The fifth season of NHRE came to a close on August 2nd, 2014. Members of the class of 2015 – the last on our current NSF award – are already downloading their applications. It is apt that we reflect for a moment on the NHRE experience. What have we, meaning all of us, achieved? Program directors of any stripe are forced to reckon with “metrics” – measures of performance. We can report with delight that the number of students attending professional meetings skyrocketed this year. We funded ten NHRE alumni from the class of 2013 to attend professional meetings and at least five members of the class of 2014 already have travel plans in the works. (See our listings on pages: 14-16 - did we miss you?) Meetings attendance highlights one way in which NHRE reaches beyond the walls of our museum to impact the broader scientific community. In the past two years NHRE interns have interacted with ~11,000 members of the museum-going public during our Scientist-in-Residence festival. Sharing our passion with the public gives something back to the community (the taxpayer) that ultimately supports our work. We could go on... seven of our alumni have published their NHRE projects and 39 of you have gone on to graduate or professional school in the sciences. These metrics serve a purpose. They allow us to quantify our contribution to society and justify our existence. Indeed, a metric must, by definition, be quantifiable. But we hope NHRE achieves something beyond these statistics. We see NHRE training you to think rigorously and behave ethically. We see NHRE revealing to you what a career in science is really like (for better or worse!). We see NHRE connecting you to the museum and to your mentor, developing an enduring relationship. We see NHRE inspiring you to believe in yourself – to believe in your promise. To us, this is what we have achieved.

We hope you will read through these pages and connect with your peers and with us here at the museum. Please tell us what you are up to! Are you in school? Working? Been awarded a fellowship? Gone in the field? Had a major life event? Published a manuscript? Please let us know. We want to hear from you.

Thanks for indulging us as we attempt to keep in touch with you using stone-age techniques.

Cheers,
Liz & Gene
NHRE Class of 2010

Collecting and Studying the Plant Family Icacinaceae

Submitted by Greg Stull

I am starting my 5th year of a PhD program at the University of Florida (Biology Dept). I am studying the evolutionary history of a poorly known tropical plant family called Icacinaceae. The family has around 150 extant species, and a really good fossil record. The modern distribution of the family is in tropical Africa, Asia, and South America (it's pantropical), but around 65 - 35 million years ago it also occurred in Europe and North America.

I am studying both living and extinct members of the family. I am sequencing lots of nuclear and chloroplast genes to understanding evolutionary relationships among living species, and studying the morphology of both living and extinct members of the family, to understand how the fossil/extinct species relate to the living members of the family. Collectively, I hope, my research will allow me to reconstruct the age of the family and its patterns of diversification and migration around the earth in response to geologic and climatic changes over the past 65 million years.

So far my research has led to some pretty cool places. To collect living species of Icacinaceae, I have traveled to the Madidi region of Bolivia and Yunnan Province, China. I have visited several museums in the Netherlands to examine collections of modern plants (Wageningen and Leiden), and within the next year I will travel to London and perhaps also Paris to visit additional museums to look at both modern and fossil collections of Icacinaceae. I am also studying fossil specimens from the Smithsonian (they have quite a few Icacinaceae fossils!). These fossils have already been loaned or photographed by my advisor, so unfortunately I did not make it to DC for a visit.

I probably have about 1.5 years until I finish my PhD. Then I will hopefully move onto a post doc (or some other research position) studying plant evolution in some capacity.

I still think about the NHRE program quite a bit. It was an awesome experience, certainly one of the best summers I have had, and it really solidified my interest in pursuing a career in collections-based research. I feel very fortunate that I was able to participate in the program and interact with so many curators and see so much of the wonderful collection you have at the NMNH.

One Semester to Go

Submitted by Christa Jackson

This is my last semester at Kansas University. It feels like it has taken forever to get here, but I am grateful for the experiences along the way. I was in Austin, Texas all summer for an internship with Statoil in their research and development group. I will be submitting an abstract to the American Association of Petroleum Geologists for my summer internship project. It was so much fun, and I met a lot of wonderful people. I often think about everyone at NMNH. The internship experience there was definitely the best, and it will always be with me.
Mapping Deposits in Central Minnesota.

Submitted by Katie Marshall

I completed a M.S. in geology at Idaho State University in the summer of 2013. My thesis updated and expanded glacial chronologies in the Olympic Mountains, Washington, the Southern Alps, and New Zealand using luminescence dating of glacial outwash. That same summer I started working for the Minnesota Geological Survey as a Quaternary Geologist. I am currently mapping deposits left by the Laurentide ice sheet in central Minnesota.

Just Married and Back From Ghana!

Submitted by Sarah Ehlinger

My life has been so incredibly busy for the past year that I've barely had time to breathe!

Francis Annan Affotey ("Annan") and I met salsa dancing in Ghana in 2011. He is an instructor and is now dancing here with a team in Milwaukee. His paintings are also in a gallery in Milwaukee. Back in November we held our traditional engagement ceremony in Ghana. This is considered a customary marriage in Ghana. It was quite the ordeal! His family gathered outside my host family's house carrying gifts for me and my family on their heads. They proceeded in and presented the gifts to my father and mother who had come from Wisconsin for the event. It was full of singing, dancing, and storytelling.

Annan arrived in the US in May. This was his third attempt to come to the US; he was denied the other two times. We had 90 days to get married, so we put together a fast but beautiful wedding. The matching kente cloth on our outfits is a traditional, hand-woven fabric from Ghana.

We are staying in Milwaukee for the time being because it's close to home and we have a lot of paperwork to do. I am working at a small geoengineering/environmental consulting firm. It's a bit different from the big-picture questions I'm used to working with, but it's good work. I am also writing another Rotary Grant like the one I did for Ghana. This one will build two boreholes in Sierra Leone. (I was actually in Sierra Leone in March when the Ebola first hit neighboring Guinea).

So, that's life in a nutshell! I do miss DC greatly and hope someday I can connect with an international development company there and head back. We own land in Ghana, so my dream is to find an organization that does work in the US and West Africa.
Going for a PhD at the American Museum of Natural History

Submitted by Spencer Galen

This fall, I started my PhD at the American Museum of Natural History as part of their Richard Gilder Graduate School. I am studying the evolution of malaria parasites, especially the ones that infect birds. I am proud to say that my time at the Smithsonian had a big impact on my desire to continue to work at a major museum.

Alumni update 2010

Rebecca Richards has returned to Australia to study at the University of Adelaide after receiving her Master of Philosophy from Oxford. She has become a passionate leader in the Indigenous community and is committed to preserving and promoting Aboriginal culture. Rebecca is a member of the Adnyamathanha and Barnarla peoples of the Flinders Ranges in South Australia, where she has custodial responsibilities for women's sites including her family site, Pukatu. She continues to be an advocate for Indigenous rights.

Caroline Ruiz graduated from George Mason University in 2012 with her bachelor's in psychology and history and then entered grad school at George Mason to earn her Masters in social work. She graduated in May 2014 and continued working at her internship as an oncology counselor. Caroline is now working part time at the American Society of Clinical Oncology as their Cancer.net information coordinator. She hopes to continue working in oncology or as a medical social worker in a hospital in Virginia.

Matthew Nielsen is well into his dissertation research now on phenotypic plasticity and different thermoregulation mechanisms in pipevine swallowtail caterpillars.

Kristen Simmons is in the third year of her PhD program in Anthropology at the University of Chicago. Her MA thesis is: 'How We Talk About Katsinam: Hopi Ethics and Mass Media.' The MA is presented in a multimedia format (academic paper, short film, and catalog) so that it can address theoretical concerns around method, representation, and visual anthropology.

Joanna Larson is just starting her second year as a PhD student in the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department at the University of Michigan. She is supported by an NSF GRFP this year.

Maddie Brown continues her studies of Ecological and Environmental Anthropology at Stanford University in California.

Jessica Glass is a PhD student in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department at Yale University.

NHRE Class of 2011

Flea Beetle Systematics

Submitted by Anthony Deczynski

This past January I studied abroad in Tanzania on a wildlife program with the University of Delaware. In May 2014, I graduated from Delaware with an Honors Degree with Distinction, double majoring in Entomology and Wildlife Conservation and a minor in Biology. I am currently working on my Masters in Entomology at Clemson University under Dr. Michael Cate-rino, studying flea beetle systematics.
Energy Strategies

Submitted by Luke Lavin

Over the last few years, I have ended up moving away from anthropology and museums and moving toward energy policy. The major reasons for going in that direction was my need to better utilize my interests in both the hard (I was a physics major) and social (anthropology) sciences. I found that energy is a topic of burgeoning and continued relevance where an interdisciplinary perspective is appreciated.

I spent a bit of time in DC after college graduation and now I am currently working for an energy consultancy in San Francisco called E3 (https://ethree.com/). We do consulting on a variety of strategy and policy issues for the government, utilities, and developers, mostly here in California and the West. I'm currently involved in lots of work on the value of solar/net metering, i.e. the policy for how those who have solar on their roofs or other "behind the meter" generation should be compensated by their utility. I expect to be in this job for a couple more years before pursuing graduate studies.

On The Road

Submitted by Gretel Corsa

I graduated from Cornell University in December 2012, and started a six month road trip with my family in May 2013. We traveled the four borders of the US in a travel trailer. The trip ended at the end of 2013 and I landed in Los Angeles. I started working for a private school in Pasadena in February in the Advancement Department. I help with donor receptions, gift processing, and database management. So far, it has been a great experience. I've grown very fond of the school and the community, and though it's something that I just landed on, it's a great fit.

Grad school is still somewhere on the horizon, just not as close as I thought. These past few years have been a crazy ride, but I wouldn't change a thing.

Plants and Insects

Submitted by Alison Post

I graduated from the University of Maryland in May 2014 and I presented a poster at the Evolution meeting the following June. Now, I'm actually working as the lab manager of an entomology lab at UMD. However, I'm more interested in plants, so I do a lot of the plant-insect interaction studies. I'm currently applying to grad schools in Colorado and California, so hopefully next year at this time I'll be a grad student somewhere.
Medical Anthropology

Submitted by Victoria Danner

I am entering my second year of my Master's in applied medical anthropology at the University of Maryland. I am currently applying to various health organizations, including the NIH. I have also applied for a program assistant position with the Recovering Voices Program at the Natural History Museum. I am waiting to hear from them. I'm still in contact with Dr. Archambault and she is helping me apply for jobs within the Smithsonian Institution. I am also in the process of submitting my Master’s thesis to be featured at the Society of Applied Anthropology conference in Pennsylvania this spring, and in the American Anthropological Association sometime in the summer.

I believe everything is going as expected. I'm looking forward to graduating and getting out in the world. I might go for my PhD someday but for now, I want to gain some real-world experience.

A June Wedding for Another NHRE Alumni

Rhiannon LaVine was married to Damien Swann on the June 21 2014, in her aunt’s backyard in Pleasant Prairie, WI. Her undergraduate advisor and mentor walked her down the aisle while the Jurassic Park theme played. The cake decoration was a geological time scale complete with critters!

Rhi is continuing her studies as a PhD Pre-Candidate in the Department of Geophysical Sciences at the University of Chicago.
Alumni update 2011

Haley Vaseghi has graduated from George Mason University and is now in her first year in the microbiology and immunology doctoral program at the University of North Carolina.

Matthew Chansler is attending graduate school at Michigan State University. He is in the Department of Plant Biology. He has spent the last three semesters teaching and getting ready to defend his thesis at the end of November 2014.

Kristin Lapos started graduate school in August 2014 at Seton Hall University in New Jersey. She is in their Masters (M.A.) program in Museum Professions on the Registration/Collections Management track. Kristin will graduate in 2016 and hopes that in the future she will work with museum collections. She is also working as a graduate assistant in Seton Hall's College of Nursing, which provides her with 2/3 remission and a monthly stipend.

Alyson Harding graduated from North Carolina State University. She currently works as an assistant construction site supervisor for Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver, Colorado. Alyson spends her days working on the construction site, managing and leading volunteers.

NHRE Class of 2012

A NHRE Experience Paying Off!

Submitted by Ellis Cochran

I graduated from Southern Oregon University in June of 2013. (B.S. degree in Human Communication). I am happy to report that I am currently in my 2nd year as a full-time Master's student at Louisiana State University. The program that I have been admitted into is a M.A./PhD. dual program in Communication Studies at LSU. I must say that my NHRE experience is still paying off even as a graduate student because I am currently going through the Institutional Review Board (IRB) research process again for an Anthropology seminar this semester.

Researching Philippine Rodents

Submitted by Dakota Michael Rowsey

I am in Grad school at the University of Minnesota majoring in Ecology, Evolution, and Biology. My PhD advisor is Sharon Jansa. My research focus will be mammalian systematics and evolution, and my study group will likely be murine (rat-relatives) rodents endemic to the Philippines. I am also the curatorial assistant for the mammal collection, so even now I am working in a museum! I have also applied for the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship.

I still attribute my decision to go to grad school largely based on my NHRE experience.
Desert Survival, Forest Trails and an Engagement Too!

Submitted by Tyler Infield

In October of 2013, I began a year of service with the Student Conservation Association in California. From then until this past May, I worked with the Ridgecrest Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management in the Californian Mojave Desert. We sought to mitigate the ecological effects of illegal off-highway vehicle traffic, and restore critical habitats for the threatened desert tortoise. Our work entailed camping and working in the desert for 10 days at a time, regardless of weather conditions. We endured heat over 100 degrees, cold below freezing, flash-flood inducing rains and hurricane-force winds throughout our 8 months of work, but through it all successfully restored 20,000+ square meters of desert habitat through soil decompaction, seed transfers and "vertical mulching" (a technique that utilizes dead bushes to create microhabitats and camouflage the route we restored).

After our 8 months in the Mojave, we were contracted to the California State Parks to recreate a trail in Humboldt Redwoods State Park in Northern California, which had been damaged and closed by a wild fire 11 years ago. Over the course of the summer, we constructed 1/4 mile of entirely new trail, built 5 retaining walls and retouched nearly 3/4 mile of existing trail, entirely with hand tools! My 10 months of service concluded in mid-August, at which point I had a week to travel home, unpack and deep-clean my things, repack and move to Saint Paul, MN for graduate school. Somehow, in spite of our field-based lifestyle, I was able to apply to, interview at and get accepted to the University of Minnesota's PhD. program in the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior. Coincidentally, Dakota Rowsey, who was in the NHRE program with me, is now at UMN and has an office next-door to mine! I am working with Keith Barker and Bob Zink on avian phylogenetics and systematics, particularly of North American songbirds. The program has only just begun, but already I'm formulating some tentative ideas and am thrilled to begin my own research.

I somehow managed to find time to buy a ring and propose to Melissa Beth. We waiting to hear back about our venue, but we should be getting married in January of 2016.

Alumni Update 2012

José Fuentes is in his second year at the University of Puerto Rico Law School. He collaborates with the Criminal Law Pro Bono as well as the Intellectual Property Pro Bono of the University. He has also been a student member of the Federal Bar Association and a member of the editorial staff of the University of Puerto Rico Law Review. This is José’s 4th consecutive year working in the faculty of the university’s College of Natural Sciences Genetics program. He is a teacher’s assistant.

In January, he visited Romania and Bulgaria.

Adam Martin continues his consultation for a state representative and works part time for a bioengineering firm working on river restoration projects. He plans on applying for a MS at the University of Michigan, the University of British Columbia, and Purdue University.

Tushar Mittal is a graduate student in the University of California Berkeley Astronomy Department. His research interests are Planet Formation, Protoplanetary Disk Dynamics and Magma Physics.
Akela Kuwahara is starting a PhD program in Developmental and Stem Cell Biology at the University of California, San Francisco. She was in Central America for 2.5 months this past summer traveling around Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama.

Salvatore Anzaldo has just returned from a 6 month collecting trip to Panama. He mostly collected weevils and spent time working in STRIs insect collection. On returning home, he sorted the samples and is now starting a few new projects with what he collected.

Leticia Jones continues to work at the Stanford Graduate School of Business. On November 2nd of this year she married long time beau Alexander Brown.

Maris Jones is in her senior year at Brown University. She is studying in the undergraduate program of the Department of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies. She is also a teaching assistant for the Ghanaian Drumming and Dance Ensemble at Brown.

Sarah Verghese is currently working as a Geosteering Analyst at Terra Guidance, a geosteering company in Colorado. Terra Guidance is hired by oil and gas companies to geosteer horizontal wells. The data is sent from rigs and used to determine where rock formations are relative to the wellbore that is being drilled. This information helps the geologist keep the wellbore in the desired target zone.

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**NHRE Class of 2013**

**Graduating in December with Two BS Degrees!**

*Submitted by Valerie Hartigan*

I am currently in my last semester of undergraduate work and will be graduating in December from Coastal Carolina University with two BS degrees, one in Marine Science and one in Biology. I am employed as a student research assistant with Dr. Juliana Harding and still work part time as a Registered Nurse. I am active in research at my school and have recently been participating in physiological research examining gecko embryonic development and egg membrane structure under varying environmental conditions. While all of those activities keep me busy, I still spend as much time with my daughter as I can. I plan to attend graduate school next fall to begin working toward my PhD.

Thanks to my NHRE experience in 2013, I participated in another NSF REU this past summer as an Analytical Studies Intern for the Smithsonian Museum Conservation Institute. Once again, I was working with Christine France and Mike Vecchione to perform stable isotope analysis of squid beaks. While my NHRE project focused on several species of cephalopods collected during a single sampling trip, my work this past summer was concentrated on temporal variation in isotope values from a single squid species, *Illex illecebrosus* from the late 1800s to today. We are currently still analyzing data from both REU projects and working on manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals. An added bonus for this REU was that I was able to share an apartment with another NHRE alum, Abree Murch, for the second summer in a row and I truly enjoyed getting to spend more time with her. I will be forever grateful for my NHRE experiences.

Thanks for the friends that I have made, the professionals with whom I have been allowed to interact, and the invaluable experience that I have gained.

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**Outstanding Student**

*Submitted by Subir Bahadur Shakya*

I graduated from Southern Arkansas University with the Distinction "Outstanding Student: College of Science and Technology 2014," and I now have started my PhD program at Louisiana State University under Dr. Fred Sheldon. I will be working with avian phylogenetics in SE Asia.
A Summer at Scripps

Submitted by Raquel Bryant

This summer, I worked with Dr. Richard Norris at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California. I spent the summer creating an early Cenozoic ichthyolith record for the equatorial Atlantic. I did this in order to investigate the response of the pelagic community to global climate change, specifically the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum. I found that the pelagic community stayed relatively stable through the extreme greenhouse conditions of the early Eocene. I will be continuing this work for my senior thesis as well as presenting a poster in December at the American Geophysical Union conference in San Francisco. This semester I am a TA for Stratigraphy and Sedimentation, working in a sediment lab picking foraminifera, as well as applying to PhD programs!

Gaurav joins the BEES Program at the University of Maryland

Submitted by Gaurav Kandlikar

This is the first email that I am sending from my new office at the University of Maryland, where I have started as a PhD student! I've joined Nathan Kraft's research group (http://life.umd.edu/biology/kraftlab/Home.html) in the Behaviour, Ecology, Evolution & Systematics (BEES) program. I was awarded an NSF Graduate Research fellowship earlier this month as well as receiving the American Society of Plant Taxonomists Undergraduate Research Prize for my work on hybridization and speciation in Isoetes.

All of my reviewers for the grant highlighted the NHRE experience as an important part of my application.

Studying Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Yale

Submitted by Frank Stabile

I was accepted into the PhD program in the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department at Yale. I've been in New Haven for about a two months now and classes have started, so there's plenty to keep me busy. At the moment, I plan on working with Rick Prum and examining questions related to the evolution of birds. I am also working on publishing several papers, both from my work in undergrad and in NHRE. The two papers that came out of my NHRE summer at the Smithsonian are in review and one is very close to publication. I'm really excited about that. I'm also working on a paper from my work on chickadees as an undergrad. I will be first author on this paper and author on two others with my colleagues. These papers are not as complete as the shrew papers, but they are very much still in the pipeline.

Coincidentally, Jessica Glass is in my cohort of first year students in EEB, and, while talking to her I realized she also did the NHRE program in 2010.
Participation in a Student Competition at the ESA Meetings

*Submitted by Christopher Cohen*

I am attending the Entomological Society of America (ESA) meeting this November, and I will be giving a TMP (ten minute presentation) on the revision of the robber-fly genus *Leptopteromyia* (Diptera: Asilidae). The talk will be part of a student competition.

I have found time to do some field collecting (robber flies) around Oregon, and was fortunate enough to receive two intramural grants to pursue my own research on robber flies. I have decided to run for president in the OSU bug club, and I am also applying for the GRFP. If I get the grant, it will be amazing!

A Busy Year

*Submitted by Jennifer Gil*

After my wonderful NHRE internship at the National Museum of Natural History, I participated in a science competition called Famelab at the California Academy in San Francisco. I had the chance to describe the Moorea Biocode Project to a live audience.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ChJ0TMBu4s&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ChJ0TMBu4s&feature=youtu.be). It was the best experience I have ever had. I was able to meet up with my 2013 NHRE roommate, Gaby Ramirez, who was also in San Francisco at the same time as my presentation.

I had the opportunity to go to the Ocean Science meeting last year in Hawaii and present my Smithsonian NHRE poster. Thanks to my NHRE work I was also invited to participate in two more conferences: SACNAS held recently in Los Angeles and NSHMBA in Philadelphia, in which I won a traveling scholarship. I stayed with my friend Grace Cooper (NHRE 2013 intern) who is a graduate student at Temple University in Philadelphia.

This summer I was doing research at molecular lab in nanotechnology testing GQD materials for medical applications. My NHRE roommates Kristie Hansen and Gaby Ramirez came to visit me in Puerto Rico. They stayed at my home, and my mother cooked them traditional Puerto Rican food. We went to Biobay, Caves of Camuy and the tropical rainforest Yunque. The NHRE Internship has opened so many doors to me, not just professionally, but also personally.

I am currently a senior at the University of Puerto Rico of Rio Piedras Campus. Since my NHRE internship 2013, I have visited many science museums and I am now working on a team that is helping to build a science museum in Puerto Rico called “Exploratorio”.


Even though do I do not know what career path to take next, the NHRE internship experience will be one I will never forget.

A 5 Month Internship in Alaska’s Wilderness

*Submitted by Katie Keil*

Following my college graduation in May, I accepted an internship with the Juneau Forestry Sciences Laboratory and embarked on a 5 month adventure in Alaska. I contributed to two research projects: the Tongass Wide Young Growth Study (TWYGS) and Cooperative Stand Density Study (CSDS). These conservation-driven studies test silvicultural treatments on second growth stands to restore wildlife habitat and improve wood production. TWYGS is primarily inter-
Going for a PhD in the Field of Linguistic Anthropology

Submitted by Grace Cooper

Well I have survived the first couple of months of graduate school!

My department here at Temple is fantastic and very supportive. My advisor is Inma Garcia-Sanchez who has already helped me find some great sources to ground me in the field of linguistic anthropology. The other professors are very friendly and intelligent as well, as are my cohort and other graduate students. So, at this point, I love graduate school and feel so special to have the privilege to be here.

On July 19th 2014, I married Noé Rodriguez and he came with me to Philadelphia to support me in graduate school. He is adjusting well to life here and so far his experience in Philadelphia has been a positive one. He is a commercial painter and drywaller and has already found a job. However, he eventually wants to start his own business and we are now working on getting all the necessary paperwork done.

It has been so wonderful to have his support, and married life feels great. I feel so fortunate to have him with me, and I tell him so every day.

I really want to say that I appreciate everything the NHRE program has done for me. It truly changed my life, and the academic preparation is already serving me very well, and has made me a strong member of the department here.

Alumni Update 2013

Gabrielle Ramirez was awarded a Houston Geological Society Foundation scholarship in December of 2013. Two undergraduates are nominated by professors from each of the 7 major Texas universities. One graduate from each is awarded the scholarship. One out of those seven is awarded the top honor and larger scholarship, the highest honor given to one Texas geology undergraduate annually by HGS. Gabrielle was that recipient.
Abree Murch has been working in the Paleobiology Department at NMNH as Dr. Matt Carrano’s assistant. Her duties include updating the Paleobiology and Polyglot Paleontologist Databases, processing sediment samples collected in the field last summer, retrieving journal articles, and generally keeping Dr. Carrano sane as he works on the Dinosaur Hall renovation. When she isn’t panning for microfossils and digging around in the far corners of the library, Abree can be found rock climbing – she spends most of her free time at the local rock gym and recently split a weekend climbing in the Red River Gorge in Kentucky and the New River Gorge in West Virginia.

Caitlin Boas started a graduate program this year at the University of California, Berkeley. She joined the Department of Integrative Biology. Her interests are in Paleoecology.

Jana Burke is studying at Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Her areas of interest include paleoecology, oceanography and macroevolution. Her goal is to study the effects of climate change events on evolutionary trajectories and community structure and function throughout time. She also hopes to gain knowledge of the biology and ecology of planktonic foraminifera as well as the methods for analyzing foraminiferal assemblages from the past and present.

Amy Rutter was featured in Business Insider Magazine in March 2014.


Alexander Kralick is teaching Biology at Potomac High School in Oxon Hill, Maryland.

2014: Interns in the Exhibits

The museum was teaming with visitors as all 17 NHRE Interns made their way out into the exhibit halls for the NHRE annual “Scientist-Is-In” day. Keeping to a schedule of 2 hours, each intern presented a multitude of objects that explained their summer research projects. Gene Hunt was the designated person-counter and estimated over 6,300 museum visitors interacted with NHRE interns. A record so far!

NHRE intern Claudia Mazur shows off a dinosaur footprint.
NHRE Professional Presentations

Here we list all professional presentations given by NHRE alum. If you presented your NHRE work at a conference and you don’t see it listed here, please let us know!

**Jackson, Christa, M:** Cottrell, E; Kelley, K A. 2010. Mineral-melt partitioning of V and Sc at arcs: implications for mantle wedge oxygen fugacity. Fall Meeting of the American Geophysical Union (Poster presentation).

**Jagani, Sheel:** Rick, Torben; Hofman, Courtney. 2011. Ancient Oyster Fisheries of the Chesapeake Bay: Methods and Implications. Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (Poster presentation).


**Lavin, Luke:** Bell, J. 2012. Exploring the Collections and Relations of A.C. Haddon at the Smithsonian. 16th Annual Five College Anthropology Undergraduate Research Conference (Oral presentation).


**Deczynski, Anthony:** Chamorro, M L; Konstantinov, A S. 2011. Morphology of the head and associated structures in New World Cryptocephalini (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cryptocephalinae). Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting (Poster presentation).


Corrigan, C. M.; Cohen, B. A.; **Hodges, Kara, E:** Lumning, N. G.; Bullock E. S.. 2012. 3.9 Billion Years Ago and the Asteroid Belt: Impact Melts in Ordinary Chondrites. 43rd Lunar and Planetary Science Conference (Poster presentation).


Keil, Daniel; Collins, A; Yanagihara, A; Lewis, C; Gillan, B. 2012. Jellyfish phylogenetics. Southern Regional Honors Conference (Oral presentation).


Rowsey, Dakota; M; Helgen, Kristofer M. 2013. Species boundaries of brushtail possums in the Queensland wet tropics. Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists (Poster presentation).


Atta, Calder, J; LaFlamme, Marc; Sessa, Jocelyn A; Tweedt, Sarah; Erwin, Douglas H. 2012. Taphonomic biases influencing exceptionally preserved Nuraoria from the Burgess Shale. Geological Society of America Annual Meeting (Poster presentation).

López, Oscar; Cottrell, E; Warren, J. 2012. Upper mantle oxygen fugacity in ridge and subduction zone settings recorded by spinel peridotite. Fall Meeting of the American Geophysical Union (Poster presentation).


Burke, Janet; Behrensmeyer, Anna K; Badgley, Catherine; Barry, John; Lyons, S Kathleen. 2014. Assessing the impact of time-averaging on a Miocene vertebrate fauna from northern Pakistan. North American Paleontological Convention (Poster presentation).


Ramirez, Gabrielle; Andrews, Benjamin; Dennen, Robert. 2013. Transport and sedimentation in unconfined experimental dilute pyroclastic density currents. Fall Meeting of the American Geophysical Union (Poster presentation).


Gil Acevedo, Jennifer; Phelps, Patricia; Watson, Bill. 2013. Improving the Learning Experience of Museum Visitors: Examining Different Types of Experiences in the Genome: Unlocking Life's Code Exhibit. 37th Senior Technical Meeting, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras (Poster presentation).


Keil, Katherine, E; 2013. Associations between hyperiid amphipods and gelatinous zooplankton.. Society of Integrative & Comparative Biology (Poster presentation).

Wall, Kellie; Davis, F A; Cottrell, E. 2014. Oxygen fugacity recorded by xenoliths from Pacific oceanic islands. Geological Society of America (Poster presentation).

Sherwood, Kate D; Owlesy, Douglas W; Bruwelheide, Kari S; Rouse, Stephen L; Hurlbert, Donald E. 2014. Basketmakers revealed: Physical, CT, and 3D analysis of mummified human remains from the Southwest. Conference on Undergraduate Research (Poster presentation).

Mazur, Claudia, I; Erwin, Douglas H; Jones, Clive, G. 2014. Ecosystem engineering during the early Cambrian. Sigma Xi International Research Conference (Poster presentation).


