

Neal Larson, Scholarship Chairman
c/o Black Hills Institute of Geological Research
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USA

February 2, 2010

Dear Members of the Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences,

Thank you for awarding me the James R. Welch Scholarship. I appreciate having been given this award for my MS research project entitled *Faunal Response to Early Maastrichtian Paleoclimate and Paleooceanographic Change: The View from the Western Interior Seaway*. Your scholarship gave me the opportunity last summer to visit and collect from various Pierre Shale and Lewis Shale outcrops in Wyoming and South Dakota. I am currently processing fossiliferous concretions collected during my field work in order to document the molluscan faunal diversity in both nearshore and offshore facies in the Upper Campanian and Lower Maastrichtian strata of the Western Interior Basin. My preliminary findings suggest a significant faunal turnover approaching the end of the Cretaceous, but approximately 4 Ma prior to the terminal Cretaceous event. I plan to continue this project as part of my PhD dissertation.

Thank you again for this great honor.

Sincerely,

Joshua Slattery
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