
Subject: UFOP mtg 12/6/17

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Date: Sunday, December 3, 2017 10:56 PM

From: "elisabethnipperus@reagan.com" <elisabethnipperus@reagan.com>

To: WCHS Distribution List <distribution@wchsutah.org>
Sent: Sunday, December 3, 2017 8:46 PM
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Hi everyone!

As you all must know by now, next coming **Wednesday, December 6th**, is our last meeting of this year.

Our speaker will be **Dr. Randall Irmis**, who is currently the Chief Curator and a Curator of Paleontology at the Natural History Museum of Utah in Salt Lake City and an Associate Professor in the Department of Geology & Geophysics at the University of Utah as well.

He has given a presentation before to our chapter; that was in November 2007. The title of his presentation then was: *The Rise of Dinosaurs: New Discoveries in the American Southwest*. He was then a PhD candidate in the Department of Integrative Biology and Museum of Paleontology at the University of California-Berkeley, after having earned his BS in geology at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. At that time he was also doing a lot of fieldwork in Arizona, New Mexico, California, and Mexico, focussing on the origin and early evolution of the dinosaurs, the topic of his dissertation. Since receiving his PhD in 2008 he has widely broadened his fieldwork sites far into e.g. South America, Asia and Africa, as the title of his presentation shows:

An Equatorial Lost World : Discovering the Age of Dinosaurs in Ethiopia.

His research asks how vertebrate animals living on land evolved through deep time, particularly in response to climate change and other extrinsic events. Much of his research has focused on the beginning of the age of dinosaurs, the Triassic Period.

He is interested in how ecosystems changed during this time, and why dinosaurs become so successful while other animal groups died out. This research has resulted in many field seasons at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico, where critical fossils have been found documenting this early time of dinosaur evolution, as well as in similarly aged rocks in Utah, Arizona, Argentina, and Ethiopia. Dr. Irmis is also leading a long term field project in the Late Cretaceous of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (Utah), where his team is investigating why this area had such unique dinosaur and other vertebrate species 80-75 million years ago, despite a lack of physical barriers.

This meeting will be held at our usual place: **Rm 128 of DSU's SNOW Building**, ground floor, starting at **7 p.m.**

More details to follow when I get them. Hope to see you there. Take care! Elisabeth

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