

Announcement

**TRACKING DINOSAUR
ORIGINS
THE TRIASSIC/JURASSIC
TERRESTRIAL TRANSITION**

MARCH 14-16TH, 2005 DIXIE STATE COLLEGE ST. GEORGE, UTAH, USA

Followed by the **Utah Friends of Paleontology Annual Meeting** - March 18-20, 2005
http://www.utahpaleo.org/Annual_Meeting05.pdf

The Triassic/Jurassic transition is a critical time in Earth history, recording the origins and early radiation of dinosaurs, pterosaurs, crocodylians, mammals, and several other significant Mesozoic vertebrate clades. Additionally, a major interval of faunal, stepwise extinction is recorded in both the marine and terrestrial environments that may be linked to impact events, setting the stage for the ascendance of dinosaurs to a position of dominance for the remainder of the Mesozoic. Current research in this area is dynamic and has important implications for a number of areas in both paleobiology and geology.

A number of recently discovered fossil localities in a little-researched area of southwestern Utah that preserves a thick sequence of rocks spanning the Triassic/Jurassic boundary are proving to be a catalyst for new studies on this time period. In addition to discoveries at Zion National Park and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, many of these discoveries have centered on the basal Jurassic St. George Dinosaur Discovery Site at Johnson Farm. This remarkable new site preserves an extraordinary series of track levels along the margin of a Hettangian lake (colloquially termed "Lake Dixie") and has associated fossil plants, invertebrates, fish, and dinosaur remains, making it particularly significant. These discoveries, along with a new interpretive center slated to open in the first half of 2005, provide an impetus to bring scientists together to discuss terrestrial faunas across the Triassic/Jurassic transition in the dramatic geologic setting of the warm, palm-tree-studded desert of southwestern Utah that we hope will be unfamiliar to yet exhilarating for most attendees.

A full color overview volume is planned by the Utah Geological Survey, and all attendees will receive a complementary copy of the book. This volume will include short review papers on areas of critical interest regarding the Triassic/Jurassic terrestrial transition in various areas of the world, summary papers on these rocks, and their preserved fossils in southwestern Utah.

Preliminary Conference Program

MARCH 14 (All Day)	<i>Field Trip: Triassic/Jurassic Geology and Paleontology in the St. George Region and Zion National Park Areas</i>
MARCH 15 (AM)	Plenary Papers 30 minutes each
MARCH 15 (PM)	General Conference Papers 15-20 minutes each
MARCH 16 (All Day)	General Conference Papers 15-20 minutes each

Abstracts

Electronic abstracts are due by Dec. 15, 2004. They are to be no more than one 8.5x11 inch page long in 12 point, Times Roman font with 1 inch margins. Titles should be in all caps followed by an indented list of authors (names in caps) and affiliations. Speaker's information should include an e-mail address. Abstract text follows on a new line. Send by e-mail to jameskirkland@utah.gov; or by snail-mail to James Kirkland, Utah Geological Survey, PO Box 146100, Salt Lake City, UT 84044.

A proceedings volume containing full-length papers (including papers not presented at the conference) is to be published as a *New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science Bulletin* following the conference. For

more information contact Spencer Lucas; NMMNH, 1801 Mountain Rd. NW, Albuquerque NM 87104-1375
slucas@nmmnh.state.nm.us

Conference participants may fly into St George, Utah directly via SkyWest airlines from Salt Lake City or Los Angeles (<http://www.skywest.com> or your local travel agency), or speakers may fly into Las Vegas, Nevada and then be transported by volunteers to St. George. Speakers wishing to drive themselves from the nearest airports should anticipate a scenic 2 hour drive from Las Vegas or a 4.5 hour drive from Salt Lake City, both on I-15.

Conference participants are invited to remain for the Utah Friends of Paleontology Annual Meeting, which will include additional afternoon field trips on March 18 and 19 and all day March 20 to numerous vertebrate and invertebrate-bearing fossil localities in Utah, Arizona, and Nevada.

In addition; there will be a paleo art show entitled "The Beginning of the Age of Dinosaurs" that will be up from February through June. The show will be hosted by the Pioneer Center for the Arts in St. George. For more information contact Gary Sanders, Community Arts and Exhibits Administrator, City of St. George, Pioneer Center for the Arts, 47 East 200 North, St. George, Utah 84770 (435) 634-5942 ext. 16 artadmn@infowest.com

Information on the St. George tracksite may be viewed starting on page 4 of *Utah Geological Survey Notes* 34(5); this article may be downloaded at <http://geology.utah.gov/surveynotes/snt34-3.pdf>. Also see <http://geology.utah.gov/utahgeo/dinofossil/stgeorgetracks/squatting.htm>. Sponsored by Utah Geological Survey, Dixie State College, City of St. George, and the Utah Friends of Paleontology.

Spring is a busy time in St. George, UT ("Utah's Palm Springs") so book your rooms early!

CONFERENCE PACKAGE

The "Tracking Dinosaur Origins" conference is offering a Conference Package at \$335.00 that contains the following:

- Registration fee
- 4 nights at the Crystal Inn, Fairfield Inn, or Howard Johnson (depending on availability) for Mar. 13-16
- 2 lunches at the Red Rock Café on the Dixie State College Campus (Mar. 15 & 16)
 - The Red Rock Café features 8 stations: Deli, Grill, Home Cookin', Pasta & Pizza, Wok, Soup & Salad Bar, Beverage Bar, and Dessert Bar

You may also assemble your stay individually. Registration fee is \$70.00; hotel options are given below. The mixer, the banquet, and the field trip (including box lunch) are included in the registration fee.

HOST HOTELS

The following hotels have reduced their price and set aside a block of rooms until Feb 21, 2005. Numbers correspond to map (below). **In order to receive the discounted rates, you must book the rooms through Dixie State College** either by filling out the attached registration form or contacting Steve Bringhurst at (435) 652-7901 or brings@dixie.edu. Rooms being held under the group name "DINOSAUR ORIGINS CONFERENCE." For more information about discounted hotels and hotel rates, please contact Steve Bringhurst.

(1) Crystal Inn

Rate: \$67.00/night
Phone: (435) 688-7477
1450 S. Hilton Drive, St. George, UT 84770
<http://www.crystalinns.com/stg.html>

(2) Fairfield Inn

Rate: \$67.00/night
Phone: (435) 673-6066
1660 South Convention Center Dr., St. George, UT 84790
<http://marriott.com/fairfieldinn>

(3) Howard Johnson Express Inn

Rate: \$67.00/night
Phone: (435) 628-8000
1040 S. Main St., St. George, UT 84770
<http://www.hojo.com>

Other nearby budget hotels include:

(4) Sands Motel

Phone: (435) 673-3501
Toll Free Reservation Line: 1-877-348-8629
581 E. St. George Blvd., St. George, UT 84770
<http://www.sandsutah.8m.com>

(5) Days Inn

Phone: (435) 673-6123
Toll Free Reservation Line: 1-800-527-6543
150 N. 1000 E., St George, UT 84770
<http://www.daysinn.com>

(6) Comfort Inn

Phone: (435) 628-4271
Toll Free Reservation Line: 1-877-577-6740
999 Skyline Dr., St George, UT 84770
<http://www.comfortinn.com>

(7) Ramada Inn

Phone: (435) 628-2828
Toll Free Reservation Line: 1-800-713-9435
1440 E. St. George Blvd., St George, UT 84790
<http://www.ramada.com>

(8) Motel 6

Phone: (435) 628-8318
Toll Free Reservation Line: 1-800-466-8356
205 N. 1000 East, St. George, UT 84770
<http://www.motel6.com>

(9) Best Western Coral Hills

Phone: (435) 673-4844
Toll Free Reservation Line: 1-800-780-7234
125 E. St. George Blvd, St. George, UT 84770
<http://www.bestwestern.com>

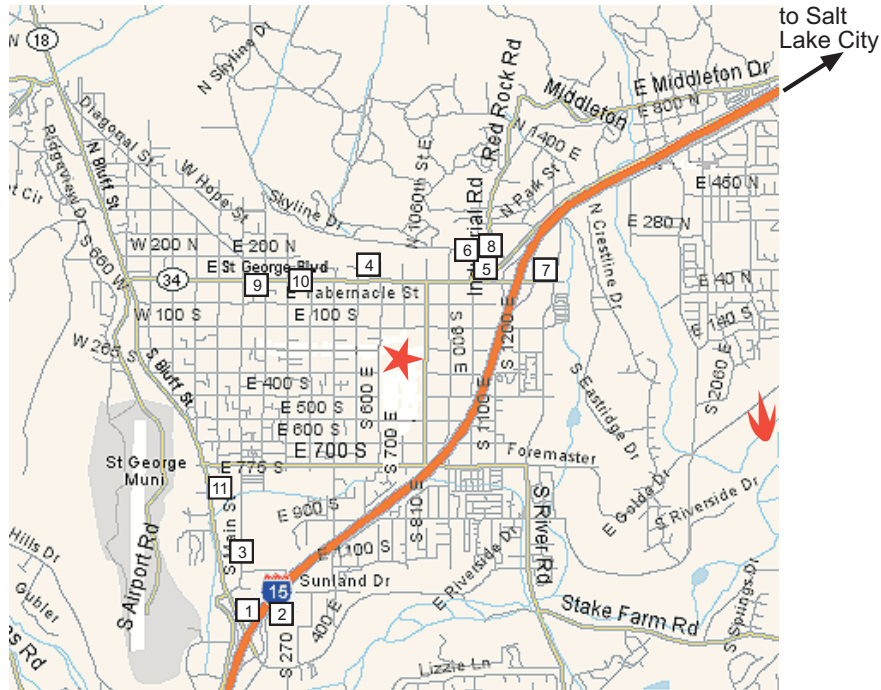
(10) Best Western Travel Inn

Phone: (435) 673-3541
Toll Free Reservation Line: 1-800-780-7234
316 E. St. George Blvd., St. George, UT 84770
<http://www.bestwestern.com>

(11) Holiday Inn

Phone: (435) 628-4235
Toll Free Reservation Line: 1-800-465-4329
850 Bluff St., St. George, UT 84770
<http://www.ichotelsgroup.com>

For further lodging options, please visit <http://www.stgeorgelodging.com/lodging.html>



- ★ Dixie State College
- ↘ Dinosaur Discovery Site @ Johnson Farm

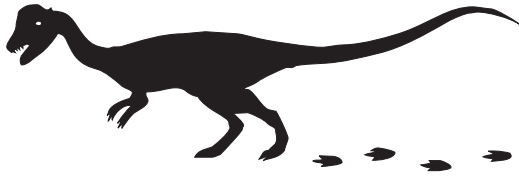
to Las Vegas

Additional Questions: Contact Theresa Walker 435-703-0020 2flyfree@infowest.com
or Jerry D. Harris 435-652-7758 jharris@dixie.edu

ST. GEORGE INFORMATION

St. George is situated at an elevation of about 2600 ft. (~ 800m) above sea level, though elevations climb rapidly to the north, east, and west. The city sits in a basin atop sediments of the Upper Triassic Chinle Group; bluffs to the north, east, and west are composed of red sandstones and mudstones of the Lower Jurassic Moenave, Kayenta, and Navajo Sandstone formations and are capped with Neogene basalts emitted from the many (now extinct) cinder cones in the area. Faulting and folding expose the Permian Kaibab Limestone and the Lower Triassic Moenkopi formations both to the south, west, and east of the city. The Middle Jurassic Temple Cap and Carmel formations, Upper Cretaceous Iron Springs Formation, and Paleocene-Eocene Claron Formation also outcrop, particularly at the base of the Pine Valley Mountains, an eroded Neogene laccolith (possibly the world's largest) that overlooks the city in the north. The east end of the basin is marked by the Hurricane Fault and the western edge of the Colorado Plateau. In March, the weather in St. George typically ranges between 36-63°F (2-17 C), and rain or snow is possible, so please bring appropriate clothes. For more information on the city and surrounding areas, please visit <http://www.stgeorgetah.net>, <http://www.sgcity.org>, and <http://www.stgeorgechamber.com>.





**TRACKING DINOSAUR
ORIGINS
THE TRIASSIC/JURASSIC
TERRESTRIAL TRANSITION**

MARCH 14-16TH, 2005 DIXIE STATE COLLEGE ST. GEORGE, UTAH, USA

Registration

LAST NAME/SURNAME

FIRST NAME

INSTITUTION, ORGANIZATION, OR AFFILIATION (AS YOU WANT IT TO APPEAR ON YOUR BADGE)

PROFESSIONAL TITLE (AS YOU WANT IT TO APPEAR ON YOUR BADGE) (OPTIONAL)

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY

STATE/PROVINCE

ZIP/POSTAL CODE

COUNTRY

TELEPHONE

FAX

E-MAIL

	NUMBER	SUBTOTAL
<input type="checkbox"/> Registration Fee (\$70.00) – includes mixer, the banquet, and field trip with box lunch		\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel Rooms Only (to receive discounted rate of \$67.00/night) For nights of: <input type="checkbox"/> Mar. 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Mar. 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Mar. 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Mar. 16		\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference Package (\$335.00) – includes registration fee, 4 nights at either the Crystal Inn, Fairfield Inn, or Howard Johnson (depending on availability) for Mar. 13-16, 2 lunches at the Red Rock Café on the Dixie State College Campus (Mar. 15 & 16) plus mixer, banquet, and field trip with box lunch		\$
TOTAL		\$

Payment: Mastercard Visa Discover Check/Money Order
made payable to: **Dixie State College.**

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD

CARD NUMBER

EXPIRATION DATE (DD/MM/YY)

SIGNATURE

Please mail to: Jerry D. Harris, Science Dept., Dixie State College, 225 South 700 East, St. George, UT 84770 U.S.A. **Attn:** TDO Registration

Payment in U.S. dollars. Please do not send cash. Please attach any special needs to your registration form.