



The Bagpipeline

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE

OCTOBER 11, 2002

Paleontology class goes back in time

Student discovers track that could prove to be 'significant' find

By Hal Milam

It could easily have gone unnoticed – a single footprint planted hundreds of millions of years ago in a prehistoric swamp by a creature probably not much longer than a stick of gum.

Instead, its discovery may prove something much larger.

Last weekend, members of Dr. Michael Rischbieter's paleontology class traveled to Alabama on a field trip to look for and collect fossils from a variety of sites, including one active and one abandoned coalmine near Birmingham.

During their field research, PC junior James Stetson came across fossil evidence that could challenge previous assumptions regarding animal life during the Pennsylvanian Period in Alabama. The track – a small indentation – could very well be evidence of the oldest reptile of that age of Pennsylvanian Period rock some 310 million years ago.

Ironically, Stetson said he wasn't really looking hard for what he found.

"We were all scattered about at the site," he said. "It allowed me to be in the right place at the right time. I noticed what looked like foot tracks but I wasn't sure at first. I think I found them because I wasn't really looking for them."

Rischbieter explained that what distinguishes this print from other prints of amphibians are marks that looks like claws at the end of toes that could only be evidence of a reptile where none – or when none, to be exact – existed.

"It could be huge," Rischbieter said. "It could be a significant find – the first report of a major class of animal."

In the meantime, the fossil is in the care of the group's host for the weekend – author and professor Dr. Jim Lacefield of the University of Northern Alabama – while he tries to verify and catalogue the discovery.

Equally important for the class, though, was the experience itself.

"Ben Thomas told me that he got a whole semester's worth of learning in one weekend," said Rischbieter. "Being in the field allowed them to make connections you really can't make in a classroom."

He added that merely standing in what was once a beach on a prehistoric ocean was a very real way of understanding how much the earth has changed over the millennia.



Photo by Dr. Michael Rischbieter

This tiny fossil track, discovered at an abandoned coal mine by PC junior James Stetson during a field trip to Alabama, may prove to be the earliest known evidence of reptiles living in the area during the Pennsylvanian Period hundreds of millions of years ago. Small indentations at the tips of the toe pads may have been left by claws, thus indicating that the creature was a small reptile instead of an amphibian.

Geoffrey Stafford, a sophomore, agreed.

"We're in the labs learning as much as we can from samples and pictures but until you actually go out there and dig in the dirt, it just isn't the same learning experience," he said. "Being there and actually finding things – you get a feel for how old this stuff really is."

The class also got an opportunity to spend time with a first-class rockhound – Lacefield – whose knowledge and hospitality were seemingly without bounds. He and his wife, Fay, allowed the group to camp on his property and spent much of his time helping the group make discoveries in the field.

► See *Fossils* on Page Four



PC's people and places can now be as close as your computer desktop!

Each week, *The Bagpipeline* will show you a new PC scene available for download and use as your computer wallpaper. Show your Blue Hose spirit while enjoying the beauty of PC.

Click [here](#) to choose this early morning scene from old Bailey Memorial Stadium.

Students attend summer media institute

By Paige Ellisor

A two-year-old boy happily plays with a “My Little Pony” figure. A protective aunt chastises her older sister for allowing the toddler to play with a “feminine” toy.

Is there anything wrong with this picture?

Junior Skye Earls, the protective aunt, now believes there is. At Wheelock College’s “Violence in the Media” summer institute in Boston, Mass., Earls had many of her assumptions about the media challenged, as did her fellow attendee, PC senior Scott Moore.

Their interests piqued by the opportunity to “analyze the corporate structure of U.S. media and to explore how media culture and violence affect behavior, development, and learning,” they studied a wide range of media messages and issues – everything from gender-specific toys to pornography.

Moore first became interested in attending the institute – which was paid for by PC’s Russell Program – after hearing Wheelock College professor Dr. Diane Levin speak at last year’s Arnold Symposium on “Children and the Media.” Levin was one of three professors who headed the workshop and the intensive, weeklong program included lectures, applications, and a film series examining “how media messages perpetuate sexism, racism, classism, and homophobia,” he said.

Earls, the editor of *The Blue Stocking*, looks forward to a career in journalism and wanted the opportunity this summer to investigate media issues – “what kind of things I’ll be willing to promote ethically in my own career.”



Skye Earls

Both students were astounded by their reactions to pervasive media images in our society. Earls was particularly affected by the degradation of women in pornography.

“I teared up,” she said. “It was terrible.”

Moore was overwhelmed by the manipulation of children through media. He is sickened by “the idea that there are commercials targeted to children and the ruthless way children’s marketing is done.”

After spending an afternoon of playing standard children’s video games, Moore said he was shocked by the messages of the medium.

“The violence is overwhelming,” he said.

Both students, also veterans of PC’s Media and Society interdisciplinary class, declare that the workshop has changed their views of media and the social stereotypes inherent within them.

“I left the program with a different attitude toward society and media in general,” Moore said. “Specifically, my consuming of media has changed by the way I tend to filter what I take in.”

He added that his experience this summer will have an everlasting effect.

“No matter what I’m doing, this will shape the work I’m doing,” he said.

Earls – the aunt who once acted according to media-influenced gender stereotypes – also believed the summer institute will guide her future.

“I learned about children and media and how I’m going to raise my children,” she said



Scott Moore



Photos by Steve Owens

Campus community invited to open house at Bailey Stadium

You've watched it grow brick by brick.

Now make plans to celebrate its completion.

The Department of Athletics invites the Presbyterian College community to an open house at the new Bailey Memorial Stadium next Friday, Oct. 18 -- the evening before the first game will be played in the magnificent new facility designed by John Jackson '70. The stadium and press box will be opened for tours between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. for students, faculty, and staff. Light refreshments will be served.

Come tour the stadium, then come cheer the Blue Hose against Carson-Newman College on Oct. 19.

BLUE HOSE HIGHLIGHTS

Football (3-2 overall, 0-1 SAC)

The team lost 27-14 at Catawba College last Saturday. **THIS WEEK:** At Tusculum College at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12, in Greeneville, Tenn.

Volleyball (12-9 overall, 6-2 SAC)

The Blue Hose won at Tusculum College, 3-0, last Friday but was beaten 3-2 by Carson-Newman last Saturday. PC bounced back with successive wins against Newberry College and Francis Marion University on Tuesday and Wednesday. **THIS WEEK:** At the Lees-McRae College Tournament Friday, Oct. 11, through Saturday, Oct. 12, in Banner Elk, N.C. On Friday, the team will face Queens College at 6 p.m. and Converse College at 8 p.m. On Saturday, PC will play North Carolina Central University at 1 p.m. and Lees-McRae College at 3 p.m. At home against USC-Aiken at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15.

Men's Soccer (4-4 overall, 3-1 SAC)

PC lost 4-2 to Francis Marion University last Saturday but shut out Wingate University, 2-0, last Tuesday. **THIS WEEK:** At Mars Hill College at 7 p.m. today (Oct. 11) in Mars Hill, N.C. At Lander University at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15.

Women's Soccer (9-1-1 overall, 3-1-1 SAC)

The team lost for the first time this season, 3-0, against Tusculum College last Saturday. They also played to a 0-0 tie against Wingate University on Wednesday. **THIS WEEK:** At Mars Hill College at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15, in Mars Hill, N.C.

Men's Cross Country

The Blue Hose finished third out of nine teams in the third annual Presbyterian College Invitational last Saturday. **THIS WEEK:** At the 2002 USC-Spartanburg Invitational at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 12, in Spartanburg.

Women's Cross Country

The team finished sixth out of nine teams in the third annual Presbyterian College Invitational last Saturday. **THIS WEEK:** At the 2002 USC-Spartanburg Invitational at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 12, in Spartanburg.

Golf

The team finished ninth out of 18 teams in the Presbyterian College Intercollegiate last Sunday through Tuesday at Musgrove Mill Golf Club. **THIS WEEK:** No matches. The team has completed its fall schedule and will resume its spring schedule in February.



Photo by Dr. Michael Rischbieter
Dr. Jim Lacefield (in green shirt at center) gives PC students a lesson in the field on fossils found at a coal mine in Alabama. A professor of biology at the University of Northern Alabama, Lacefield hosted the college's paleontology class during their recent weekend field trip.

Fossils, from Page One

"He was very eager to share his knowledge with us," said Stetson. "At times it was too much – I just couldn't digest it all. But it was great being able to spend that much time immersing ourselves in collecting fossils and asking questions."

Lacefield, too, was touched by the experience.

"Your students were unusually well-behaved, considerate, and with a great collective attitude for making the most out of such a special opportunity to get out in the field and do paleo work," Lacefield wrote in an e-mail to Rischbieter last week. "There are always personal sacrifices and compromises for the sake of the group required from each person to allow such a patience and energy-demanding activity to succeed, and all of them came through with flying colors."



Students also used last weekend's field trip to enjoy the great outdoors by camping out last Saturday night.

Photo by Dr. Michael Rischbieter

*The Bagpipeline welcomes your input. If you have story ideas, announcements, or concerns, contact editor **Hal Milam** in the Office of Communications at **ext. 8282** or via e-mail at hmilam@presby.edu.*

Johnson wins scholarship for teaching math

By Bonnie Glymph

Senior Katherine Johnson has always known her call in life. Combining a talent for mathematics and a desire to help other students, Johnson plans to be a teacher in the South Carolina public schools.

This year, on the strength of her essay and two recommendation letters, Johnson was awarded the prestigious South Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics Scholarship to student teach next spring.

Johnson said she has always demonstrated a talent for mathematics.

"I've known since my junior year in high school what I want to do with my life," she said. "Math has always come very easily for me, until I took some PC classes."

Although Johnson may find some of her PC classes challenging, her advisor, Dr. Brian Beasley, asserts that she accepted the challenge with much grace.

"We already knew that Katherine Johnson was a very special person before she began her studies at PC, having heard of her wonderful accomplishments at Clinton High," he said. "She has certainly lived up to our high expectations for her, both as a student and as a teacher of mathematics."

After graduation, Johnson plans on teaching math and pursuing a master's degree in guidance or administration.

"I think it's important to start out in a classroom so that I'll know what it's like to deal with students first-hand," she said.

Johnson has already had some of this "first-hand" experience.

"I have tutored several students one-on-one, and I've also been in four classes for practicum assignments," she said. "Helping someone grasp a new concept, improve his or her SAT score, or perform well on a test creates a feeling of accomplishment for both the student and me."

Johnson's professors are delighted with her talent and in her aim.

"It is a privilege to teach Katherine and to recommend her as a tutor for other students in a variety of math courses," Beasley said. "She will be an outstanding math teacher, and she is a very deserving recipient of the SCCTM Scholarship."

Whether she sits behind the desk as a principal, assists students with their scheduling and educational experience as a guidance counselor, or teaches students in a classroom, Johnson has one aim in her mind.

"I feel that by helping young people learn math and maybe affecting a life or two, I will make a difference in that small portion of this world," she said.

CALENDAR

Saturday, Oct. 12

- Channel 19 movie – "The Panic Room" – 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 13

- Channel 19 movie – "The Birdcage" – 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 14

- Fall Break
- Administrative Holiday
- Channel 19 movie – "Death Becomes Her" – 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 15

- Fall Break
- Channel 19 movie – "Notting Hill" – 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 16

- Wednesday Morning Prayer – 7:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. in Wyatt Chapel
- Regular class schedule resumes
- The Breakfast Club – 8-9 a.m. in Greenville Dining Hall
- Panhellenic Recruitment Introduction Night
- Canterbury Club – 6-7 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church in Clinton
- Tri Sigma – 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in Chapman Conference Room in Jacobs Hall
- Channel 19 movie – "A Clockwork Orange" – 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes – 9-10 p.m. in the Mabry-Smith-Yonce Center

Thursday, Oct. 17

- Academic Affairs meeting – 4:30 p.m.
- Panhellenic Recruitment Informational Night
- Channel 19 movie – "Terminator 2: Judgment Day"

Friday, Oct. 18

- Faculty luncheon/forum – 1 p.m. in Harper Center
- Music at Half-Past – 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. in Belk Auditorium
- Panhellenic Recruitment Philanthropy Night
- Channel 19 movie – "Shrek" – 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.



HIGH NOTES

GDH sets hours for Fall Break

Greenville Dining Hall will serve brunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and dinner from 5-6 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 12, through Tuesday, Oct. 15. Regular serving hours will resume on Wednesday, Oct. 16.

Scholarships available to Hispanic students

The Hispanic Scholarship Fund is offering scholarships for students who are of Hispanic background, are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, have at least a 2.7 G.P.A., are full-time students, and have completed at least 12 hours of college study. The deadline to apply is Oct. 15. Please contact www.hsf.net for more information.

Soccer team hiring ballpeople

The women's soccer team is hiring ballpeople for the 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19 game against Catawba College. If you are interested in working, contact Warren Turner at ext. 8518 or weturner@presby.edu.

PC offers on-line registration

Students will be able to register via the Web for Spring 2002. Seniors may start on Monday, Oct. 28; juniors on Thursday, Oct. 31; sophomores on Tuesday, Nov. 5, and freshmen on Monday, Nov. 11. Students must contact their advisers to set up an appointment to be advised. Seniors may contact their advisers beginning Monday, Oct. 21; all other students beginning Wednesday, Oct. 23.

Get introduced to PC at Oxford Experience

The departments of religion-philosophy and psychology invite students to an introductory meeting from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22, in the Harrington-Peachtree Center amphitheater to learn about the 2002 PC at Oxford Experience. For more information visit: <http://titanium.presby.edu/~gramsey/Oxford1.html>.

Trick or treat with FCA

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes will trick or treat for canned goods this Halloween. If you would like to distribute flyers to nearby residents, meet at the information booth at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 23. If you would like to collect canned goods from area neighborhoods, meet at the information booth at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30. For more information, contact Leigh at ext. 8922.

Public Safety to offer self-defense class

Female students are invited to participate in a self-defense class – Rape Aggression Defense, or RAD – that will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2. Registration forms are available from R.A.s The deadline to register is Friday, Oct. 25. The fee for materials and registration is \$25. For more information, contact Lt. Jackie Turner at ext. 8301 or by e-mail at jdturner@presby.edu.

Walk to support Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

PC admissions counselor Nikki Richardson is starting a team to participate in a walk on Saturday, Nov. 2, in Greenville to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Anyone interested in participating should contact Nikki at ext. 8226 or e-mail her at knrichar@presby.edu.

Fullerton Convocation cancelled

The Fullerton Convocation originally scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 12, at 11 a.m. in Edmunds Hall has been cancelled.

SCIS to sponsor Maymester trip to Russia

The Southeastern Center for Intercultural Studies will sponsor a Maymester trip to explore the history and culture of Russia. The tentative cost is \$2,000 to \$2,200 and includes round trip air fare from Atlanta, train fare from St. Petersburg to Moscow, hotel accommodations in St. Petersburg, tours and excursions, meals, and tuition and fees for three hours of academic credit. A \$500 non-refundable deposit is due by Friday, Nov. 15. All checks should be made payable to Presbyterian College in the business office at Smith Administration Building. Present receipts to Dr. Bud Warner, associate dean of academic affairs. Space on the trip is limited. Students who present their deposit receipts will be placed in the course on a first come, first served basis. For more information, contact Dr. Warner at ext. 8598 or at bwarner@presby.edu.

Seniors must have senior audit

If you are a senior planning to graduate in May, 2003, and have not had a senior audit, you need to do so as soon as possible. Go to the registrar's front page on the PC website, click on "forms," click on and fill out a Senior Audit Form, submit it as an attachment to registrar@presby.edu, and call ext. 7084 to set up an appointment to have your senior audit. Make certain you have turned in all major and minor cards before you sign up for the audit.