

Neal Larson, President
Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences
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September 15, 2013

Dear Members of the Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences,

Thank you for seeing potential in my project and awarding me the James R. Welch scholarship in Invertebrate Paleontology. Your support was essential in advancing my graduate research.

The focus of my thesis project is to construct an ammonite biozonation scheme in the Gulf Coastal Plain for the upper Maastrichtian. Your scholarship provided me with funds to organize two field trips to Mississippi and Alabama in May and September of 2013. As a result of these field outings, I was able to document indisputable evidence of an extension of the upper Maastrichtian ammonite biozones (*D. iris*, *D. minardi* and *D. conradi* Zones) from Atlantic Coastal Plain to Gulf Coastal Plain (GCP). For the first time, ammonites can be utilized for correlation purposes of the uppermost Maastrichtian part of the sequence in the GCP. This work will significantly contribute to the scope of biostratigraphy and facilitate future field work for geologists working in the GCP. The results will be presented at the national Geological Society of America meeting in Denver in October of 2013. A manuscript on ammonite biostratigraphy is expected for submission to a peer-reviewed journal in the spring of 2014.

Thank you again for this great honor. I will acknowledge AAPS in publications relating to this project.

Sincerely,
Ekaterina Larina

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