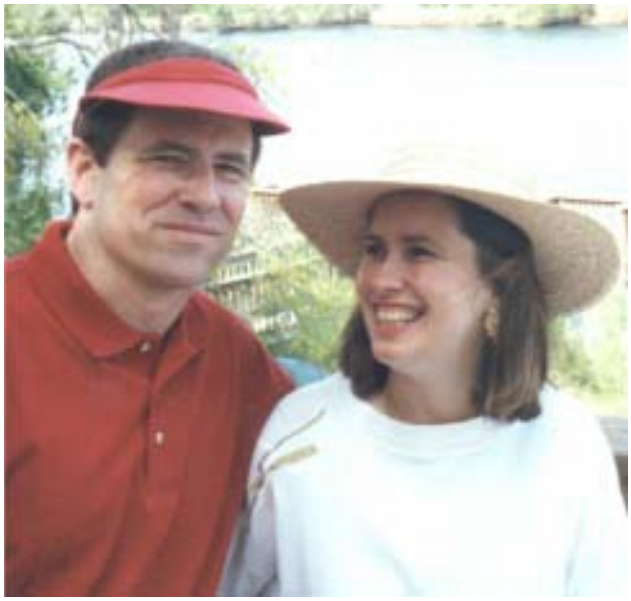
Ashley Allen is a science teacher at Oneonta High School in Oneonta, Alabama. He has been an avid fossil collector for many years, and currently serves as field trip coordinator for the Alabama Paleontological Society. Ashley discovered tetrapod trackways at the Union Chapel Mine in late 1999, and brought his findings to the attention of the APS. For Ashley, the Union Chapel Mine experience is part of what being a teacher is all about. "I try to convey to my science students the importance of communication in the scientific community," he says. "I want to be accurate in representing the principles the scientific enterprise is based on. Work done without proper communication is called a secret, not a discovery. I feel that any opportunity I get to show them how to use problem-solving skills, scientific reasoning, communication skills, and the ability to put things into a proper social and historical perspective is worth the effort."



Dr. T. Prescott Atkinson is a pediatric immunologist at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He is a native of Montgomery, Alabama and attended public school there before attending Tulane University on a Naval ROTC scholarship, graduating Magna cum Laude with a BS in Biology in 1975. He served six years on active duty in the Navy before entering the MD-PhD program at Emory University, graduating Magna cum Laude in 1987. He completed his pediatric residency at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Georgetown and a fellowship in Allergy and Immunology at the National Institutes of Health in 1992, after which he returned to take a full-time position as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at UAB. He is married (wife Miriam, in photo) and has three children. He became interested in fossils while a high school student growing up in Montgomery and continues to enjoy this very stimulating hobby.

Dr. Brian J. Axsmith received his PhD in botany from the University of Kansas in 1998. He is presently assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of South Alabama, where he was recently awarded the Arts and Sciences Junior Faculty Award for Excellence in Scholarship. His research centers on the evolution of plants from the Mesozoic Era, with a special interest in the evolution of conifers.

Dr. Ron Buta received a PhD in astronomy from the University of Texas at Austin in 1984. From 1984-1986 he was a postdoctoral fellow at the Australian National University in Canberra and worked at the Mount Stromlo Observatory. From 1986-1988 he returned as a post-doc to the University of Texas to work with Gerard and Antoinette de Vaucouleurs on the *Third Reference Catalogue of Bright Galaxies*. In 1989, he joined the faculty of the Department of Physics and Astronomy of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

Dr. Buta's main research interests lie in the morphology and dynamics of galaxies, particularly barred and ringed spiral galaxies. He is a member of the American Astronomical Society, and has authored or coauthored more than 90 research articles and two books. He has been a member of the Alabama Paleontological Society since 1997 (when it was formerly called the Birmingham Paleontological Society). As an astronomer, he finds it easy to relate to geology and paleontology because of the vast timespans of the various processes observed. He believes the story of life on Earth is as interesting as the story of the stars.

Dr. David L. Dilcher is a Graduate Research Professor in the Florida Museum of Natural History at the University of Florida. For 24 years, he was a Professor in Biology and Geology at Indiana University (currently Adjunct Professor). His research includes the history of CO_2 in relation to climate change in the past, the reproductive biology of flowering plants, the nature of the earliest flowering plants, and the historical diversity of flowering plants and their paleogeography. He began his work in Paleobotany as an undergraduate cutting and peeling coal balls. He has collected and worked with Coal Age plants in several mid-western states before working on the fossil plants associated with the trackways in Alabama. He is a past President of the Botanical Society of America, and has been named Honorary Professor of Jilin University and Nanjing University in China and a Corresponding Member of the Senckenberg Museum in Germany. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1989.

Prof. Dr. Hartmut Haubold is Professor of Paleontology and Head of the Geiseltalmuseum, Institute for Geological Sciences and Geiseltalmuseum, Martin Luther University, Halle, Germany. He received his diploma from Martin Luther University in 1965, and became Professor of Paleontology in 1992. His research and scientific interests include the ichnology of tetrapods, fossil "reptiles", dinosaurs, taxonomy, phylogeny, and ecology of Late Paleozoic - Mesozoic terrestrial environments.

Dr. G. Ed Hooks III is an Assistant Professor of Biology at Longwood University. He became interested in paleontology as a child, but took a serious interest in a career in paleontology after taking a comparative vertebrate anatomy class at Auburn University, where he received the formal part of his education in Pre-Veterinary Medicine/Zoology. During his time at Auburn, he was advised in his research by Dr. James L. Dobie and began to interact with other area paleontolotgists such as Drs. James Lamb (Red Mountain Museum), Brown Hawkins (Alabama Museum of Natural History), and David Schwimmer (Columbus State University, Georgia), who taught him much that was, and still is, not taught in Alabama colleges and universities. He received his PhD in biology from the University of Alabama in 1998, under the supervision of Drs. Douglas Jones and Richard L.Mayden. He served first as Collections Manager and later as Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology for the Alabama Museum of Natural History from 1999-2003, before moving to his current position.

Dr. Adrian P. Hunt was born in Portsmouth England. He was always interested in the past whether it was history, archeology or paleontology. The dinosaur renaissance of the 1970s finally enticed him into paleontology. He received a bachelor's degree from the University of Manchester in 1979. He came to the United States in 1980 to go to graduate school, first at New Mexico Tech (MS 1984) and then at the University of New Mexico (Ph.D. 1994).

After graduate school he worked at the University of Colorado at Denver and Mesalands Community College, where he founded the Mesalands Dinosaur Museum. His principal research interests are in late Paleozoic-late Mesozoic tetrapods (including dinosaurs) and their footprints. In carrying out this research he has visited over 50 museums on three continents. He has authored over 500 scientific publications, including several co-authored and co-edited books. He is currently the Executive Director of the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science.

Dr. Jim Lacefield lives in rural Colbert County near Tuscumbia and is a retired Adjunct Professor of Biology and Earth science at the University of North Alabama. He has a doctorate in science education from the University of Alabama, with major subject concentrations in biology and geology. He is the author of *Lost Worlds in Alabama Rocks: A Guide to the State's Ancient Life and Landscapes*, a popular-level summary of the geologic history of Alabama. He also writes geology and natural history articles for *Wild South* magazine and other periodicals on a regular basis.

Dr. David C. Kopaska-Merkel has a bachelor's degree in geology/biology from the College of William and Mary, and a Ph.D. in geology from the University of Kansas. His dissertation focused on development and evolution of trilobites from western Utah. David has worked for Shell Oil Co. in New Orleans, the University of Toronto, the Northeastern Science Foundation in Troy New York, and the Geological Survey of Alabama, where he has been since 1989. He has published research in paleontology, petroleum geology, coastal geology, hydrogeology, and carbonate geology. He has published extensively about carbonate rocks of the Smackover Formation, which is Alabama's biggest hydrocarbon producing unit. His paleontology publications include several studies of trilobite development and evolution, and several recent papers on fossil reefs at the surface in north Alabama and in the subsurface in south Alabama.

Allan J Lerner is a native of New York City. As a child he often visited the American Museum of Natural History, which sparked within him a life long interest in paleontology. Allan received a Master of Science degree in Communicative Disorders from the University of New Mexico in 1989. He now works professionally as a speech/language pathologist for the Albuquerque school district. His long time avocation of paleontology led him to become a research associate at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History in 2000. Allan is a self-taught ichnologist, with a principal interest in the Early Permian record of the American southwest. Paleozoic invertebrates, particularly arthropods, are another area of interest. He is a member of the Paleontological Society and the New Mexico Geological Society.

Terry A. Lott is a research assistant in the Paleobotany section of the Florida Museum of Natural History. He received his B. S. in Botany at the University of Florida. Growing up in Hollywood, Florida, Terry's interests in plants started at an early age while helping family members involved in growing oranges and mangoes, and with ornamental plant nurseries. While attending Broward Community College and University of Florida, Terry worked at the Fort Lauderdale Research Center, University of Florida's Botany, Forestry, and Entomology/Nematology Departments. He became involved with several projects associated with the biological control of aquatic weeds. He joined the museum staff in 1990, his interest in Paleobotany developing after taking a course taught by Dr. David Dilcher. Terry lives in Hawthorne, Florida with his wife Debbie and daughter Annie.

Dr. Spencer G. Lucas is a paleontologist and stratigrapher who specializes in the study of late Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and early Cenozoic vertebrate fossils and continental deposits, particularly in the American Southwest. Dr. Lucas has extensive field experience in the western United States as well as in northern Mexico, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Soviet Georgia and the People's Republic of China. He received his PhD in 1984 from Yale University, and has published more than 500 scientific articles, co-edited 14 books, and authored 3 books. He has 12 years of museum experience and 17 years of teaching experience at the university level. He is currently Curator of Paleontology and Geology, New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science. He is also a member of the Paleontological Society, Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, New Mexico Geological Society (honorary member), and the New Mexico Academy of Science (life member).

Dr. Anthony J. (Tony) Martin is a Senior Lecturer at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. He was born in Terre Haute, Indiana. He earned a B.S. in geobiology from St. Joseph's College in Indiana, a M.S. in geology from Miami University, Ohio, and a Ph.D. in geology from the University of Georgia. During his 14 years at Emory, he has taught courses on environmental geology, human and natural ecology, earth history, extinctions, and paleontology. He has also co-taught field courses in desert geology, dinosaurs, and modern and ancient tropical environments. His primary research interest is in ichnology, the study of traces left by organismal behavior in both modern and ancient environments, and in recent years he has taken an interest in tracking. He has published more than 80 abstracts and papers and presented at more than 50 professional meetings and public forums, including as an invited speaker at international symposiums. He is also the author of the textbook *Introduction to the Study of Dinosaurs* and is working on a trace fossil field guide to San Salvador Island (Bahamas).

Steven C. Minkin was a licensed professional geologist at the time of his death on 20 February 2004. From the time he was a young man, he loved to be in the outdoors. He enjoyed camping, spelunking, and hunting for arrowheads, artifacts, and fossils. After high school in Memphis, he went to the University of Tennessee and began a career in science. He earned a B.S. in Zoology and a Masters in Geology. Steve was fascinated with nature and was a life-long student of the natural sciences. He loved being a geologist because it gave him the opportunity to get outside of the office.As a professional geologist, Steve worked for many companies across the country. His work included exploration for energy companies and environmental oversite for national labs and military installations. He also was an Adjunct Professor of Geology at the University of Idaho and taught classes at night. Wherever Steve went he brought along his love and passion for science.

Dr. Jack Pashin received a Ph.D. in Geology from the University of Kentucky in 1990 and manages the Energy and Minerals Unit of the Geological Survey of Alabama. Jack's research focuses on coal geology and petroleum geology in the southern Appalachians and the northeastern Gulf of Mexico basin. He became interested in paleontology as a youth while scavenging Paleozoic fossils from stream valleys in northeastern Ohio. Jack has authored or co-authored more than 85 books, articles, and guidebooks on stratigraphy, structural geology, and paleontology and has received several awards recognizing his contributions. Dr. Pashin currently serves on the editorial boards of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists Bulletin and the International Journal of Coal Geology, is Past President of the Alabama Geological Society, and has been named an American Association of Petroleum Geologists Distinguished Lecturer.

Nick Pyenson is a graduate student in the Department of Integrative Biology and the Museum of Paleontology at the University of California, Berkeley. Born and raised in Canada, he graduated from high school in Cade, Louisiana, matriculated at Oxford College of Emory University, and finished with a B.S. magna cum laude in Biology at Emory University. Aside from his work on tetrapod ichnology at the Union Chapel Mine, Nick also conducted research on hominid paleoecology in Kenya as well as brain evolution in cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises). Since 2002, Nick has been at UC Berkeley, focusing on the ecologically related changes in body size and morphology that have occurred in cetaceans over the past 30 million years.

Bruce A. Relihan is current president of the Alabama Paleontological Society. He has extensively collected trackways from the Union Chapel Mine and has contributed many excellent specimens to the trackway database and to museums in Alabama and New Mexico. Bruce first became interested in paleontology as a boy through field trips with his father to collect fossils and geodes near his home town of Chapman, Kamsas. He attended Kansas State University and graduated in 1977 with a Bachelor's Degree in Horticulture. He worked in the retail and wholesale landscape and nursery industry until 1995, when he accepted his current position as Curator of Horticulture at the Birminghan Zoo.

Dr. Andrew K. Rindsberg has been studying the paleontology of Alabama for the Geological Survey of Alabama since 1989. Dr. Rindsberg has written numerous publications on Alabama geology, including field trip guidebooks and educational publications on fossils, and he is curator of the Survey's Paleontological Collection. Dr. Rindsberg's core areas are invertebrate paleoecology and ichnology. For seven years he coedited the Ichnology Newsletter with Alfred Uchman, helping to bring researchers on trace fossils together. Dr. Rindsberg graduated from Metairie Park Country Day School in metropolitan New Orleans (1971) and has degrees from Stanford University (1975), the University of Georgia (1983), and the Colorado School of Mines (1986), studying under Robert W. Frey and John E. Warme. He taught briefly at Auburn University and Southeastern Missouri State University before coming to the Geological Survey of Alabama.

Prof. Alfred Uchman was born in 1960 in southern Poland and graduated from the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. In 1990 he received his Ph.D. degree in geology from the same university. In 1996, he defended a habilitation thesis and in 2001, he received the professor degree. Currently, Prof. Uchman is director of the Institute of Geological Sciences of the Jagiellonian University, Kraków. His scientific interest is focused on different topics invertebrate ichnology of all ages and facies but especially on deep-sea facies. Prof. Uchman has carried out investigations in many countries of Europe and in Turkey and the U.S.A.