IOP NEWSLETTER 83

September 2007
CONTENTS

PLANNING FOR THE 2008 BONN IOPC MOVES INTO FULL SWING
STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS FOR IOPC-VIII
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OF NEW IOP OFFICERS
ANDY KNOLL AWARDED WOLLASTON MEDAL
ANDREW SCOTT TO RECEIVE CADY AWARD
BSA MERIT AWARDS TO BILL CREPET AND EDIE TAYLOR
YOUNG BOTANIST OF THE YEAR AWARDS
JOB NOTICES

PLEASE CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP STATUS

ADD YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION TO THE IOP WEB SITE

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

NEW COUNCIL FOR PALAEOBOTANICAL SOCIETY, INDIA

DEATH NOTICE

A TRIBUTE TO DIANA MUSSA

The views expressed in the newsletter are those of its correspondents, and do not necessarily reflect the policy of IOP.

President: Margaret Collinson (UK)

<u>Vice Presidents</u>: Mikhail Akhmetiev (Russia), Zlatko

Kvaček (Czech Republic), Volker Mosbrugger (Germany)

<u>Members at Large</u>: Andrew Drinnan (Australia), Steve

Manchester (USA), Harufumi Nishida (Japan)

<u>Secretary/Treasurer</u>: Gar Rothwell (USA)

<u>Conference/Congress Member</u>: Hans Kerp (Germany)

PLANNING FOR THE 2008 BONN IOPC MOVES INTO FULL SWING

The 8th International Organization of Palaeobotany Conference will be held in Bonn from Saturday 30th August to Friday 5th September 2008 in Bonn, in close conjunction with the 12th International Palynological Congress. The Conference opens Saturday 30th August with an opening ceremony, two key-note presentations, and the icebreaker party. During the mid-conference break on Tuesday, 2nd September several one-day excursions will be offered, including the Neogene browncoal deposits of the Lower Rhine Embayment, Tertiary and Quaternary volcanism and fossil deposits in the Eifel Mountains, the famous Messel quarry, the Carboniferous of the Ruhr District, and the Devonian of the Rhenish Slate Mountains. Alternatively, there will be an excursion to Cologne, including visits to the famous cathedral and the Roman-German museum, a unique exhibit on the daily life in the northern part of the Roman Empire. The conference dinner is scheduled for Wednesday evening.

Several post-congress excursions will be offered including the Palaeozoic (Nordrhein-Westfalen, Rheinland-Pfalz), Permian & Triassic (northern Bavaria, Thuringen, Sachsen), Cretaceous, Paleogene & Neogene (Niedersachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt, Sachsen) and Quaternary (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern).

General Program - The opening ceremony will be held on the afternoon of Saturday August 30, and will be followed by two keynote presentations and the icebreaker party. For the mid-conference break on Tuesday, September 2nd several allday field trips will be offered, including the Neogene lignite deposits of the Lower Rhine Embayment, Tertiary and Quaternary volcanism and fossil deposits in the Eifel Mountains, the famous Messel quarry, the Carboniferous of the Ruhr District, and the Devonian of the Rhenish Massif Mountains. For those who prefer to see a bit of culture during the mid-conference break, there will be a field trip to Cologne, which will include stops at the famous Cathedral and the Roman-German Museum, a unique museum depicting everyday life in the northern Roman Empire. The conference dinner is scheduled for Wednesday evening and will take place on a Rhine River cruiser in the Rhine Valley. This

part of the valley with its steep vineyards, and many romantic castles and ruins is an UNESCO World Heritage Site. The closing ceremony will be held on the afternoon of Friday September 5th

Major Social Events - Three social events already have been scheduled for IOPC-VIII. These are the:

Opening ceremony followed by a icebreaker party: Saturday afternoon August 30.

<u>Congress dinner and boat tour of the Rhine</u> <u>River</u>: Wednesday evening, September 3.

<u>Closing ceremony</u>: Friday afternoon, September 5.

Symposia - The Organizing Committee has reported that a large number of symposia have been submitted on a variety of interesting topics. Because of the enthusiastic response there is some duplication and overlap in topics. Convenors of symposia with overlapping topics have been to see if they can join forces in organizing a single symposium. To give everyone a chance to convene a symposium, the Organizing Committee has requested that each person fully engage himself/herself in the organization of only one symposium as the first convenor. Proposal revisions have been requested with the deadline for all revised proposals is October 20, 2007. The list of accepted symposia will be posted on the congress webpage in early November (see link the www.paleontology.uni-bonn.de). On-line registration and the submission of abstracts will begin in late November and continue into early spring. If you have questions, please contact Thomas Litt (t.litt@uni-bonn.de), Hans Kerp (kerp@uni-muenster.de), Carole Gee or (cgee@uni-bonn.de).

Contributed Paper Sessions - The Organizing
Committee is arranging for contributed paper
sessions. Information and instructions for
submitting abstracts of contributed papers will
appear on the conference web site in the near
future.

Please consult the IOP Web Site http://www.palaeobotany.org/ or the Institut für Paläontologie Web Page at the Universitatbonn http://www.paleontology.uni-bonn.de/ for additional information as it becomes available. We anticipate that more information about registration, field excursions, symposia, contributed paper submissions, etc. will be posted soon.

STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS FOR IOPC-VIII

The International Organisation of Palaeobotany is planning to offer several travel awards to help student IOP members defray the cost of presenting their research at IOPC-VIII in Bonn, Germany next year. The IOP Executive will be finalizing the requirements and application procedures in the near future. Watch for this information. It will be posted on the IOP Web Site http://www.palaeobotany.org/ and relayed by your regional representative in the near future

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OF NEW IOP OFFICERS

The term of office for current IOP officers expires in 2008. This Call for Nominations of New Officers marks the beginning of a process to put in place officers for the period of 2008 - 2012. The election process will take place over the next few months, culminating with installation of a new Executive at the end of IOPC-VII in Bonn Offices to be filled include President, Vice Presidents (3),Members at large (3) Secretary/Treasurer. Descriptions of the offices, eligibility requirements, and duties of the officers are presented the IOP Statutes in http://www.palaeobotany.org/modules.php?name=i op&sec=about&page=5

Members of the current IOP Executive are listed on the front page of this Newsletter. All positions are scheduled to be filled by new persons in 2008.

Please e-mail the names, affiliations, and e-mail addresses of people you wish to nominate for positions on the new executive to the Secretary/Treasurer <<u>rothwell@ohio.edu</u>> as soon as possible. All nominators and nominees must be current members of

IOP. Please consult the IOP web site http://www.palaeobotany.org/ to confirm membership status.

Upon receipt of nominations the Secretary/Treasurer will confirm that both the nominator and nominee are current members, and then contact the nominee to inquire if he/she is willing to serve. Please contact the Secretary/Treasurer if you have any questions about the election process.

ANDY KNOLL AWARDED WOLLASTON MEDAL

Fisher Professor of Natural History, Harvard University, **Andrew H. Knoll** has been awarded the 2007 Wollaston Medal from the Geological Society of London. The society's highest honor, the Wollaston Medal is awarded "to geologists who have had a significant influence by means of a substantial body of excellent research." Previous Wollaston medalists include Louis Agassiz and Charles Darwin. Congratulations Andy!

ANDREW SCOTT TO RECEIVE CADY AWARD

The July 2007 of GSA Today reports that **Andrew Cunningham Scott** of Royal Holloway College,
University of London will be the 2007 recipient of the
Geological Society of America's Gilbert H. Cady Award.
The Cady Award is presented to individuals who have
made outstanding contributions to the field of coal
geology. As defined by the Division, "coal geology
refers to the field of knowledge concerning the origin,
occurrence, relationships and geologic characteristics of
the many varieties of coal and associate rocks, including
economic implications". Congratulations Andrew!

BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MERIT AWARDS TO BILL CREPET AND EDIE TAYLOR

The Botanical Society of America's MERIT AWARD is the highest honor given by the Botanical Society of America and is given in recognition of outstanding contributions to the science of botany. T paleobotanists were BSA Merit Award winners for 2008. **Bill Crepet**, Cornell University was recognized for his contributions in paleobotany, especially the reproductive structures of seed plants. **Edie Taylor**, University of Kansas was honored for her contributions in paleobotany focusing on the structure and evolution of fossil plants.

YOUNG BOTANIST OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The Botanical Society of America presents Young Botanist of the Year Awards to recognize outstanding graduating seniors in the plant sciences and to encourage their participation in the Botanical Society of America. In 2008 four students working in the area of paleobotany received Young Botanist of the Year awards. These recipients are **Kelli Johnson**, Ohio University, Athens, OH; **Nathan Jud**, Ohio University, Athens, OH; **Meredith Mertz**, Truman State University, Kirksville, MO; and **Richard Tate**, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA. Congratulations to these student outstanding student paleobotanists.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

2007 Geological Society of America Annual Meeting - The Annual Meeting of The Geological Society of America will be held 28-31 October 2007, at Denver, Colorado.

2008 Midcontinent Paleobotanical Colloquium - The 25th Midcontinent Paleobotanical Colloquium will be held March 14-16, 2008 at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, AL. This years organizer is **Brian Axsmith**.

Friday (March 14th). Early arrivals can visit the Axsmith lab and USA Herbarium to see and discuss Mesozoic and Tertiary plant fossils, and extant Gulf Coast flora. Evening activities include a welcome party with light food and drinks hosted by Debra and Cooper Stults at their home on the eastern shore of Mobile Bay.

Saturday (March 15th). Events include the scientific sessions, lunch, and an evening mixer at the historical Creole Mansion on the University of South Alabama campus. The banquet will be followed by a lecture by University of South Alabama paleoecologist Dr. Rich Aronson.

Sunday (March 16th). Optional field trip to a newly recognized Pleistocene plant fossil locality along the

amazing Mobile/ Tensaw Delta led by Brian Axsmith, Debra Stults, and University of South Alabama geologist Doug Haywick. Collect fossil plants and observe the rich extant flora of this region.

Registration fee is \$75.00 professional, \$45.00 students. This includes all meals and transportation to planned activities. The optional field trip Sunday is \$15.00 and includes lunch. The official hotel (Homewood Suites) is \$100.00/night plus tax and includes hot breakfast and transportation to and from the airport and campus. Registration for the MPC meeting will open October 1. More information, including a meeting web site, will be announced soon. If you are not on the MPC mailing list, or you have early questions, please contact Brian Axsmtih at: baxsmith@jaguar1.usouthal.edu.

2008 combined BSA and CBA/ABC Meetings - The 2008 meeting of Botanical Society of America will be held in conjunction with the Canadian Botanical Association/L' Association Botanique d' Canada, The American Fern Society, and The American Society of Plant Taxonomists at The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada, 26-30 July 2008. The Paleobotany Banquet of the Paleobotanical Section, BSA will be held Monday, 28 July. The menu and details will be announced soon, however there will be an auction this year so please start thinking of items to donate. The date and time of the Business meeting has yet to be determined.

A pre-meeting field trip to the Early Eocene McAbee fossil deposit is being planned by R.M. and T.A. Dilihoff, and R.A. Stockey. Details and cost of this two-day excursion will be announced soon. The deadline for the submission of symposia is 15 October 2007.

Mike Dunn, Secretary/Treasurer Paleobotanical Section, BSA

JOB NOTICES

Curator of Paleontology at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science - The Department of Earth Sciences (DES) at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science (DMNS) seeks a curator in the area of paleontology of the Western Interior. The successful candidate will be a paleontologist whose research complements existing strengths at the Denver Museum in mammalian and dinosaur studies, paleoecology, paleobotany, and

evolution. We seek candidates who have or will develop field- and collections-based research programs; an aspect of which will have a Rocky Mountains/Great Plains regional focus. Previous museum experience is preferred but not required; however, the successful candidate must demonstrate an intellectual commitment to museum-based research, the potential to use and add to DES collections, and a clear vision of the role of museums in science education. The candidate must have a Ph.D., a solid record of grants and peer-reviewed publications, and a demonstrated interest in museums.

The successful candidate will have a solid understanding of informal science education and the ability to clearly communicate science-in-the-news to the general public. Enthusiasm for working with Museum volunteers, fellow curators, and interdisciplinary project and exhibit teams is essential.

The position is available 1 January 2008. Review of complete applications and supporting materials will begin on 15 October 2007. Applicants must submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae, a statement of research interests, and a statement of outreach experience. Applications must also include three letters of recommendation (these may be sent separately). Electronic submission of all application materials is encouraged. Applications should be sent to Earth Sciences Search Committee Chair, Department of Earth Sciences, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver, CO 80205; (303) 370-8210; Paleo.Search@dmns.org.

Information about the Department and the Museum can be obtained at www.dmns.org.

Assistant Professor of Geology and Geophysics, Louisiana State University - The Department of Geology and Geophysics at Louisiana State University invites applications for an Assistant Professor (Palynology/Tenure-track) position. We are especially interested in those whose research interests bridge departmental strengths in paleoclimatic paleoenvironmental reconstruction. The position is to be 75% in Geology & Geophysics and 25% in the LSU Museum of Natural Sciences. Required Qualifications: Ph.D. or equivalent degree in a geology or related field; museum experience; previous U.S. national funding, preferably from NSF. Additional Qualifications Desired: Post-doctoral experience. Responsibilities: creates, delivers and maintains outreach programs and

educational activities on subjects related to basic science research programs; develops a strong, extramurally funded research program; contributes to teaching and advising at the graduate and undergraduate levels. An offer of employment is contingent on a satisfactory preemployment background check. Application deadline is October 1, 2007 until candidate is selected. Additional information about the LSU Department of Geology and Geophysics is available at http://www.geol.lsu.edu/. We encourage applications from women and minorities. Send curriculum vitae (including e-mail address), statements of research and teaching interests, three letters of recommendation, and no more than three representative publications to:

Dr. Louis J. Thibodeaux, Chair Palynology Search, Ref: #000162 Department of Geology and Geophysics Howe-Russell Geoscience Complex Louisiana State University Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Director, Division of Earth Sciences, National Science Foundation - Director, Division of Earth Sciences (Senior Executive Service)

OPEN PERIOD: Tuesday, September 04, 2007 to Monday, November 26, 2007.

SERIES & GRADE: ES-1301-00/00 POSITION INFORMATION: Full-Time Permanent.

Announcement is for a career appointment. The Senior Executive Service (SES) covers managerial positions above GS-15 in the Federal Service. Position is also announced on a one-to-three year Limited Term appointment basis in S20070111-LTD and on an Intergovernmental Personnel Act assignment basis in S20070111-IPA

DUTIES: Serves as a member of the Directorate for Geosciences leadership team and as the Foundation's principal spokesperson in the area of earth sciences. Provides leadership and direction to the NSF Division responsible for funding research and education in the which includes earth sciences, geology environmental geochemistry, hydrologic sciences, sedimentary geology and paleobiology, geomorphology and land use dynamics, geophysics, petrology and tectonics and instrumentation and geochemistry. facilities, continental dynamics and Earthscope. Assesses needs and trends involving the earth sciences, implements overall strategic planning and policy setting for the Division, provides leadership and guidance to Division staff members, determines funding requirements, prepares and justifies budget estimates, balances program needs, allocates resources, oversees the evaluation of proposals and recommendations for awards and declinations, and represents NSF to relevant external groups. Fosters partnerships with other Divisions, Directorates, Federal agencies, scientific organizations and the academic community.

For more information contact:

http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/getjob.asp?JobId=61989834&AVSDM=2007%2D09%2D04+07%3A45%3A24

PLEASE CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP STATUS

We as prepare for the nomination and election of new IOP Officers, and for IOPC-VIII in Bonn, you may wish to check your membership status to be sure that it is current. This will allow you to fully participate in all of the upcoming IOP activities. If you are not sure of your current status, please contact your Regional Representative, or the Secretary Treasurer.

ADD YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION TO THE IOP WEB SITE

The IOP Web Site has recently developed the capacity to include several types of contact information for members. As part of the "members only" section of the web site, your information is available to the membership, but is shielded from spammers and others who may wish to violate your privacy or use your information for undesirable purposes. Please log on to the IOP Web Site at http://www.palaeobotany.org/ to see what we now have available at the website, and to add yourself to the growing list of easily contacted members.

THE 2007 BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING

The joint meeting of the Botanical Society of America and the American Association of Plant Biologists, met July 7-11 2007 at Chicago, Illinois. The Paleobotanical

Section submitted nine posters and 47 talks including 15 talks by students. Topics ranged in focus from the earliest life in the Precambrian to Pleistocene angiosperms. In addition, the section sponsored four symposia; 1) Deep Time: integrating paleobotany and phylogenetics, 2) Molocules to Morphology: Developing an understanding of plant evolution through time, 3) The functional significance of leaf shape variation- towards a consensus from gene to community, and 4) Using anatomy to vascularize tropical botany, ecology and systematics: the contributions of Sherwin Carlquist to the botanical sciences.

More than 80 people attended the Annual Paleobotanical Section Banquet where Jean Galtier was presented with his Corresponding Membership in the Botanical Society of America. Guest speaker Dr. David Dilcher discussed the recent history of the section and how the section has changed over time, from meetings in the 1960's where Carboniferous paleobotany dominated, to this years meeting with the range of topics noted above.

At the Botanical Society Banquet and Award ceremony, numerous awards were presented to Paleobotany Section members including:

Patricia Ryberg, University of Kansas, received a Vernon I. Cheadle Student Travel Award.

The Isabel Cookson Award, which recognizes the best student paper presented in the Paleobotanical Section, was presented to Heather Sanders of Ohio University, for the paper titled "Upside down auxin suggests the evolutionary origin of isoetalean rhizomorphs".

A BSA Graduate Student Research Award was presented to Patricia Ryberg, University of Kansas, (Advisor, Edith L. Taylor), for "Permineralized *Glossopteris* ovules and ovulate organs from the Permian of Antarctica and Australia."

Mike Dunn, Secretary/Treasurer Paleobotanical Section, BSA

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

Bernard Gomez moved from the University of Rennes (Brittany)to the University of Lyon where he recently joined Frédéric Thévenard's team. His new address is:

Dr. Bernard Gomez Université Lyon 1 (Claude Bernard)

Paléobotanique Bâtiment Charles Darwin A 7 rue Raphaël Dubois 69622 VILLEURBANNE FRANCE

Tel: 33 (0)4 72 44 58 64 Fax: 33 (0)4 72 44 82 03

e-mail: <u>bernard.gomez@univ-lyon1.fr</u>

NEW COUNCIL FOR PALAEOBOTANICAL SOCIETY, INDIA

A new Executive Council has been elected by the Paleobotanical Society of India. The society was founded by Prof Birbal Sahni in 1946, and is housed at the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany. There are about 200 members and 50 distinguished fellows. The Palaeobotanical Society publishes the journal Geophytology. New officers are:

Dr N.C.Mehrotra President
Dr Rahul Garg Vice President
Dr A. K. Srivastava Secretary
Dr D. C. Saini Joint Secretary
Dr R. K. Saxena Treasurer
Dr J.S.Guleria Chief Editor
Dr S.K.M.Tripathi Cuncillors
Dr Rashmi Srivastava Councillor
Dr R.C. Mehrotra Councillor
Dr S.K.Bera Councillor
Dr Madhav Kumar Councillor
Prof C.L.Verma Councillor
Dr M.D.Kajale Councillor

More information about the Palaeobotanical society is available at the Society web page http://www.palaeobotanicalsociety.org/index.html

A.K.Srivastava, Secretary Palaeobotanical Society Lucknow 226007 INDIA

DEATH NOTICE

Sadly, Bill Chaloner reports that **Hans-Joachim Schweitzer** of Bonn, Germany died July 20, 2007. Professor Schweitzer, the long-time editor of the Journal

Palaeontographica B, and a prolific author of papers on Paleozoic plants, will be missed.

TO PROFESSOR DR. DIANA MUSSA (1932-2007), OUR TRIBUTE

In the town of Campos (Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil), on January 19, 1932, one the most important Brazilian naturalists was born. The daughter of Lebanese immigrants, **Diana Mussa**, with her observative and introspective personality, was attracted very early by natural science—its secrets, as well as its spiritual dimension as an expression of the Creator's power. In the 1950s, she moved to Rio de Janeiro City, where she followed a Natural History Course in what was then called the University of Brazil. A brilliant and devoted student, **Diana Mussa** was not satisfied in her strong desire for knowledge, so she also pursued studies in the newly created Geology Course at the same University. From then on, she dominated the geoscience and bioscience areas as few investigators have.

While still a student-trainee, she worked at the National Department of Mineral Production (DNPM), and was initiated into paleobotany by such excellent researchers as Friedrich W. Sommer, Elias Dolianiti, and Richard Kräusel. She also was trained by excellent plant anatomists, including Fernando Romano Milanez, of the Botanical Garden of Rio de Janeiro, and Calvino Manieri, in the Technological Research Institute of São Paulo. All of these individuals greatly influenced Dr. Mussa in her ethical foundation as an honest, intelligent, and profound researcher.

She began to publish the results of her research early in her career and amassed an extensive list of publications. She began her professional life (bravely) in the Nuclear Energy Commission, at a time when there were many preconceptions and difficulties for a female geoscientist to overcome. Spiritually motivated by a deep Christian love, **Diana Mussa** interrupted her already exceptional scientific career for several years to dedicate herself to religious missions in the Amazon region. Even while she was there, her scientific vocation closely followed her, as she continued to make observations of the natural world.

Upon returning to the South, Dr. Mussa settled in São Paulo and in 1973, began postgraduate work under the supervision of Prof. Dr. A.C. Rocha-Campos at the Institute of Geosciences of the University of São Paulo.

Her research was an extensive doctoral thesis on wood Woody taphofloristic studies titled. 'Permian Taphofloras of the Paraná Basin (São Paulo and Santa Catarina States) of Brazil.' Here she exhaustively detailed the anatomically preserved Permian fossil plants of the Paraná Basin and defended on August 9, 1982, passing with distinction. Dr. Mussa resumed her work in the DNPM in Rio de Janeiro, and subsequently transferred to the National Museum of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro in 1997, where she served as Titular Professor of Paleobotany until her retirement in 2004

Prof. Dr. Diana Mussa pursued her teaching activities with great dedication from 1949 to 1971, as a teacher of natural sciences in the basic education of the State of Rio de Janeiro. In 1983, she became Postgraduate Professor of Paleobotany, Paleobiology Floristics and Evolution, Paleoecology, and General Geology, in postgraduate programs in the biological sciences of the National Museum and in the area of Sedimentary Basins of the Institute of Geosciences. Both of these institutions are part of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. She encouraged a number of students to take up paleobotany, and guided master's theses and doctoral dissertations. She delivered numerous lectures on the subjects of paleophytogeography, paleobotany, and the contribution of these fields to the interpretation of paleoclimate.

As a dedicated researcher, Dr. Mussa analyzed in great detail all that she researched. During the 1950s–1960s, she worked in geologic and radiometric surveys in the Tucano, Jatobá, and Paraná basins and in the Petrópolis and Teresópolis areas (Rio de Janeiro State) of the coastal ranges of Brazil. She participated in research projects on the Upper Paleozoic of South America, Sedimentary Floras of the Gondwanan Continents, Mesozoic Successions, and others.

Her scientific production began in 1956 with a "Synthesis of the Pteridosperms" in the Scientific Magazine of what was then called the National College of Philosophy of the University of Brazil. Several publications followed on the anatomy of Brazilian plant fossils of various ages from numerous localities in Acre, Piauí, Maranhão, Ceará, Rio Grande do Norte, Sergipe, Minas Gerais, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Santa Catarina, Mato Grosso States, and even from Antarctica.

Dr. Mussa did not restrict herself only to identification, description, and comparisons of fossil plants, but also worked to interpret the embryological and evolutionary origins of their morphologic and anatomical characteristics, and to determine their paleofloristic successions, with special attention to Late Paleozoic and Mesozoic fossils. In recent years, she also became an authority on Devonian floras, both in Brazil and worldwide.

Diana Mussa participated on many of boards of examiners, always with high spirit and a sense of justice. Even in recent years, she was actively involved in many congresses in Brazil and abroad. She was a member of the IOP, the Botanical Society of America Paleobotanical Section, the Latin American Association of Paleobotany and Palynology (ALPP), and the Brazilian Society of Geology, and was a founding partner of the Brazilian Society of Paleontology.

She was awarded the Llewellyn Ivor Price Medal of the Brazilian Society of Paleontology, for her contributions to Brazilian paleontology, at the 10th Meeting of Paleobotanists and Palynologists in 2000, and also received a homage in recognition of her significant contributions to Brazilian paleobotany, which was published as a special issue of volume 5 of the Revista Universidade Guarulhos Geociências (X RPP-Reunião de Paleobotânicos e Palinólogos, Homenagem a Dra. **Diana Mussa**).

Through her scientific knowledge and ability, she set an example for others in paleobotany to follow. But perhaps even more important than her detailed studies of fossil plants, she will be remembered as a humble person with extraordinary ethics, someone who was not only the greatest Brazilian paleobotanist, but a person of integrity and character who made the lives of all those she taught and knew so very rich.

Prof. **Diana Mussa** died May 13, 2007, leaving, in all of us who are deprived of her friendship, a great homesickness. We are thankful to the Lord God for her fruitful life and the blessing of the conviviality we had with her.

Mary E. C. Bernardes-de-Oliveira Instituto de Geociências Universidade de São Paulo (USP) São Paulo, SP, Brasil (translated with permission from ALPP's Noticias 2007, v. 15, n. 1)