

**International Paleolimnology Association (IPA)
Annual Business Meeting
Lanzhou University, August 7th, 2015**

John Smol (JS), Chair of the IPA, called the meeting to order at 16:45 PM (China Time).

IPS 2015 Lanzhou

JS congratulated the Lanzhou organizing committee for a very successful conference, which culminated in 308 registered participants. With a ratio of ~2:1 local versus international delegates the conference was highly successful in promoting paleolimnology in Asia.

New initiatives at the IPS2015 in Lanzhou included the Early Career Researcher (ECR) and Aquatic Transitions workshops. The ECR workshop had 30-35 participants and included short talks from John Smol (Career Choices) and Mark Brenner (Publishing) and breakout sessions on writing manuscripts, research/teaching careers, writing funding applications, work/study abroad. The format included pre-organised academic/post-doc/postgraduate panels with prompts and an informal question/answer format. The student feedback was very positive. Aquatic Transitions is a PAGES working group that focuses on human impacts on lake ecosystems and evidence for past regime shifts. As a follow-up to the first meeting in the UK in April, the 30-35 participants were provided with overviews of the new PAGES scientific structure as it moves under Future Earth, as well as the focus of the working group itself. Some time was dedicated to reviewing progress on a suite of proposed 'state of the science' publications presented by Nathalie Dubois, Jean-Philippe Jenny, John Dearing and Peter Gell, as well as data base development, presented by Rick Battarbee and Jean-Philippe. The first step towards the development of a local chapter of Aquatic Transitions offers promise for regional synthesis of human impact on Chinese lake systems.

Two post-conference field excursions were facilitated by the local organizers, 1. Silk Road (4-day and 6-day) and 2. Qinghai Lake. The excursions were very well subscribed with 55 participants attending the Silk Road excursion and 16 participants visiting Qinghai. There was a 50:50 balance on both trips of Chinese and non-Chinese participants.

Chair's report

JS emphasized that as the IPA only meets every 3 years at the symposia the Executive Committee needs feedback and approval of important decisions.

IPA Elections

JS reminded the delegates that IPA is run by volunteers, with the Executive Committee composed of elected, ex-officio and members of the symposium local organizing committee. Membership of the committee is decided through election and rotation of the IPS local committee. Following the end of the business meeting, IPS 2012 coordinator Andy Henderson stood down and was replaced on the Executive Committee by Lanzhou local organizers Fahu Chen and Ji Shen.

Current elected representatives include John Smol (Chair), Catherine Dalton (Vice-chair),

to stand for election again. No new nominations/challenges were received during the conference or at the annual business meeting. JS asked for a show of hands to endorse their re-election. All three were re-elected with a show of hands from the membership. No objections were raised.

Therefore the IPA Executive Committee for the next three years is composed of:

- John Smol, Chair
- Catherine Dalton, Vice Chair
- Virginia Panizzo, Early Career Member
- Helen Bennion, Treasurer (*ex officio*)
- Rick Battarbee, Awards (Keeper of the Die!) *ex officio*
- Mark Brenner, Editor, J. Paleolimnology (JOPL), *ex officio*
- Tom Whitmore, Editor JOPL and Listserv, *ex officio*
- Fahu Chen, co-organiser of IPS 2015
- Ji Shen, co-organiser of IPS 2015
- Chairs of IPS 2018 Stockholm Local Organising Committee; namely Richard Bindler, Malin Kylander, and Dan Hammarlund

JS again thanks the executive committee for their dedicated work, especially the retiring members of the committee.

Financial Report

The financial report was compiled by Helen Bennion (HB). HB reported that after IPS Lanzhou there will potentially be a healthy balance of ~15-20K £ in the IPA account. This money is generated via a symposium registrant fee and helps maintain an emergency IPA fund and enables payment of IPA awards. The Lanzhou local organizing committee generously offered to contribute to the 2015 Lifetime Awards, so after payment of minor sundries there will potentially be a balance of ~20K.

The Executive Committee is looking at these monies, which could be used to:

- Target monies to students
- Reduce conference student fee
- Target more money for students from developing countries (requires cover for travel, subsistence and conference registration)
- Invited lecturers
- Schedule add-on conference workshops (e.g. ECR) or courses (e.g. 'r').

Venue for the 2018 International Paleolimnology Symposium

JS reported that a strong proposal was submitted by colleagues in Sweden for IPS 2018. A short PowerPoint was presented by Dr. Wenxin Ning from Lund University. It is proposed that the symposium will be held in Stockholm, the home of the Nobel Prize. The symposium will be co-organized by Umeå (Richard Bindler), Stockholm (Malin Kylander) and Lund (Dan Hammerlund) Universities.

The 2018 venue was enthusiastically agreed to with a show of hands.

Joint meet with Limnogeology

Proposals have been received from the International Association of Limnogeology (IAL) Executive to have a joint meeting with IPA in 2018. Andy Cohen (University of Arizona; Committee member) commented that, as Limnogeology is on a 4-year conference cycle and IPA on a 3-year cycle, the meetings overlap every 12 years. The last overlap was in 2003 and we

by 40% in terms of participants and therefore a joint meeting could only be positive. Limnogeology was prepared to change their meeting cycle to 3 years to form a joint meeting with IPA in 2018.

The Executive Committee of IPA was given approval to pursue a joint 2018 IPA and IAL Meeting by a show of hands

Proposed New IPA Awards

The 2009 IPS in Guadalajara saw the commencement of the IPA Lifetime Achievement Awards, whereas the Service Awards commenced at IPS 2012 in Glasgow. The Executive Committee is considering a range of new IPA awards. The Chair requested membership approval to look at potential awards and to develop structures and criteria for these awards. JS noted it was unlikely all three awards would be approved, but a show of hands would give the executive the endorsement needed to at least discuss these potential new awards.

- Teaching and Mentoring
- Outstanding young researcher
- Best paper published in previous 3 years, possibly restricted to being authored by a young researcher

JS noted a key factor prompting a potential new award was that IPA currently had awards for starting researchers (student awards) and then for retiring researchers, but we had no way of acknowledging relatively young or mid-career researchers (e.g. 40 years old or so).

All awards were approved, in principle, by a show of hands. The Executive Committee thanked the membership for their endorsement of the proposed new awards and will consider the criteria for these awards in the next year.

Proposed IPA Working Group Endorsement

Endorsement of working groups can help with recognition and possible funding applications. JS offered an example of a group, the Working Group on the Tibetan Plateau research over the last 200 years. JS asked the IPA membership to give approval to the Committee to develop guidelines (e.g. how, what, who) for working group endorsement. PAGES already has a broad topic system in place and this format could be followed with a more paleolimnological focus. Rick Battarbee commented that PAGES already includes a paleolimnology working group (on Aquatic Transitions) so IPA could endorse this group and thus avoid repetition. IPA-approved working groups could then potentially deliver workshops at IPS Symposia.

Agreed by show of hands

Proposed IPA Invited Lecture – Historical Review

A proposal was received to have a Plenary Historical Review Lecture, which could be a named lecture honoring pioneers in the field, and the lecturer would review some historical paleolimnology work that has contemporary relevance. The invited lecturer's expenses would be paid by the IPA and she/he would be invited to submit the review to the *Journal of Paleolimnology* (JOPL). JS suggested a few examples: Ed Deevey – Stress, Strain, Stability, Ted Brown - fossil pigments, David Frey – Cladocera.

Agreed by show of hands

Other Issues

The first International Paleolimnology Symposium (IPS) was held in 1967. The 2006 IPS in Duluth saw the formation of the IPA Executive Committee and the first elected Chair, Rick Battarbee. Other bodies have more formalization with only a National vote as opposed to membership vote. JS responded that the IPA was formally constructed as an idea at the Helsinki (2003) IPS and many discussions have taken place at the Executive Committee level on this topic, but the consensus to date has been a preference for informality with some structure. A more formal structure would require fee collection, bank accounts and deliverables. Currently, anyone can join the Paleo Listserver, attend the symposia and thus is automatically a member of the IPA.

Should the IPA do more work to influence policy makers, for example with position papers issued by the Executive Committee?

JS - Working with policy makers is one of the goals in the IPA constitution – “facilitate opportunities for strategic thinking and planning”. However, the main role of the IPA is to deliver the IPA symposia every three years. The Executive Committee is also talking about developing more materials for public dissemination.

JS - To date, the preference has been for individuals to speak on particular issues in their own name, as a member of the IPA. The Executive cannot speak for the entire international community on particular topics.

Communications

The Executive Committee will continue to update the IPA website and Facebook page. The IPA constitution and Annual IPA Business Meeting minutes can be found there. Please direct any additional digital suggestions to the elected members John Smol, Catherine Dalton or Virginia Panizzo.

Paleolimnology Listserver Report

The Paleolimnology Listserver is managed by Tom Whitmore (TW). Tom controls the list traffic by eliminating a lot of spam material and selects a range of highly relevant emails to send out to the List, which is a laborious task. JS asked everyone present to subscribe to the Listserver to receive news items, job notices. JS asked the membership to formally thank Tom Whitmore for the excellent job he does with the Listserv, noting it is a critical component of our association.

Applause from the membership

Journal of Paleolimnology (JOPL) Report (Mark Brenner MB and Tom Whitmore TW)

MB described how JOPL commenced in 1987 and had its 1st issue in 1988. MB and TW are co-editors of the journal. The editorial team had a meeting the previous evening. MB invited the membership to keep the papers coming in. He formally thanked the reviewers who volunteer their time and maintain the high quality of the Journal. MB acknowledged the work of Sherestha Saini (Springer) who was present throughout the conference. MB presented journal statistics, which show that two papers are accepted for every one paper that is rejected by JOPL. Article downloads have been on the order of 90-120K per year over the last 4 years. The Journal Impact Factor is holding steady at ~2. There is some concern at the moment about the current slow flow of submissions, so IPA members should note that there are opportunities now for faster publications. There have also been some concerns about the slow rate of the review process, however new procedures will be implemented after the IPS2015. There have been few edited special issues over time and the editors are interested in hearing proposals for special issues. MB commented that there have been many great papers in Lanzhou and he

The JOPL board proposed to make an award for the best student paper published in JOPL in forthcoming symposia. MB asked the membership for approval.

Agreed by a show of hands

MB congratulated the IPA Lifetime Achievement Awardees on behalf of JOPL and said that he will be in touch to publish their reviews in JOPL.

MB also reminded the members to send their lake core details to Rick Battarbee for inclusion in the Lake Cores (www.lakecores.ucl.ac.uk) meta-database.

JS reminded the membership about the Developments in Paleolimnology Research (DEPR) book series which has seen three new books published since the last IPA meeting on Climate Change, XRF and contaminants. JS asked members who wish to edit/author a book or monograph in this series to please contact him. There have been 169,890 downloads of DEPR books between 2005 and 2015. For example, Birks et al (2012) has had ~25K downloads of the entire book.

Springer Student Book Prizes

The Springer IPA student awards started in the 2003 IPS in Helsinki. Sherestha Saini from Springer New York office was present at the meeting all week and was at the Business Meeting.

JS invited Virginia Panizzo (VP) (the IPA Early Career Researcher and organizer of the judging for the IPS 2015 awards) to announce the winners of the Springer Book Prize for the best oral paper and best poster presentation. VP thanked the judges for their help in adjudicating these awards, the student presenters, the highly commended, the runners up and the award winners.

Poster Award

Runners up: Alicja Bonk, Tao Jianshuang

Winner: Yu Chen, Capital Normal University, Beijing

Title: The sedimentary process and mechanism of varves from Kusai Lake in the Hoh Xil area, Northern Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau

Oral Award

Runners up: Graham Mushet, Yanjie Zhao

Winner: Heather Moorhouse, University of Nottingham

Title: Landscape-scale palaeolimnology in lakes of the Windermere catchment to identify drivers of limnological change from the 19th century

VP reminded the IPA student members that she is their Early Career Researcher representative and invited suggestions and/or questions from the membership during the next IPA term.

VP also thanked Springer for their provision of these awards.

Other Business

The IPA Executive Committee is always happy to hear suggestions for future symposia venues.

No email contact list for delegates has been supplied with conference proceedings and a delegate list will not be published on the IPA website (privacy issues). Contact details are however included in the abstract booklet.

How can IPA expand participation of colleagues in parts of Africa and Asia? JS outlined that this item is regularly discussed by the Executive Committee. Realistically, for participants to attend they will need the registration, travel and accommodation costs funded. So for example, with even a modest ~2K USD each for five people to attend, this would wipe out 10K of the IPA emergency buffer fund. Andy Cohen suggested that the IPA use some money to webcast the meeting – so that individuals could attend online. JS commented that many people might not be happy with online presentations (as many may be unpublished and preliminary data), but would be happy to explore this with the committee.

JS suggested that as a minimum the Lifetime Achievement Awardee lectures could possibly be captured on video.

Finally JS thanked again the local organizing committee for putting together such a successful meeting, which saw many wonderful projects and generated many warm feelings. Fahu Chen made a presentation to Jiawu Zhang and Cheng Zhao to pay particular thanks for their very hard work and that of the many volunteers and other people making the conference such a success.

The organizers were thanked by enthusiastic applause.

JS also thanked the delegates for attending IPS 2015 and the Executive Committee for their contributions.

The meeting adjourned at ~6:00 PM

Minutes recorded by Catherine Dalton (Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick)