulations to graduate student Tim Paton, who has just received a *National Geographic Society* graduate student grant for \$5000 for his research on "Taphonomy and Paleocology of Extraordinary Fossil Assemblages from Upper Ordovician Hardgrounds in Ontario, Canada". Tim and Carl Brett will be documenting and salvaging as much data and specimen material as possible, this month, as the location is in jeopardy of being destroyed by quarrying operations.

Please don't forget to send me your news.

**Cheers,**

**Lewis**