



🌟 Highlights of the Month 🌟

Call for Mentors – Paleontological Society at GSA Connects 2026

Overview

The Paleontological Society (PS) is launching an NSF-supported conference-based mentoring program at GSA Connects 2026 in Denver. The goal is to help early-career paleontologists use GSA/PS meetings more effectively for career navigation, networking and professional identity development by embedding structured mentoring into the existing PS Student Ambassador program.

We are seeking mentors from across academic, museum, government, industry and other applied sectors who are willing to support the cohort of student and early-career PS Ambassadors (~10) before, during and after the meeting.

Who Can Serve as a Mentor?

We welcome mentors who:

- Are members of the Paleontological Society or active participants in PS/GSA communities (including former PS Student Ambassadors)
- Are at **any career stage**, including students and alumni of the PS Ambassador program.
- Work in **any and all sectors** where paleontologists build careers (universities, museums, collections, government agencies, consulting, industry, NGOs, etc.).
- Are willing to share practical insight into career pathways, workplace norms and networking strategies with first-time or early-career attendees and are open to continued engagement with their mentees.
- Can commit to intentional engagement across three phases:
 - A short virtual mentor orientation and mentee matching program before GSA Connects (early October, exact date TBD).
 - Informal but structured interactions with mentees during the meeting (e.g., check-ins, helping plan schedules, introductions at PS events).

- A brief virtual reflection/conversation after the meeting.

What Mentors Receive

- **Visible recognition for their mentoring service and expertise** at the PS banquet and in PS communications as part of the inaugural cohort.
- **Access to mentor-development materials** tailored to conference contexts (toolkits, conversation guides, matching protocols and evaluation feedback).
- **Enter into a new and growing cross-sector mentoring community** within PS, including opportunities to join mentoring co-design teams to help shape long-term mentoring infrastructure, study and disseminate good practices, materials and peer-reviewed scholarship.
- **Partial support** for meeting participation (up to \$2000 per mentor).

What Mentors Will Do

Mentors will:

1. **Attend a Pre-Conference Virtual Mentor Workshop**
 - 90 minutes via Zoom before GSA Connects.
 - Focus on conference-based mentoring: setting goals with mentees, expectation alignment, introductions/sponsorship, supporting cross-sector career exploration, and realistic follow-up.
2. **Support Mentees (PS Ambassadors) at GSA Connects**
 - Help mentees clarify goals for the meeting (e.g., “three people to meet,” “two sessions to attend in their area of interest,” “one concrete next step after the meeting”).
 - Meet briefly and support student participation at some or all of the following events:
 - PS Short Course (where appropriate)
 - PaleoX mixer
 - Schuchert Lunch
 - PS booth
 - PS banquet
 - Other PS-sponsored events where mentors are already present
 - Make a small number of targeted introductions across sectors (e.g., linking mentees to alumni in museums, government, or industry).
3. **Participate in Post-Conference Reflection**
 - Respond to a brief survey and/or join a short virtual focus group to reflect on what worked, where mentees struggled, and how PS can refine mentoring infrastructure for future meetings.

Time Commitment (Approximate)

- Pre-conference virtual workshop and mentee matching forms: 1.5 hours
- At-conference mentoring: 3–5 hours total across the meeting (short check-ins, attending existing events, introductions).
- Post-conference reflection: 0.5–1 hour
- We hope you will be open to maintaining contact and staying in touch with your mentee.

Further funds will be available for additional mentor- and mentee-driven collaborative work after GSA Connects and over the course of the year.

How to Apply

Please complete the [Mentor Application Form](#) by **Sept 4**.

We will follow up with mentor selections, details on support, and the date/time for the virtual orientation session.

Questions? More Info?

If you have any questions or need more information, please reach out to:

Julia Clarke (julia_clarke@jsg.utexas.edu), Sean Cornell (srcornell@ship.edu) or Adam Papendieck (apapendieck@unm.edu)

PBDB Survey

Dear Paleonet folks -

Do you use the Paleobiology Database for research, teaching, or just for fun? We want to hear from you - please take this short survey here: <https://forms.gle/QUs9fLu3vttBGvK98>

Your answers will help us better understand how the community uses and accesses the PBDB and will help shape future work on the database.

Note: This survey is designed solely to collect community feedback and prioritize future developments. Submitting requests or suggestions does not guarantee feature implementation or timeframe promises

Thank you for your time!

Dr. Phoebe Cohen

Chair, Paleobiology Database Executive Committee

pac3@williams.edu

Job Alert!

Tenure-Stream Assistant Professor in Earth and Environmental Geosciences
Colgate University: Office of the Provost of the Dean of the Faculty (PDOF): Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics: Earth and Environmental Geosciences Department

Location: Hamilton, NY

Open Date: Jun 25, 2026

Salary Range or Pay Grade

\$97,500 (for ABD candidates) to \$101,500 (for candidates with PhD in hand)

Description

The Department of Earth and Environmental Geosciences at Colgate University invites applications for a tenure-stream position in the area of Paleoclimatology at the rank of Assistant Professor, beginning fall semester 2027.

We seek an individual who is committed to excellence in teaching and research at the undergraduate level. Completion of the Ph.D. is expected prior to or shortly after the date of hire. The area of specialization is open but should include an examination of climatic change in the geologic record. The successful applicant will teach introductory courses for non-majors, including [an introductory course on the role of oceans in the climate system](#). They will contribute to at least one of the [five intermediate courses required for majors](#), will develop upper-level courses in their area of specialty, and could contribute to the [Marine and Freshwater Science program](#). Participation in the department's [summer field courses](#) and involvement of undergraduates in research are expected. The successful candidate will participate in university-wide programs including teaching in the [Liberal Arts Core Curriculum](#).

A cover letter, CV, teaching statement, research statement, and the contact information for three references must be submitted through Interfolio by the September 1 deadline. Candidates will be notified of the deadline by which reference letters need to be uploaded. Colgate strives to be a community [supportive of diverse perspectives and identities](#). In their application materials, candidates must describe how their approach to teaching and research might create an inclusive educational environment.

Applications should be submitted through Interfolio at <https://apply.interfolio.com/188708>. Review of applications will begin September 1, 2026, and continue until the position is filled.

Colgate faculty are committed to excellence in both teaching and scholarship. Further information about the Earth and Environmental

Geosciences department [can be found here](#) and more information about building a Colgate-specific application [can be found here](#).

Applicants with dual-career considerations can find postings of other employment opportunities at Colgate and at other institutions of higher education in upstate New York at this [website](#).

Campus Crime Reporting and Statistics:

The Department of Campus Safety at Colgate University will provide upon request a copy of Colgate's Annual Security and Fire Safety Report. This report includes statistics as reported to the United States Department of Education for the previous three years concerning reported: 1. crimes that occurred on-campus; in certain off-campus buildings or property owned or controlled by Colgate University; and on public property within, or immediately adjacent to and accessible from, the campus and 2. fires that occurred in student housing facilities. The report also includes institutional policies concerning campus security and fire safety, such as policies concerning sexual assault, life safety systems, and other related matters. You may access the report from the Clery Compliance web page [here](#). Printed copies of this report may be obtained upon request from the Department of Campus Safety via e-mail at cusafety@colgate.edu.

Equal Employment Opportunity Statement

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Policy Statement

It is the policy of Colgate University not to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment on the basis of their race, color, creed, religion, age, sex, pregnancy, national origin, marital status, disability, protected Veterans status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, being or having been victims of domestic violence or stalking, familial status, or any other categories covered by law. Colgate is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. Candidates with disabilities, and protected veterans are encouraged to apply.



Upcoming Events & Deadlines

Conferences:

GSA Connects 2026 registration is now open!

*Discount code for members: **CONNECTS26_PS***

The Paleontological Society Short Course at GSA: Trait-based Paleocology and Deep time Earth Systems: From cells to ecosystems across the Phanerozoic (October 10th)-location details coming soon!



A primer for researchers of all stages interested in trait-based paleoecology and deep time vegetation-climate interactions. Attendees will be trained to make measurements from plants and plant fossils, estimate paleo-traits, and simulate deep-time ecosystem processes. Demonstrations will provide hands-on context for interpreting plant fossils as once-living organisms. The course will be a mix of lecture and hands-on elements, and aims to prepare scientists to maximize the utility of the plant fossil record to understand Earth's deep past.

As you begin planning your travel, check out [GSA's Roommate & Ride Share board!](#)

- <https://community.geosociety.org/communities/community-home?CommunityKey=388dd85d-9c32-4f1a-9bbd-af1d4fd3d9db>

Early Bird Registration: August 27th
Standard Registration Deadline: October 2nd

Remember to buy tickets to the **PS Banquet!**
Paleontological Society (PS) Business Meeting and Awards
Reception Buffet: 11 October 6:30–10:30 p.m.

To learn more about the meeting, please visit:
<https://connects.geosociety.org/>

GSA Discount for Members of the PS!

Exclusive 15% Discount for [GSA Connects 2026](#) Registration

As a member of the Paleontological Society, you are eligible for an exclusive 15% discount on registration for [GSA Connects 2026](#), taking place 11–14 October 2026 in Denver, Colorado!

How to redeem your discount:

- Register for the meeting at:
<https://connects.geosociety.org/register>
- Use the unique discount code provided in the attached flyer during registration.
- Receive 15% off your registration fee.

Dear colleagues,

As we prepare for GSA Connects 2026 in Denver, we want to invite you to participate in our **Geoscience Career Exploration Fair on 11 October from 1:30–3:30 p.m.**

You represent the incredible variety of careers available across the basic and applied geosciences, and it would be great to have you represent your own career experience at the fair.

This is intentionally not just a traditional job fair. You do not need to be actively recruiting or representing an HR department. We are looking for geoscientists who are willing to have conversations about what they do, how they got there, and what a career in their area of geoscience actually looks like. If you so choose, you are welcome to have a table and have materials from your organization that attendees can pick up.

The goal is to support students and early career professionals exploring their options, as well as mid-career geoscientists who may be considering a change and want to learn more about different career paths.

Participation is free for conference attendees, and there is no formal presentation required. We would simply love to have you there to share your experience and help participants better understand the breadth of opportunities available within the geosciences.

If you have any questions or for specific arrangements, please contact Rebecca Taormina (rtormina@geosociety.org), copied above.

I hope you will consider joining us. Your experience and perspective would be a valuable addition to the Fair!
Thank you!

Ester

Ester Sztein, PhD *Director of International Programs*

The Geological Society of America

esztein@geosociety.org

The **13th North American Paleontological Convention** will be held in Knoxville, Tennessee from May 22-26, 2028. North American Paleontological Convention is a major international paleontological event administered by the Paleontological Society under the auspices of the Association of North American Paleontological Societies. NAPC celebrates *all* aspects and disciplines within paleontology to bring together our entire community within an inclusive, dynamic, and engaging conference. The website and first circular are now live: <https://napc2028.sites.utk.edu/>.

Submit your ideas for symposia, field trips, and workshops!

The **IGCP735 Conference** will take place virtually from November 17-20, 2026. The theme of this conference will be: Rocks and the Rise of Ordovician Life. Registration is free and required to secure a spot and the Zoom link. Abstracts are due September 15, 2026. Please visit the [conference website](#) for more information!

The **7th International Palaeontological Congress (IPC7)** will be held in Cape Town, South Africa, November 30-December 3, 2026. **Abstract deadline has been updated to July 13th!** Information, abstract submission, and registration found [HERE](#).

The **XII European Palaeobotany and Palynology Conference (EPPC)** will take place at the University of Münster in Germany, 20th to 25th September 2026. Please visit the [conference website](#) for more information.

The 58th Annual Meeting of AASP, The Palynological Society, will take place 8–11 September 2026 in Trelew, Argentina. The meeting will bring together researchers working across all areas of palynology to share new research, exchange ideas, and strengthen international collaboration.

Palaeoverse virtual lecture series focused on software development and methodological approaches in palaeontology. The aim of this series is to promote the use of new tools in the field and to give researchers a platform to showcase their work. The format is intended to be flexible but will generally include a short seminar followed by a demonstration of the speaker's software toolkit and/or method, and will conclude with a group discussion. The lectures will be held between 15:00–16:00 UTC.

Other:

Public Science Engagement Class

Online, take-at-your-own-pace masterclass in online public science engagement through the Center for Wildlife Studies.

You can take this class for university transfer credit (it transfers as one elective credit,) for CPE credit, or just to learn something.

It starts with basic principles of communicating science to non-expert audiences, highlights leading social media and blogging tools, and provides advanced tips and tricks. There are case studies of successful and unsuccessful attempts throughout.

The course also includes a project and this project can be something related to your real-world science communication needs.

Book before **August 9th** and you can save \$75.

Please forward to interested colleagues and students, and please let David Shiffman know if anyone has any questions (Contact: david.shiffman@gmail.com).

Course info and registration can be found here:

<https://www.centerforwildlifestudies.org/courses/p/public-science-engagement-using-social-media>

Have you renewed your PS Membership for 2026?



Latest PS News

Muhammad Awais (University of Swabi) reviews Paul Taylor's new book that uses ample photos of stunning fossils and a comprehensive overview of the entire scope of paleontology. It's the ideal introduction for anyone new to paleontology.

Interested in reviewing a book for *Priscum*?

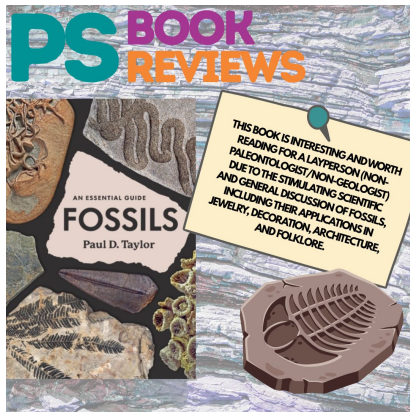
July update! A new list of books has been posted. See link below.

Reviewers receive a free review copy of newly published and forthcoming titles, in exchange for writing informative and informal reviews for our membership. Check [here](#) for the list of available books and contact Book Reviews Editor Phil Novack-Gottshall (pnovack-gottshall@ben.edu) if interested in reviewing one or more.

Paleo Society would love to share your wonderful paleontology photos on the homepage of our website and on social media for **#FossilFriday!** **Please submit your fossil photos early and often!**

Follow our many social media profiles for the most up-to-date announcements, opportunities, event details and more.

Submit your #FossilFriday photos [here!](#)





How is PS working for you?

Website Updates Coming to You!

The Communications Committee will be busy updating the PS website in the coming months. You may notice some changes! Please be patient as we refresh our website!

New Early Career Researcher Award for *Journal of Paleontology* and *Paleobiology*!

This award will be open to first authors who were students and postdoctoral researchers at time of initial submission. Papers may be co-authored, but the student should be the senior author. Early Career Researcher includes students and postdocs with a maximum of 3 years past PhD. Nominees will be chosen by members of the Editorial Board to reflect the diversity of topics in *Paleobiology*.

Papers are automatically considered when meeting eligibility criteria. The nomination criteria will be: Quality and originality of research, importance to immediate research community, importance to broader paleontology research community, and potential for paper to generate future research. In addition to the prestige of the award, the lead author of the winning paper will receive a one-year free membership to the Paleontological Society.

The first awards will be given in 2027! Information for the *Paleobiology* award [HERE](#). *Journal of Paleontology* information coming soon!

[Donate to Paleo Society!](#)

In Other News



Would Your Research be Affected by the Potential Reduction of Bears Ears or Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments?

Dear Colleague,

On July 13, the public comment period closed on the Office of Management and Budget's [proposed Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance](#) (Docket OMB-2026-0034). The response from the scientific community was substantial, and AIBS thanks everyone who submitted comments, shared analysis, or urged colleagues to act.

That was an important step. It was not the last one.

Almost half a million comments were filed, and those that have been publicly posted are overwhelmingly opposed. But OMB is under no obligation to change course, and it intends the final rule to take effect by **October 1, 2026** -- which means the window to influence the outcome is measured in weeks, not months -- and most congressional offices have heard very little from their constituents about this rule.

Why Congress, and Why Now

This represents a major overhaul of the rules governing every federal grant. It would let senior political appointees override independent peer reviewers, allow agencies to terminate active awards when priorities shift, and restrict the conferences, memberships, and publications through which research reaches the public. OMB concedes it could not quantify what any of this would cost.

Congress authorized these programs and appropriates the funds; this rule shifts control over how that money is spent toward the executive branch and away from the merit-based review Congress has long supported. A call from a member of Congress to the White House carries weight -- but it will not happen unless constituents ask.

The timing is critical: members are in their districts and states for most of August, when they are easiest to reach -- in person, at a town hall, or through a district office.

How to Take Action

1. Get up to speed. Spend a few minutes with the [AIBS resource page](#) on the proposed rule. It includes AIBS's formal comments to OMB, a number of helpful summaries of

what the rule would change, external analyses, and a shareable one-pager designed to be emailed to a congressional office or printed and handed to a staffer you meet with.

2. Call your members of Congress. [Look them up](#) and call the office using the phone script in the provided toolkit. If you reach voicemail, leave the message -- it still gets logged.
3. Email. Use our editable template letter to send a message to your Representative and both Senators. Personalize the letter -- a specific example from your lab, museum, field station, or department is worth more than any argument we can supply. And if you submitted comments to OMB, you can share those with their offices too.
4. Meet in district. Request a meeting with district staff, or attend a town hall and ask about the rule directly. Print the AIBS one-pager and leave it behind. If you can host a visit to your institution, offer it -- seeing federally funded research firsthand is persuasive in a way that email is not.

This rule would outlast the administration that wrote it. The mechanisms it would put in place could be used by any administration to reshape the nation's research enterprise for reasons that have nothing to do with scientific merit. That is worth a few minutes of your time.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of American science.

Sincerely,

Scott Glisson
AIBS CEO

Jyotsna Pandey
AIBS Community Programs Director

THE TOOLKIT

- [Template letter to send via email](#) -- editable, to personalize with your own examples
- [Phone script](#) -- what to say, what to ask, and what to do when you get voicemail
- [AIBS one-pager](#) -- attach to an email, or print for meetings



What's New in PS Journals?

Journal of Paleontology

- [Latest issue](#) of ***Journal of Paleontology***: Volume 100-Supplement S100 - April 2026 (Keep up with the latest in [FirstView articles!](#))

Paleobiology

- [Latest issue](#) of ***Paleobiology***: Volume 52 - Issue 2 - May 2026 (Keep up with the latest in [FirstView articles!](#))
- ***Paleobiology* is now a fully Gold Open Access journal!** Find out [here](#) how it is free to publish!

Elements of Paleontology

As always, *Elements* are free to publish for authors. Please see additional benefits to publishing [HERE](#).

Other journal submissions:

We would like to remind you about the opportunity to submit your research for a new Topical Collection (a new version of 'special issues' where articles are published as they are accepted) in the ***Journal of Paleolimnology***. We have updated the deadline to the end of August, for now, to allow for further submissions. The theme of the collection is **Furthering the relationship between palaeolimnology and conservation** and follows on from our session of the same name at the IPA-IAL Conference in October. All submissions are welcome, not just from those who presented/attended the session!

Please see below for the description and link:

<https://link.springer.com/collections/fgjbffhaej>

Palaeolimnology has a strong track record of successful application to conservation challenges and has proved a useful tool to inform various questions, from species reintroductions to habitat management and restoration. Despite this, there remains a disconnect between conservation practitioners and palaeolimnologists, leading to missed opportunities for better integration where the synergies of working together could lead to better environmental outcomes. We invite researchers to share best practice and case studies of co-produced research where palaeolimnology has been used to directly inform conservation practice, and the divide between research and practice has been successfully bridged. These case studies will be used to better

understand best practice for collaboration and provide guidance for improved palaeo-conservation integration.

Updated submission deadline: 31 August 2026

Please do not hesitate to contact me (benjamin.siggery@surrey.ac.uk) if you have any questions or would like to discuss the suitability of your article for the collection!

Submit to Priscum!

We invite submissions of short items for the above newsletter sections to be considered for Priscum! Please [send submissions](#) to our Paleo Society Communications team, due by the 1st of each month. Priscum is focused on sharing very brief announcements, key dates, and links to other pages with relevant resources, to streamline and improve communication with our membership.

Submit your fieldwork or museum [fossil and paleontologist photos](#) for **#FossilFriday!** Follow @PaleoSoc social media accounts for the most up-to-date announcements, opportunities, event details, and more on our [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Bluesky](#), and [Blog](#).

Submit to Priscum!



Contact Us:

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management@paleosoc.org

Connect with Us!

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Bluesky](#)

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