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JAMES E. BROOKS



Dr. James E. Brooks, who passed away on September 13, 2019, became President of ISEM in 1981, having already served as Professor of Geological Sciences, as Dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences, as Provost, and as President *ad interim* of SMU. Inspired by the vision of Claude C. Albritton, Jr., and William B. Heroy, who in founding ISEM saw the importance of the interaction between geology, anthropology, and related disciplines, and by other far-sighted individuals within both the academic and business worlds, Dr. Brooks had a unique ability to bring disparate interests together to accomplish common goals. By initiating the highly successful ISEM Energy Roundtables, by hosting global energy figures such as the Secretary-General of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, and by organizing world-class symposia and exhibitions, Dr. Brooks raised the profile of ISEM within the academic and industry communities.

Dr. Brooks' relationships with ISEM's Board and staff members were characterized by kindness, dignity, and wit. He built bridges and solved problems with common sense and graciousness. He was a trusted mentor and friend.

After retiring from the position of ISEM President in 1996, Dr. Brooks actively continued as Vice-Chairman for over twenty-three years. In later years, even as his health presented increasing physical challenges, Dr. Brooks continued to take an energetic and personal interest in ISEM's mission and future. His advice and wisdom continued to be actively sought, graciously given, and highly valued. *Above: Jim in Wyoming on the 2007 ISEM Hot Rocks Excursion*

JAMES E. BROOKS AWARD FOR FACULTY EXCELLENCE

The 2019 recipient of the James E. Brooks Award for Faculty Excellence is **Nicolas Sternsdorff-Cisterna**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at SMU who specializes in the study of food, risk, and the anthropology of science. He received his PhD from Harvard University in sociocultural anthropology and was a postdoctoral fellow in the program on US-Japan relations at Harvard University. In his first book, *Food Safety after Fukushima: Scientific Citizenship and the Politics of Risk*, published in 2019, he explores the processes by which notions of what is safe to eat were formulated after the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster caused by the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. His work has also appeared in *American Anthropologist* and *Japanese Studies*. In his current project, he is investigating the Japanese government's proposal to move towards "Society 5.0," a vision that seeks to use



Benefiting the community by promoting and supporting interdisciplinary research at the interface of people, Earth, and the environment.



artificial intelligence, robotics, and the Internet of Things to integrate data analytics into the governance of society.

Above: Nico at a fruit orchard in Fukushima Prefecture during cherry season. FLASH BACK (right): Yuri Kimura, now at National Museum of Nature and Science in Tokyo, shown here with National Geographic Explorers Carsten Peter (photographer), Conrad Anker (mountaineer and explorer), and Dr. John Francis (Former Chair, Committee for Research and Exploration), raised over \$10,000 for Fukushima Disaster relief through her activities when she was a graduate student at SMU.

LYLE SCHOOL Governor's Science and Technology Champions' Academy

From July 29 to August 2, Texas Science and Engineering Fair winners from across the state participated in the 2019 Governor's Science and Technology Champions' Academy funded by a grant from the Texas Workforce Commission to the Caruth Institute for Engineering Education in the Lyle School. The goal is to encourage promising students to pursue careers in science and technology. Students chose their own focus: drone-powered research, cyber security, micro-robotics, or fossil research and exhibit preparation (through ISEM). At the end of the camp, the research teams presented their findings to the public. The Governor's Science and Technology Champions' Academy helps students explore the practical applications of STEM endeavors and exposes students to exciting career options that involve high-tech skills.



ISEM Energy Roundtable 2019

The 2019 ISEM Energy Roundtable, hosting 26 participants and spouses, organized by Mike Forrest, Peter Gaffney, Herbert Hunt, and Peter Vig, convened at Rough Creek Lodge near Glen Rose, Texas. The purpose was to stimulate conversation and ideas surrounding significant issues in the changing energy landscape.



Teen STEM Café: Texas Dinosaurs and Prehistoric Marine Reptiles

Dr. Louis Jacobs was guest presenter at the Teen STEM Café on January 28, 2019, at the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi. Topics and presenters are identified by the TSA Teen Leadership Team, which guides the program and runs the events.

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MARR SCHOLARS Featured at Annual Celebration



Each year ISEM Marr Scholars and Dedman College Hamilton Scholars are featured in a celebration of their achievements. This year's Marr honorees are Environmental Studies majors **John Berry** and **Ellie Pietsch**, and Earth Sciences majors **Yasmin Jackson** and **Harrison Schumann**. Thanks to **ISEM Trustee Ray Marr** for his continued support of students. *L to R: John Berry, Ray Marr, Ellie Pietsch, Yasmine Jackson*

31st ANNUAL TEXAS ENERGY COUNCIL SYMPOSIUM

The Challenges of Success was held at SMU on April 25, 2019. The symposium was co-sponsored by ISEM, which provided for two students, Harrison Schumann and Joshua Sylvester, to attend. ISEM is represented on the TEC Board by Al Jaffe.

L to R: Harrison Schumann, Al Jaffe, Joshua Sylvester



L to R: Parker Torres, Linda Chau, Adam Suravarapu, Erica Gahm, Sean Hemingway

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ISEM at SMU
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Please make checks payable to ISEM. Thank you!

ISEM Undergraduate Student Research Assistants

ISEM is unique in welcoming students as early as their first semester and regardless of their majors who wish to do significant research activities with professors in Earth Science and Archaeology. Numerous students have been given opportunities to work in Shuler Museum paleontology labs, contributing to ongoing Smithsonian and Projecto PaleoAngola projects. Funding for this program is provided primarily by **ISEM's Hamilton Family Fund**, originally established by former trustee Jack Hamilton and his wife Jane. This initiative is complemented by the **Zilina Trust**, and **ISEM's Marr Scholars Program** for Earth Science majors and minors, supported by ISEM Trustee **Ray Marr**, which focuses on undergraduates working with Earth Science professors on research leading to publication.

SEA MONSTERS UNEARTHED COMPLETES ITS FIRST YEAR AT THE SMITHSONIAN

The exhibit, *Sea Monsters Unearthed: Life in Angola's Ancient Seas*, completed its first year of display at the Smithsonian's U.S. National Museum of Natural History. In that time, approximately 6 million visitors have viewed the exhibit, including SMU's Washington Alumni Chapter (top right). By all accounts, the exhibit, produced and built by ISEM at SMU, has been very well received. Its stay, by Smithsonian request, has been extended by one year to December 2021, following which it will return to Angola. On top of that, the Smithsonian requested that ISEM produce an additional exhibit window (second right) to document the cooperative, interdisciplinary, and international nature of the scientific endeavor.

Sea Monsters Unearthed is the public face of *Projecto PaleoAngola*, an international collaboration into the fossil vertebrates of Angola during the origin and growth of the South Atlantic, resulting in the ocean between the complementary coastlines of Africa and South America. More than 20 peer reviewed publications have resulted from this research. Four SMU graduate students received Ph.D. degrees through their association with this project and well over one hundred undergraduates were involved in the production of the exhibit.

In August, the Ambassador of the Republic of Angola to the United States Joachim do Espirito Santo and his wife, Ms. Branca Espirito Santo, toured the exhibit with Sant Director Kirk Johnson and Louis Jacobs (third right). The Angolan Embassy also arranged for a video produced at SMU for the new exhibit window in the Smithsonian to be shown at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington, where copies of SMU Magazine were also being distributed. That same video now loops continuously in the Sonangol USA building in Houston. In October, Louis Jacobs was asked to speak at a reception for outgoing Consul General Julia Machado in Houston. In July, Jacobs was a guest at the Independence Day Celebration at the U.S. Embassy in Angola (bottom right). In her remarks given to the diplomatic corps and distinguished guests in Luanda, Ambassador Nina Fite stated, "This exhibit, which has attracted international acclaim, justifiably has provided a cohesive sense of national pride here in Angola."



The ISEM core team for *Sea Monsters Unearthed* is (L to R) Myria Perez, Diana Vineyard, Louis Jacobs, Michael Polcyn, and Karen Carr (not shown). ISEM is grateful to the dedicated volunteers, the enthusiastic students, and friends and colleagues in Angola and at the Smithsonian for the success of this project.

Learn more about *Sea Monsters* in the SMU 2018-2019 Annual Report.