

# The Eastern Section of the Society for Sedimentary Geology ~ ES-SEPM ~ Fall 2004 Newsletter

## President's Column

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Dear Colleagues –

I am writing as the first President of the newly rejoined Eastern Section of SEPM (ES-SEPM). At the last business meeting of the NE and SE SEPM sections, held at the 2004 NE-SE GSA meeting in Tysons Corner, Virginia, it was decided to merge the two sections into the ES-SEPM. Both the NE and SE sections have recently suffered periods of inactivity so we are joining forces in an attempt to invigorate and resume the Section's activity.

My name is Bosiljka Glumac. I am an Associate Professor of Geology at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. I came to the United States in 1991 from Croatia to study at the University of Tennessee. I hold an undergraduate degree in geology from the University of Zagreb, Croatia and a Ph.D. from UT Knoxville. My dissertation research focused on Upper Cambrian carbonates from the southern Appalachians. Among several other new directions my research has subsequently expanded to Cambrian strata throughout the US Appalachians. Thus, in the way that I work on correlating strata from the southeastern to the northeastern US, as the Section's President I will work to connect geoscientists throughout this region.

This newsletter is one of my first steps towards accomplishing this goal. A copy of the newsletter is posted on our new web page: [www.science.smith.edu/departments/Geology/ESSEPM/](http://www.science.smith.edu/departments/Geology/ESSEPM/). Please help disseminate this newsletter by sharing it with your colleagues and students, and by posting it on your institution's bulletin board when you are finished reading it. Our web page as well as e-mail will be utilized more in the future to share the Section's news and announcements. To make our newsletter more informative and interesting please send your contributions about any exciting research or travels that you, your colleagues or students are doing. Consider sharing information about new field sites, museum exhibits, educational programs, job announcements and other opportunities for students that you may know about. Feel free to also send your photos.

All of your contributions can be sent to our new newsletter editor Dan Belknap from the University of Maine in Orono ([Belknap@maine.edu](mailto:Belknap@maine.edu)). Thanks Dan for kindly agreeing to edit our next newsletter! I would also like to thank my colleague Al Curran from Smith College ([acurran@email.smith.edu](mailto:acurran@email.smith.edu)) for his many years of service as he continues as the Section's Secretary/Treasurer. We are currently looking for a Vice President and the Councilors for both the NE and SE GSA meetings. Please let me know if you are interested or if you know someone who might be in helping the Section with this. Thanks in advance!

The ES-SEPM will hold its annual business meeting alternating between the NE and SE GSA annual meetings. Our next gathering will be at the NE GSA meeting in Saratoga Springs, New York in March of 2005. The National SEPM President Elect, William A. Morgan, a principal stratigrapher for ConocoPhillips in Houston, will attend our business meeting and give the keynote address. The ES-SEPM will be co-sponsoring symposia, theme sessions and field trips at the 2005 NE GSA meeting and at the SE GSA meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi in March 2005. This Fall the ES-SEPM will also be co-sponsoring trips at the annual field conferences of the New York State Geological Association (NYSGA) and the New England Intercollegiate Geological Conference (NEIGC). To learn more about these events please see the announcement section of this newsletter.

Finally, I would like to invite you to renew your membership or to become a member of ES-SEPM. Please fill out the membership form, which can be found at the end of this newsletter or as a PDF online. You can send or e-mail the information requested to Al Curran. There are no membership fees for this year and you do not have to belong to the National SEPM to be a Section member. Once the Section's activities are fully resumed (hopefully in 2005), there will be a small annual membership fee (\$5.00 students and retired persons; \$8 professionals). Please feel free to send me, or any other ES-SEPM officers, your ideas and suggestions for how we might serve you better. We look forward to hearing from you.

I am excited about the prospects of revitalizing the ES-SEPM. I firmly believe that with your help it can become a very useful organization for professionals and students with interests in the sedimentary geology of the eastern United States and beyond. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Section as its President and thank you in advance for all of your help and input.

Sincerely,  
Bosiljka Glumac  
Geology Department, Smith College  
Northampton, Massachusetts 01060  
bglumac@email.smith.edu; 413-585-3680

## **Secretary/Treasurer's Report**

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**\$\$\$:** The finances of the newly rejoined ES-SEPM are in great shape! Following the joint NE-SE Sections SEPM business meeting held during the NE-SE GSA meeting in Tysons Corner in March at which the decision to merge the two sections was made, I received a check for close to \$1,000. from Jack Hall, the retiring treasurer of the SE Section. ES-SEPM presently has a balance of \$6,325.02 in an interest-paying checking account. Recent expenses have been minimal. We paid for modest expenses associated with the business meeting in Tysons Corner, we have mailing expenses for this newsletter, and we are going to contribute \$250. in support of the upcoming NEIGC field trips co-sponsored by ES-SEPM (see announcements to follow).

***There is a free lunch!!!! (at least for now.....):*** Given the low level of activity of the NE Section of SEPM over the past couple of years, I have not sent out any new requests for dues payments. As announced above by President Bosiljka Glumac, there will be no new dues requested for this academic year (2004-05). All questions relating to dues (resumed dues billing and dues amounts) will be an important agenda item for the ES-SEPM business meeting to be held in Saratoga Springs in March 2005, in conjunction with the NE GSA meeting. For those of you who have paid annual dues in advance in the past, my proposal will be to move your paid membership forward for an appropriate length of time according to the amount of your advance payment.

***Current membership list and email contact information:*** For current members, please review the address label on this newsletter and forward any update information to me (see form on the last page of the newsletter; my address is on the front of the newsletter with your mailing label; my email address is [acurran@email.smith.edu](mailto:acurran@email.smith.edu)). In the future, **we hope to be able to send out newsletters and announcements by email.** If you received this newsletter by email, then we have your email address (send any corrections to [acurran@email.smith.edu](mailto:acurran@email.smith.edu)). If you are not currently a member of ES-SEPM and want to join, please fill out the form to be found at the end of this newsletter and return it to me at my return address given on the front of the newsletter.

***The future:*** With the mailing of this newsletter, with the sponsorship by ES-SEPM of many professional meeting sessions and field trips related to sedimentary geology in the near future, and with the good energy and direction that President Bosiljka Glumac will bring to the section, I think that the revitalization of ES-SEPM is well underway. We have funds to support new ventures in eastern sedimentary geology. ***Your help and your new ideas are needed!!!***

Respectfully submitted,  
H. Allen Curran,  
Secretary/Treasurer, ES-Section of SEPM

## **Announcements**

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### ***Northeastern GSA Meeting***

***March 14-16, 2005, Saratoga Springs, New York***

Local Committee Chair: Kurt Hollocher, Union College (hollochk@union.edu)

Technical Program Chair: John Garver, Union College (garverj@union.edu)

Abstract Deadline: December 14, 2004

The Eastern Section of SEPM will hold its 2005 Annual Business Meeting at the NE GSA meeting in Saratoga Springs. The National SEPM President-Elect, William A. Morgan, a principal stratigrapher of ConocoPhillips in Houston, will attend the business meeting and give the keynote address. Definitely try not to miss this event if you are in Saratoga Springs.

The ES-SEPM will be sponsoring a variety of symposia, theme sessions and a fieldtrip. Please consider contributing to and participating in these events:

Symposium:

*Stromatolites, Biomats and their Influence on Sedimentation. Mark McMenamin, Mount Holyoke College (mmcmenam@MtHolyoke.edu), (413) 538-2280, Bosiljka Glumac, Smith College, (bglumac@email.smith.edu), (413) 585-3680.*

Theme Sessions:

*Sequence Stratigraphic Approaches to Paleobiologic and Sedimentologic Investigations of Lower Paleozoic Strata of the Northern Appalachians. Alex Bartholomew, Univ. Cincinnati (alexbartholomew\_geo@hotmail.com), (513) 556-3732; Sean Cornell, Juniata College, (cornels@email.uc.edu), (513) 556-3732.*

*Late Ordovician Taconian Orogenesis and Sedimentological Effects: Developing Tectonic, Sedimentological, and Paleontological Perspectives. Gordon C. Baird, SUNY Fredonia, (baird@fredonia.edu), (716) 673-3840; Charles E. Mitchell, SUNY Buffalo, (cem@geology.buffalo.edu), (716) 645-6800 ext 3991.*

*Bentonites in the Geologic Record. George Shaw, Union College (shawg@union.edu), (518) 388-3770.*

*Teaching Sedimentology, Stratigraphy, and Paleontology: Using Local Geology and Modern Analogs. Bosiljka Glumac, Smith College, (bglumac@email.smith.edu), (413) 585-3680. (Co-sponsored by the NAGT)*

Field Trip:

*Field trip to the Petrified Gardens. G. Friedman (gmfriedman@juno.com).*

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### ***Southeastern GSA Meeting***

***March 17-18, 2005, Biloxi, Mississippi***

Local Committee Chair and Technical Program Co-chair: Gail Russell, University of Southern Mississippi (Gail.Russell@usm.edu)

Technical Program Co-chair: David F. Ufnar, University of Southern Mississippi (David.Ufnar@usm.edu)

The technical program for the 2005 SE GSA meeting has not been finalized yet but the ES-SEPM is expecting to co-sponsor several sessions at the meeting. Please keep an eye on GSA announcements for a list of technical sessions and the abstract deadline.

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**2004 New York State Geological Association (NYSGA) Annual Meeting  
September 17-19, 2004, SUNY College at Potsdam**

Coordinator: Dr. Robert L. Badger (badgerl@potsdam.edu)  
www.nysgaonline.org

At this fall's NYSGA meeting the ES-SEPM will be co-sponsoring the following field trips:

*A-1 Precambrian Basement and Cambrian-Ordovician Strata as Displayed in Three Provincial Parks of Canada - Al Donaldson, Carleton University, and Jeff Chiarenzelli, SUNY Potsdam*

*A-2 Classical Teaching Sites in the St. Lawrence Valley - John Bursnall and Cathy Shrady, St. Lawrence University*

*B-5 Sedimentary Structures of the Cambrian and Ordovician - Al Donaldson, Carleton University, and Jeff Chiarenzelli, SUNY Potsdam*

*B-6 Deglaciation and Development of the Fulton Chain Lakes - G. Gordon Connally, Research Associate, New York State Museum.*

We hope that many of you will get a chance to participate in these trips. Please see the NYSGA web page (address listed above) for the complete list of trips and registration information. Also, consider writing a note for the ES-SEPM newsletter about the trip you attend. Thanks.

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**2004 New England Intercollegiate Geological Conference (NEIGC)  
October 8-10, 2004, Salem, Massachusetts,**

Organizer: Lindley Hanson (lhanson@salemstate.edu)  
www.salemstate.edu/~lhanson/NEIGC/2004NEIGC.html

This year the ES-SEPM will be co-sponsoring two field trips at the NEIGC:

*B-6 Processes and Evolution of Boston Harbor Islands: Peddocks and Lovells Islands - Peter S. Rosen, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Northeastern University (p.rosen@neu.edu), and Duncan M. FitzGerald, Department of Earth Science, Boston University (dunc@bu.edu)*

*C-2 Roxbury Review: Conglomerates of the Boston Basin - Margaret D. Thompson, Wellesley College (mthompson@wellesley.edu)*

There are many other trips being offered by the NEIGC. For the complete list and registration information please see their web page (see the address above), and please send us a note for the newsletter about the ES SEPM co-sponsored trip you attend.

## **News**

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The Paleontological Research Institute (PRI) in Ithaca, New York has opened the new Museum of the Earth. Check out the details at: <http://www.priweb.org/>.

The Pratt Museum of Natural History at Amherst College closed to the public on March 1, 2004. Amherst College's new Geology building and Natural History Museum is scheduled to open in 2006. For additional information see: <http://www.amherst.edu/~pratt/>.

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— Join ES-SEPM for free —

Once the Section's normal activities are restored (in 2005) there will be a small annual membership fee (likely \$5 students and retired persons; \$8 professionals)

Please complete this form and return it (or send an e-mail with this information) to:

H. Allen Curran  
Eastern Section SEPM Secretary/Treasurer  
Department of Geology, Smith College  
Northampton, Massachusetts 01063  
e-mail: [acurran@email.smith.edu](mailto:acurran@email.smith.edu)

Please check one: Professional Membership  Student Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to have your e-mail included in our online list of members?

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Professional interests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Web page (if you wish to have a link from the ES SEPM page):

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Please e-mail H. Allen Curran ([acurran@email.smith.edu](mailto:acurran@email.smith.edu)) if you are currently a member in need of updating your record and email address.

Please e-mail any of the current officers if you have suggestions on how ES-SEPM can serve your needs better, or if you have any news and announcements that could be posted on the ES-SEPM webpage or included in the Newsletter.

You can find a copy of this form and other pertinent information at:

**[www.science.smith.edu/departments/Geology/ESSEPM/](http://www.science.smith.edu/departments/Geology/ESSEPM/)**

(which can also be accessed from: [www.sepm.org/sections/sectionshome.htm](http://www.sepm.org/sections/sectionshome.htm))

Thank you!

Eastern Section SEPM  
Al Curran, Secretary/Treasurer  
Department of Geology  
Smith College  
Northampton, MA 01063

Address Correction Requested



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