



UCMP is collaborating with Point Reyes National Seashore to launch a field monitoring program for fossil sites. Pictured here with a fossil whale found near Bolinas are: (Left to right) Erica Clites, Lillian Pearson (GeoCorps intern), Vincent Santucci (NPS, Geologic Resources Division) and Ben Becker (Point Reyes National Seashore).

UCMP and the National Parks

By Erica Clites

Since its founding, the UC Museum of Paleontology has collaborated with the National Park Service (NPS) and other land management agencies. UCMP faculty helped to establish several national parks, and current UCMP staff manage fossils from at least 47 national parks, as well as those from Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service lands. Since January 2014, Museum Scientist **Erica Clites** has been working with NPS scientist Angie Evenden of the Californian Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit on the UC campus. Funding from the NPS Pacific West Region launched several projects including completing a paleontological resource inventory for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). This inventory contains a summary of the scientific literature and a listing of UCMP, California Academy of Sciences, and NPS collections from the GGNRA's vast urban expanses.

This spring, the Bay Area hosted two important park-related gatherings, the first being *Science for Parks, Parks for Science: The Next Century* in March. UCMP staff presented a poster describing our history of collaborations with NPS as well as a new online portal that provides NPS staff with access to UCMP locality records for sites

within current park boundaries. The poster session was held in the courtyard of the Valley Life Sciences Building, and special tours of the UCMP collections were given for conference attendees. In April, the *George Wright Society* meeting for parks and protected areas was held in Oakland. Erica Clites presented a poster and gave two special tours of the UCMP collections.

Also in March, the UCMP, in close collaboration with Ben Becker at Point Reyes National Seashore, NPS Senior Geologist/Paleontologist Vincent Santucci, and UCMP Research Associate **Robert Boessenecker**, initiated a long-term monitoring program for fossils and fossil-bearing strata at Point Reyes. GeoCorps intern Lillian Pearson is conducting museum visits and fieldwork in order to build a list of localities within the park. The most vulnerable sites will be chosen for future monitoring.

Discover more about partnerships between UCMP and various parks at <http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/science/parks/index.php>.

Stay tuned for more about these exciting new projects from UCMP focused on the management of fossil resources on federal lands and related activities! 🦖

CalDay celebrates the Campanile and National Parks

When the tax filing deadline approaches in April, you know that it's almost time for ... yes, CalDay, UC Berkeley's annual campus-wide open house! This year CalDay fell on Saturday, April 18. For UCMP, this was its 39th open house, the first being in 1977.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the completion of the Campanile. The centennial celebration of the National Park Service's founding is also occurring this year so the museum highlighted these in both displays and lectures.

The title of the museum's display in the "Fishbowl" described its content nicely: *The Campanile and National Park Service Turn 100: A Century of Fossils*. Out in the second floor courtyard, UCMP again participated in a collaborative display with the other Berkeley Natural History Museums (BNHM). Here, plant and invertebrate fossils collected from four national park lands were exhibited.

UCMP Curator and Integrative Biology Professor **Kevin Padian** gave a parks-related

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Announcing our student awards

UCMP has been extremely fortunate to receive donations in the form of endowments from individuals dedicated to the support of graduate student training, research and fieldwork. Each year we use the earnings from these endowments to make research awards to our graduate students, and we are proud to announce the 2015–16 recipients and offer them congratulations!

From the Dorothy K. Palmer Fund:

Emily Orzechowski to support field work and isotopic analyses of molluscan assemblages in coastal units of southern California for temperature reconstructions during the last interglacial period.

Camilla Souto to visit the invertebrate zoology and paleobiology collections at the Natural History Museum in London to collect morphological data on echinoids.

From the Doris O. and Samuel P. Welles Fund:

Natalia Villavicencio to visit the Natural History Museum of Denmark and Natural History Museum in London to sample Quaternary megafaunal bone specimens for radiocarbon dating analyses.

From the Bill Berry Fund:

Caitlin Boas to support fieldwork in the Cretaceous Pierre Shale of South Dakota and geochemical analysis of morphologically diverse ammonite species.

From the Annie Alexander Fund:

Dori Contreras will receive a UCMP Fellowship to support her research on the Cretaceous flora of New Mexico's McRae Formation, focusing on analysis of trait characteristics and community structure and function.

UCMP Graduate Student Research Grants provide further support of the following students:

Caitlin Boas to support fieldwork in the Cretaceous Pierre Shale of South Dakota and geochemical analysis of morphologically diverse ammonite species.

Dori Contreras for field sampling and census projects in Cretaceous plant assemblages in the McRae Formation of New Mexico.

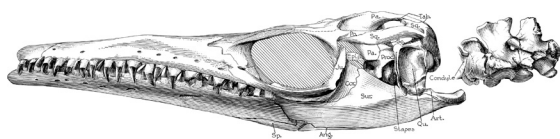
Camilla Souto to visit the invertebrate zoology and paleobiology collections at the Natural History Museum in London to collect morphological data on echinoids.

Shih-Yi (Winnie) Hsiung for pollen trap sample collecting in Clear Lake, CA, and laboratory analyses of plant communities across the last glacial maximum.

Rosemary Romero for laboratory experiments in temperature and salinity ranges of *Ulva*, a significant contributor to algal blooms in rocky intertidal zones.

Claire Englander Student Prize

The Claire Englander Student Prize is awarded annually to a student making outstanding contributions to UCMP in collections, archives, fossil preparation, outreach, or in other areas of service. This year's prize goes to graduate student **Jeff Benca**. Jeff helps immensely in many areas of the UCMP, from highlighting his own paleobotany research in public lectures to staffing tables at CalDay and other UCMP Friends and donor events. Jeff's service goes beyond UCMP, extending to the broader Berkeley Natural History Museum community. For example, he has presented his research at Botany Lunch and has given a Jepson Herbaria Workshop. 🐛



Saluting our undergraduate students

Many of the UCMP projects described in this and previous newsletters benefit tremendously from undergraduate student assistants. Undergraduate students volunteer, earn credits from the Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program (URAP), or are employed at the museum in a part-time capacity. As we complete the end of another academic year, we salute our awesome undergraduates for all their many contributions, including helping out on CalDay (see cover story)!

McKittrick project

Eric Holt, Melissa Mast, Elyanah Posner, and Sarah Tulga. Special acknowledgement goes to Elyanah for helping coordinate and train the URAPs in curation. Other URAPS and student volunteers participating on the project over this past academic year include **Michael Tom, Kristy Cheng, Danielle Heinz, Michele Maybee, Patrick Sysiong, and Patrick Garcialuna.**

Other collections and archive and projects

Julie Ding organized 35mm slides from the collections of **Sam Welles** and **Joe Gregory** for the UCMP archives.

Faris Katkhuda georeferenced invertebrate localities, focusing on California sites and writing protocols to be used for our upcoming NSF digitization grant (see Tidbits).

Eric Holt learned a range of techniques in the acid lab and helped **Mark Goodwin** process matrix from Ethiopia.

Jonah Phipps helped update the UCMP fossil-insects-in-amber database and also helped out Peter Oboyski on CalDay with the Essig Museum's entomology display.

Armita Manafzadeh worked with **Pat Holroyd** on CT scans of early Eocene mammals and with **Jessica Bean** on the Understanding Global Change project.

Chris Everett worked with **Elizabeth Ferrer** and Pat on morphometrics of early Eocene primate teeth. 🐛



Congratulations!

To the following on completion of their dissertation research and the earning of their Ph.D.s this spring and summer:

Jessie Atterholt (Lindberg and M. Wake Labs), *A study of the influence of post-natal development on avian evolution*

Elizabeth Ferrer (Padian Lab), *The importance of phylogeny in temporal and regional diversity and disparity dynamics*

Jenny Hofmeister (Caldwell Lab), *The behavior and foraging ecology of key marine predators in California*

Jenna Judge (Lindberg Lab), *Patterns of specialization in the deep sea at the individual, ecosystem, and evolutionary level*

Welcome Marwa, a Visiting Research Scholar from Egypt

Marwa Wafeeq Ibrahim El-Faramawi's home institution is the Ain Shams University in Cairo, Egypt, where she is a lecturer in paleobotany. After receiving a bachelor's degree in botany, Marwa researched the life strategies in mosses for her Master's thesis and, for her Ph.D. dissertation, she studied the early Oligocene fossil wood flora of the Cairo Petrified Forest. After navigating through all the required procedures and with the help and support of UCMP Director **Charles Marshall**, Marwa started a one-year Visiting Research Scholar appointment in the UCMP in April. She will be working with Assistant Professor and Curator **Cindy Looy** and Senior Museum Scientist **Diane Erwin** and participating in several research projects, gaining hands-on experience working with museum collections, and learning about curatorial practices. Marwa has already begun one of the projects with Diane to re-study, review and investigate the fossil flora of the Moreno Formation. However, her research interests go beyond the study of fossil wood as she is eager to learn more



Marwa Wafeeq Ibrahim El-Faramawi

about all other types of fossil plant specimens. Marwa is extremely happy, honored and proud to be part of the UCMP and UC Berkeley communities and the UCMP is delighted to be hosting her.

UCMP Education and Outreach Fund

The *new UCMP Education and Outreach Fund* ensures that UCMP education programs reach beyond the university to as broad an audience as possible. Inspired by the guidance and generosity of Assistant Director Emeritus **Judy Scotchmoor**, resources from the fund will support UCMP staff and students to be engaged in those efforts and maintain and expand effective educational programs and resources. These include the award-winning *Understanding Evolution* and *Understanding Science* websites. You can make a direct, charitable donation to the **UCMP Education and Outreach Fund** via Berkeley's secure [Give to Cal website](#).

UCMP at the WAVP

UCMP was well represented at the Western Association of Vertebrate Paleontology conference at CSU Stanislaus in Turlock, CA, this past February. Oral presentations were given by grad students **Marianne Brasil** and **Tesla Monson** of the Hlusko Lab; UCMP Curator and



Marianne Brasil and Tesla Monson at the WAVP in Turlock.

Professor of Integrative Biology (IB) **Kevin Padian**; and UCMP Research Associate **Ralph Molnar**. A number of other past and present members of the UCMP community were coauthors on both oral presentations and posters. These included Curator and Associate Professor of IB **Leslea Hlusko**, Museum Scientist Emeritus **J. Howard Hutchison**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Geological Sciences at CSU Fullerton **Jim Parham**, and Assistant Professor in the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Oregon **Samantha Hopkins**.

New UCMP grant!

The UCMP has been awarded a new four-year NSF Advancing Digitization of Biological Collections program grant for "Documenting Fossil Marine Invertebrate Communities of the Eastern Pacific: Faunal Responses to Environmental Change over the last 66 million years." Collaborating institutions include the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, University of Washington, University of Oregon, the LA County Museum, the Museum of the Earth, and the Cooper Center. 🐾



CANIS DIRUS
University of California Museum of Paleontology™
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lecture on the ancient ecosystem represented by the rocks in Petrified Forest National Park. Museum Scientist **Erica Clites** also gave a park-themed lecture on the monitoring of fossil resources in national parks. The fossils that occupy five floors of the Campanile were described by undergraduate **Eric Holt** in a lecture with the great title *Game of Bones: Dire Wolves and Other Denizens of Berkeley's Campanile*.

A fourth lecture was presented by UCMP Curator and Integrative Biology Professor **Tony Barnosky**. It was based on his new book: *Dodging Extinction: Power, Food, Money, and the Future of Life on Earth*. Following his talk, Tony sold and signed copies of his book.

Other activities included the ever popular “Fun with Fossils,” in which kids both young and old can look for vertebrate microfossils; tours of the museum’s collections (the free tickets for these are usually gone within the first two or three hours of the morning); and sales of UCMP tee shirts. This year we brought back *Tyrannosaurus rex*, but also had a new design featuring a dire wolf skull. Since this is the Campanile’s centennial, the dire wolf was an easy choice (there are more bones of dire wolves in the Campanile than of any other vertebrate).

Even though the Valley Life Sciences Building is probably the single most visited building on CalDay, many participants felt that attendance was down from previous years. It could have been the beautiful weather—there were just too many other things to do on such a nice day. Nevertheless, UCMP’s public lectures, displays, and activities proved to be as popular as ever! 🦕

— Dave Smith

Clockwise from top: Eric begins his talk on fossils stored in the Campanile. Emily and Liz in the courtyard with fossils from national parks. Holly, Renske, and Jenny have fun at the tee shirt table. Jeff in the Fishbowl. Nick, Michele, and Erica field questions in the Fishbowl. Caitlin assists fossil hunters at “Fun With Fossils.” Natalia and Armita in the courtyard.



Camilla Souto



Camilla Souto



Lucy Chang



Camilla Souto



Camilla Souto



Camilla Souto



Lucy Chang

UCMP's Spring Break 2015 field trip

After organizing a successful [2014 Spring Break field trip](#) to the Kettleman Hills and Death Valley, Assistant Professor **Seth Finnegan**—assisted by Assistant Professor and paleobotanist **Cindy Looy**—made it two in a row, with an expedition to more southern California localities this past March.

This Spring Break trip was more structured than the previous year's; the trip itself was the focus of a spring semester seminar in which grad students could enroll. In weekly meetings leading up to the trip, pairs of grad students researched the formations and regions that the group would visit and gave short presentations on those areas.

A total of 16 people—curators, staff, and grad students—participated, though four did have to return to Berkeley early because of other obligations. The group, filling three rented SUVs and two private vehicles, left Berkeley on March 21. The first two nights were spent at UC Santa Barbara's wonderful [Sedgwick Reserve](#), then two at the Yorba Linda home of Integrative Biology grad student Shawn Shirazi, two nights camping in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, and the last night camping in Painted Canyon in the Mecca Hills. On March 28, the group left there and drove back to Berkeley.

Localities visited included (1) exposures of the Monterey Formation along Arroyo Seco Road south of Soledad containing the fossils of pea crabs, bivalves, gastropods, and brachiopods; (2) more Monterey Formation exposures at

Gaviota State Park and El Capitan State Beach west of Santa Barbara where the group observed fossil fish and algae; (3) Piru Gorge, just west of I-5 and south of Tejon Pass, where an attempt was made to relocate plant localities reported by UCMP alum Daniel Axelrod; (4) road cuts just east of Piru Gorge and I-5 exhibiting some beautiful sedimentary structures; (5) several locations on both the north and south shores of Newport Bay (yet more Monterey Formation); (6) many spots along Fish Creek Wash in the southeast corner of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park where flash flood deposits, turbidites, sediments deposited out on a vast delta, and an underwater landslide were on display; (7) a Pleistocene lakebed (desert today) east of Anza-Borrego, now littered with the shells of bivalves and gastropods; (8) a few stops along the shores of the Salton Sea, one being mud volcanoes in a lot next to a geothermal plant; and (9) Painted Canyon in the Mecca Hills where movement along the San Andreas Fault has created some interesting geology.

Seth and Cindy are already pondering where to go next year. Odds are that it will be the Basin and Range of Nevada and Utah.

For a more detailed account of the field trip and many more photos, see the story online at www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/about/ucmpnews/15_06/fieldtrip15_06.php. 📷

— Dave Smith

Moving on: Progress with the USGS collections

After three years of working on the NSF-funded USGS collections rehousing project, we are nearing the end, but in reality, curation will continue as the collection gets used and properly stored. We are finished rehousing almost 90% of the entire collection, with 52 of the 60 new steel cabinets and drawers filled with fossils! Undergraduate student assistants (**Gina Hwang** and **Alexis Williams**) will continue to organize the remaining Pleistocene and Holocene specimens this summer. Seventy empty original cabinets were moved out recently to make space for cabinets of McKittrick fossils that will be moved to our secure, off-site facility in Richmond this summer. Other students who assisted with the project this year included: **Faris Katkhuda**, **Dianne Quiroz**, **James Saulsbury**, **Monica Theibault** as well as recent graduate **Michael Reyes**.

At least a third of the UCMP-USGS collection at our off-site museum collections facility is Miocene in age. For most of the Cenozoic epochs, fossils from the different formations were separated when UCMP received the collection. For the Miocene, we have retained the original age assignments of early, middle or late Miocene. Museum professionals never want to lose any information when rehousing a collection. The decision to keep these original age designations was made with the goal to organize the collection so it is more useful to researchers. Dividing the localities and curating the fossils within at this finer scale required additional time and attention, but will be worth it according to invertebrate paleontologists familiar with the collection.

During the 2014–15 school year, UC undergraduate research assistants, **Ken Gourley**, **Kara James**, **Joan Li** and **Holly Seyler** helped photograph and rehouse Mesozoic and Cenozoic fossils. A new zooming feature in CalPhotos allows the user to upload high resolution versions of all project photos. Check it

see [USGS](#) on page 6



Cooper Center director Jere Lipps (left) with Dave Smith, Jeff Benca, and Seth Finnegan at the Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve.



Ashley Poust, Emily Orzechowski, and Dori Contreras measure a section at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

UCMP visitors, Spring 2015

This past semester the museum continued to welcome researchers, students visitors, and UCMP alumni to the collections, including those participating in the Bill Clemens Oral History Project. For a list of visitors from the entire 2014–15 academic year, see www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/about/ucmpnews/15_06/visitors15_06.php.

J. David Archibald, San Diego State University
Annalisa Berta, San Diego State University
Lowell Dingus, New York, NY
Marisol Montellano, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Mexico City
Nancy Simmons, American Museum of Natural History
Anne Weil, Oklahoma State University
Zhe-Xi Luo, University of Chicago
Don Lofgren, Raymond Alf Museum
Greg Wilson, University of Washington
David Polly, University of Indiana
Jessica Theodor, University of Calgary
Katharine Loughney, University of Michigan
Pavel Gol'din, Museum of the Southern Jutland, Gram, Denmark
Mairin Bailisi, University of California, Los Angeles
Samantha Penrice, University of Lincoln, Lincoln, United Kingdom
Tracy Thompson, University of California, Davis
Mark Blois, University of California, Davis
Ken Angielczyk, Field Museum of Natural History
Stephanie Smith, University of Washington
Chris Shaw, George C. Page Museum
Fred Croxen, Arizona Western College
Leonardo Avilla, University of Florida
Dimila Motha, Museu Nacional, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro
Nick Famoso, University of Oregon
Jason Head, University of Nebraska
Jonathan Marcot, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Kaitlin Maguire, University of California, Merced
Julia Sankey, California State University, Stanislaus
Jake Biewer, California State University, Stanislaus
Janis Basuga, California State University, Stanislaus
Francisco Palacios, California State University, Stanislaus
Kari Prassack, Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument
Benn Breeden, University of Texas-Austin
Josh Lively, University of Texas-Austin
Adam Marsh, University of Texas-Austin
Travis Park, Monash University
Russell and Sylvia Bartley, Fort Bragg, CA
Joyce Chery, University of California, Berkeley
Cynthia and David Schraer, volunteers at Lake Clark National Park & Preserve
Elizabeth Petsios, University of Southern California
Adriana Rizzo, University of Chicago
Also in residence:
Yael Edelman-Furstenburg, Israel Geological Survey
Marwa Wafeeq Ibrahim El-Faramawi, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt

FRIENDS OF UCMP

We would like to welcome the following new or renewing members to our Friends of the UCMP:

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Gigi Babcock and Ralph W. Miller III
Robert and Dede Glass
Donald Madsen

Sustaining

Caitlin Boas
Sara ElShafie
Steven Rocchi
Harold and Cecile Weaver

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Diane Thatcher
Susumu Tomiya

Print copies of UCMP News are going extinct!

UCMP News will be moving to a digital-only format in 2016, so please be sure that we have a current e-mail address for you. Downloadable PDF versions of the newsletter will still be available on the UCMP website. To provide an e-mail address, or to confirm an existing one, please contact Chris Mejia at cmejia@berkeley.edu.

USGS from page 5

out for yourself on the CalPhotos site (<http://tinyurl.com/usgsmpphotos>)! We also have a working draft of the Citizen Science module and soon you will be able to help us identify and count fossils from each USGS locality! Details to follow on future blog posts on www.ucmp.berkeley.edu. 📷

— Erica Clites

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Saluting our staff

The end of the academic year is an appropriate time for reflection on the many accomplishments of our UCMP students, faculty, and staff. This issue contains highlights of degrees finished, awards received, and milestones achieved. The contributions made by both graduate and undergraduate students to the UCMP can't be overstated and their tireless work on many grant-funded projects supervised by UCMP staff are part of the secret to our success. Under the guidance of Museum Scientist **Erica Clites**, nearly complete rehousing of the former USGS fossil collections has been achieved with support from an NSF collections improvement grant. Under the guidance of Senior Museum Scientist **Pat Holroyd**, curatorial progress has been made on McKittrick tar seep fossils with support from an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant. Many of the McKittrick fossils are stored in the Campanile (Sather Tower) whose centennial is being celebrated this year (see the [February](#)

2015 issue of *UCMP News*).

The UCMP will receive two new collections-based grants this year to support digitization of our fossils under the NSF Advancing Digitization of Biological Collections (ADBC) program. Paleobotanist **Diane Erwin** is the lead UCMP contributor on a fossil insect PEN to make the UCMP amber collection more web-accessible through digitized images. A new four-year ADBC-TCN grant awarded to the UCMP will allow us to digitize Cenozoic invertebrate fossils. The project will involve a wide swath of UCMP faculty, collections and education and outreach staffs, and seven west coast/one eastern museum partners. Please stay tuned for updates as these new grants get underway later this year!

Finally, as Director of the UCMP I've had an opportunity to work with all our outstanding museum staff and I want to thank two members from the education and outreach team who will be leaving us this summer to pursue the

next chapters in their lives. **Dave Smith**, graphic designer, will be retiring after 37+ years of service at UC Berkeley, and **Josh Frankel**, webmaster and artist, will be pursuing opportunities as a freelancer. Their artistic and technical work on two of our popular award-winning websites, *Understanding Evolution* and *Understanding Science*, has directly contributed to the success of these sites. They will be missed, but we have not lost them completely, as they plan to continue making contributions to the museum in other ways. If you are a fan of *Understanding Evolution* and *Understanding Science*, or other UCMP education and outreach projects, please consider giving to our new UCMP Education and Outreach Fund to help ensure our educational efforts continue to reach beyond the university to as broad an audience as possible.

Sincerely,
Charles Marshall

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Who is UCMP?

Director: Charles Marshall

Assistant Directors:

Mark Goodwin Lisa White

Curators:

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Roy Caldwell Cindy Looy
William Clemens* Charles Marshall
Seth Finnegan Kevin Padian
Carole Hickman* James Valentine*
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David Lindberg*

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Admin. Assistant: Chris Mejia

Museum Scientists:

Erica Clites Ken Finger
Diane Erwin Patricia Holroyd

Education & Public Outreach:

Josh Frankel David K. Smith
Trish Roque Anna Thanukos

Edited by Lisa White; layout & graphics by David K. Smith

For the broader UCMP community, visit the UCMP website: www.ucmp.berkeley.edu; Understanding Evolution: evolution.berkeley.edu; and Understanding Science: www.understandingscience.org

*emeritus

Dave Smith to retire

It's with a tinge of sadness that we inform you that this newsletter will be **Dave Smith's** last one as the graphic designer for the UCMP. After a 37-year employment history at UC Berkeley, the last 19 with the UCMP, Dave has decided to take the retirement plunge. Dave's contributions to UCMP span education, outreach, and public programs, and his enthusiasm for and interest in museum history and archives resulted in invaluable assistance on many collections projects.

Within the UCMP family, retirement rarely means goodbye. We often see our new retirees in volunteer roles, and we hope that Dave will visit again to help us with museum exhibits projects and to come on the occasional field trip! We look forward to celebrating Dave's contributions to the UCMP in the coming months and congratulate him on his much-deserved retirement. 🦖



Colleen Whitney

Dave at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, 2009, sporting a UCMP tee shirt (standard attire) with his artwork on it.