



Geological Society of Nevada

SOUTHERN NEVADA CHAPTER

Newsletter

February, 2000

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FOOTPRINTS IN THE SILTS OF TIME--- VERTEBRATE TRACKWAYS OF NEVADA: Examples from the Triassic, Miocene, and Pleistocene

DATE: Thursday, February 22, 2001

SPEAKER: Dr. Stephen Rowland

LOCATION: Room 102 Lilly Fong Geoscience Building

TIME: 5:30 p.m. Social hour
6:30 p.m. Presentation

Footprints In The Silt of time – Vertebrate Trackways of Southern Nevada: Examples From The Triassic, Miocene, and Pleistocene.

Dr. Stephen Rowland - UNLV Assistant Professor of Geology

Abstract (GSN- Las Vegas meeting on February 22, 2001)

Vertebrate tracks and trackways provide a rich source of information about the presence and behavior of animals in the geologic past. In this talk I will illustrate and discuss three (or maybe four) trackway localities in Nevada. One site is completely new, in the Triassic Moenkopi Formation of Rainbow Gardens. These Moenkopi tracks, which were discovered by my colleague Robert Needham, are (as far as I know) the first known Mesozoic vertebrate tracks in Nevada; they belong to a crocodile-like animal called *Chirotherium*. A second example is in the Miocene Horse Spring Formation, where my student Michele Kissell-Jones (who taught me all I know about trackways) and I are studying tracks of camels, birds, and a coyote-size dog. I'll show slides of one dog trackway that documents a distinctive galloping gait among canids in the Miocene. Last, I will illustrate and discuss a Pleistocene trackway that was discovered in the 1880s on the grounds of the Nevada State Prison in Carson City. This trackway became world famous, and Mark Twain wrote an essay about it.

Stephen Rowland

Steve Rowland is a Professor of Geology at UNLV, where he has been on the faculty since 1978. He received a B.S. in zoology from U.C. Berkeley (way back when Berkeley was a really exciting place) and a Ph.D. in geology from U.C. Santa Cruz. He teaches paleontology, historical geology, and related courses. His main research interests involve Cambrian stratigraphy and the paleoecology of early Paleozoic reef-building organisms, but his graduate students sometimes drag him into the study of other things, such as vertebrate trackways and Pleistocene sloths.

Announcements

Look! Its a *NEW* GSN web site!

<http://www.gsnv.org>

If you know of anyone that would like to become a member of if you need to renew your membership in the Geological Society of Nevada, a membership application is attached.

Newsletter Update

Do you know someone who has moved and not told us? A few newsletters are returned because of incorrect addresses following each mailing. If you are aware of someone who hasn't received a newsletter, please have them call or email Paul Bowen at (702)247-7765 or p_jbowen@ix.netcom.com. You may also contact Donna Bloom at GSN headquarters to update this information. Thanks!

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEVADA
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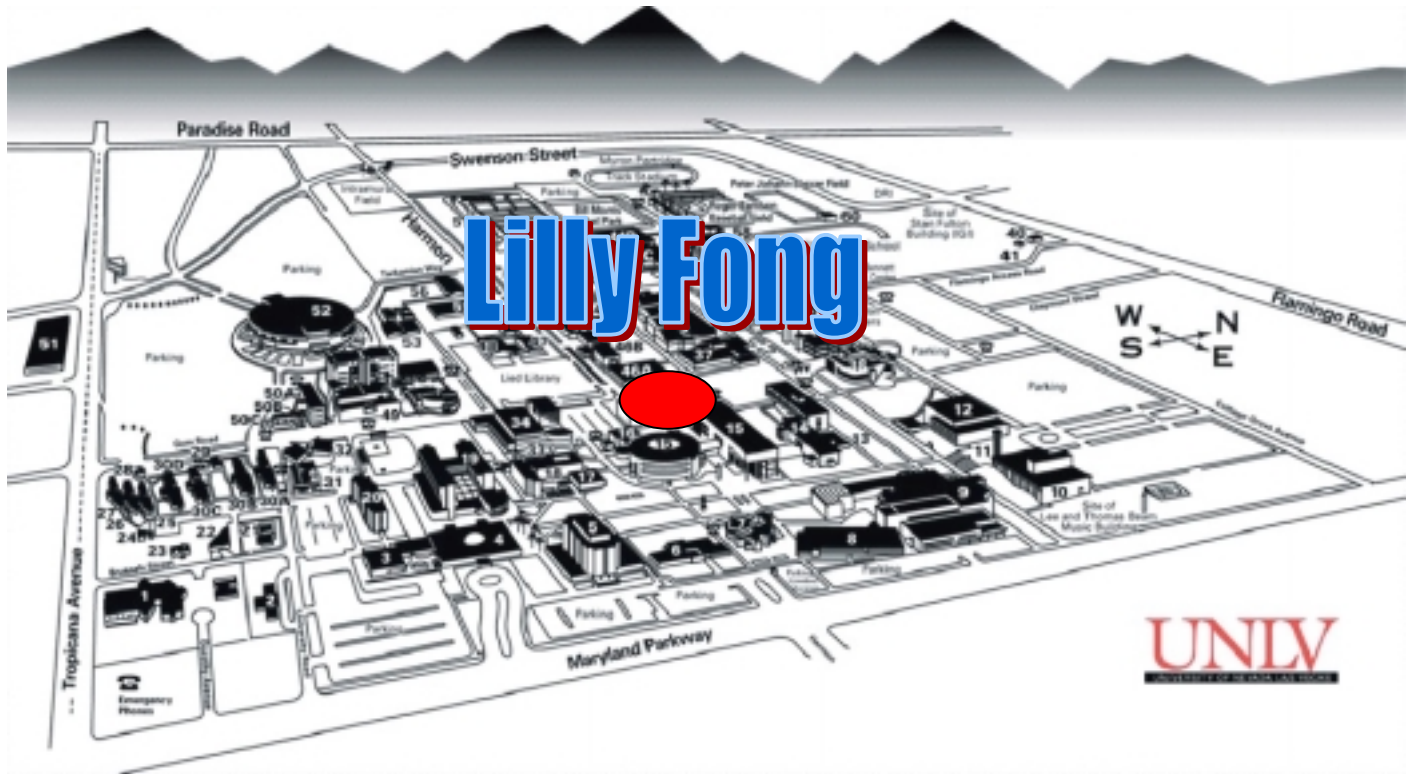
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 Fax to 775/323-3599, e-mail gsn@mines.unr.edu

PROPOSED DATES FOR TALKS

- 30 November 2000** **Jim O'Donnell**
- 25 January 2001** **Dr. Andrew Hanson**
- 22 February 2001** **Dr. Stephen Rowland**
- 22 March 2001**
- 26 April 2001** **Student Presentations**
- 24 May 2001**

As you can see we need to fill in the gaps. Also if anyone would like to volunteer to give a talk or host a discussion in December we would be open for suggestions. Some of us aren't going anywhere.



Publication and mailing of this newsletter has been contributed by The UNLV Department of Geoscience.

Come visit us online at http://www.unlv.edu/Colleges/Sciences/Geoscience/1st_page.html



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