

Louis Jacobs, Brief Biography



Professor of Paleontology, Southern Methodist University
President, Institute for the Study of Earth and Man

<http://www.smu.edu/News/Experts/Louis-Jacobs>

<http://www.smu.edu/Dedman/Academics/InstitutesCenters/ISEM>

Louis Jacobs is considered one of the world's foremost authorities on dinosaurs and mosasaurs. He is a vertebrate paleontologist who utilizes the fossil record to answer significant questions about Earth and life history. His fieldwork is currently focused in Angola, Antarctica, Alaska, and Mongolia.

Particularly relevant to the evening lecture is his work in Texas. He is the author of "Lone Star Dinosaurs", is on the Advisory Board of the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, and had a large role in the 4th floor "Life Then and Now" exhibit. He also discovered the Malawisaurus specimen on display at the museum's lobby, and was the major advisor to the Malawian student who described it for her dissertation research.

Bonnie Jacobs, Brief Biography



Professor, Roy M. Huffington Department of Earth Sciences

Southern Methodist University

<http://www.smu.edu/News/Experts/Bonnie-Jacobs>

<http://www.dallasobserver.com/news/smus-bonnie-jacobs-is-searching-for-history-beyond-ancient-in-the-trinity-river-bottoms-7104237>

Bonnie Jacobs holds a Ph.D. from the University of Arizona, Department of Geosciences. She specializes in the plant fossil record and what it reveals about past communities, ecosystems and climate. She has studied fossils from Africa and North America ranging in age from 110 million years to less than 1,000 years old. Her paleobotanical work in Kenya, Tanzania, and Ethiopia helps document the origins and evolution of Africa's modern biomes, and has shed light on the environmental context of human family origins. Paleoclimate research on African fossil plants helps in understanding the impacts of climate change on life at low latitudes, which is directly relevant to current changing climate. Her North American work includes studies on plant fossils associated with dinosaurs in Texas, Ice Age climate change in Arizona, and environments of Paleoindians in New Mexico. Her publications can be found in peer-reviewed journals including the Proceedings of the Royal Society of London, and The Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society. Public outreach includes a blog written from Ethiopia for the New York Times, as well as technical advice and a "Career Inspiration" video for public displays in the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, Dallas, TX. Recently she has turned her interests to the study of modern and ancient ecosystems in the Trinity River watershed, and advises undergraduate and graduate students working on this subject. Expeditions and SMU research have been funded through grants from the National Science Foundation, The National Geographic Society, the Downey Family Award for Faculty Excellence, and the University Research Council at SMU. Dr. Jacobs teaches undergraduate classes in Environmental Science, Ecology, and Field Ecology, and graduate seminars in Biogeography, Paleoecology, and Paleobotany.

Thomas Green brief biography:



Tom Green is a graduate student at the SMU Department of Earth Sciences, studying under Dr. Bonnie Jacobs. His thesis research is investigating how North Central Texas plant communities changed during the past 10,000 years by analyzing pollen and phytoliths recovered from Trinity River sediments. Tom has worked with the National Park Service and the Nature Conservancy on ecological restoration projects in Colorado, Washington, and Florida. He has volunteered with the Dallas Paleontological Society on projects such as the Mosasaur exhibit at the Heard Museum and the Arlington Archosaur Site.