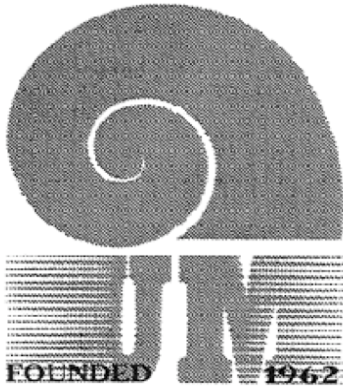


# UNITAS MALACOLOGICA



## Newsletter

Number 27  
December 2008

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*Dear Members,*

This edition of your newsletter includes some exciting updates on the planning of the next World Congress of Malacology, in Phuket, Thailand, July 2010.

There are always many other conferences, too; this issue includes an excellent report of the Latin American VII CLAMA ("shout out" for malacology) meeting from Roberto Cipriani.

I would like to welcome the newest malacological society with official affiliation to Unitas Malacologica, the newly founded Hungarian Malacological Society (MAMAT); enquiries and congratulations should be directed to MAMAT's president, Dr. Zoltán Péter Eröss: [erospeter1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:erospeter1@yahoo.co.uk)

Some other developments since the last newsletter include new improvements to the website - our online content now includes the UM Constitution. More interesting reading, perhaps, is another new section to highlight publications arising from WCM meetings (one example is reviewed on page 5). If you know of other conference proceedings published from WCM symposia, or any publications that ought to be highlighted, please let me know.

Into the future, 2010 will see a

number of key vacancies in the UM Council (see p. 6). In past years, nominations for council positions have often been decided internally from lack of input. Not least among the vacancies is our next president... and the venue for the next WCM (lucky 2013). Contact Dai Herbert if you have any suggestions for nominations (including yourself!). The next council meeting will be in August/September 2009.

This year we have awarded four research awards to students in four countries (p. 7). Congratulations! We will look forward to seeing the results of their research projects in a future issue.

Applications for the next annual round of student research awards are due on 31 May 2009. The application form is available on the UM website (see p. 9). Please note that to be eligible to apply, students must be current members of UM.

Finally, our treasurer, Jackie Van Goethem, has drawn attention to our own Magnificent Seven: the longest-serving members of UM. Such long and esteemed careers loving molluscs certainly are cause for celebration.

I hope that all of you have a productive and successful 2009.

**JDS**

*Our aim is to further the study of Mollusca by individuals, societies and institutions world-wide*

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American Malacological Society | Belgische Vereniging voor Conchylologie | Deutsche Malakozoologische Gesellschaft | Friedrich Held Gesellschaft | **Hungarian Malacological Society** | Instituto Português de Malacologia | King Leopold III Foundation | Latvian Malacological Society | Malacological Society of Australasia Ltd | The Malacological Society of Japan | The Malacological Society of London | Malacological Society of the Philippines | Malacozoological Association of Yamaguchi | Nederlandse Malacologische Vereniging | Naturmuseum Senckenberg | Sociedade Brasileira de Malacologia | Sociedad Española de Malacología | Sociedad Malacológica de Chile | Società Italiana di Malacologia | Société belge de Malacologie | Society for Experimental and Descriptive Malacology | Société française de Malacologie | The Western Society of Malacologists

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## Message from the President

Dear Members,

The flyer for the WCM 2010 has finally been released to almost everyone, by which I mean many of the world's malacologists and not just limited to UNITAS members. However, there are still many members whom I could not contact officially. Anyway, this current UNITAS Newsletter can be the first effective communication media for us on this issue. I thank Dai Herbert and Julia Sigwart for persistently reminding me until the flyer was finished. The first announcement website will be activated very soon. The main keys in the flyer are the venue and some initial planned symposia. We realistically aim that the Phuket congress will not only be a success but also be one of the greatest malacology and WCM events ever held before.

The council meeting in Phuket on July 31, 2008 was a success, as you can see in the report. All members are satisfied with both Phuket and the selected hosting hotel as the conference venue. I have reported to the meeting that so far we have been successful in attaining some sponsorship moneys, which is clearly very good news since we will have more travel grants for students and other participants. On the other hand the bad news is that the American Malacological Society cannot make it to do a combined AMS-UNITAS session at the WCM, as was done in Antwerp. The principal reason given by the AMS president is the financial situation of most members, and the costs of trans-continental travel is the main constraint in the current world economic crisis.

I am very much aware of this problem for all members, and so I am trying very hard to get more sponsorship whilst the cost once at Phuket, Thailand has already been reduced. We still promise to make the WCM 2010 the cheapest, yet most impressive and meaningful WCM meeting. Please follow the first announcement on the website, which will be issued in December: [www.wcm2010.com](http://www.wcm2010.com) I think it will be one of the best New Year gifts to all of us.

**Somsak Panha**

*President, Unitas Malacologica*



## Meeting report: CLAMA VII

### *The VII Latin American Congress of Malacology*

Between November 3 and 7 the beautiful island of Teja, in Valdivia Chile, provided the background for the celebration of the VII Latin American Congress of Malacology, hosted by Universidad Austral de Chile. More than 280 registrations and 374 accepted abstracts (195 posters) from researchers in 16 countries made of this event the largest CLAMA in 17 years of history. The organization was lead by Dr. Carlos Gallardo (President) and Dr. Laura Huaquín (Vice-President). They were assisted by a number of professors, students, and volunteers from Universidad Austral, Universidad de Chile, and the Malacological Society of Chile, headed by Dr. Sergio Letelier, and were supported by Sociedad Chilena de Ciencias del Mar, Universidad de Valparaiso, Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, Sociedade Brasileira de Malacologia, CONICYT (the Chilean research funding agency), and the Latin American Association of Malacology (ALM).

More than 130 graduate students, mostly from Brazil, Argentina, and Chile, but also from Colombia, Japan, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela attended the meeting, as a number of student grants, affordable lodging, and registration waivers were provided by CONICYT and other donors.

Meeting activities started on Monday early afternoon. Dr. Dalila Aldana Aranda introduced to the audience the status of the populations of *Strombus gigas* in the Western Atlantic, their exploitation, and the importance of understanding larval nutrition to improve the efficiency of farming and the conservation of this species. The presentation of a new book on marine invertebrates from Patagonia by Dr. Pablo Penchaszadeh was followed by the conference of Dr. Juan Carlos Castilla on the

development of research and the history of exploitation and management of *Concholepas concholepas* (loco) in Chile. The ceremony of inauguration, held at Aula Magna of Universidad Austral later that day, was warm and enjoyable as the brief welcoming speeches were paused by a wonderful solo guitar play and followed by a colorful traditional dancing show. The day ended with a welcome cocktail in the terrace of the Contemporaneous Art Museum, facing the city of Valdivia under the sunset, from across the river.

Contributed talks, invited conferences, and symposia were held on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Talks, distributed in 24 separate sessions, included papers on the biology, ecology, biodiversity, systematics, genetics, physiology, parasitology, reproduction, fisheries, and farming of mollusks.

Four additional invited conferences were presented in this meeting. Dr. Dirk Schories addressed the importance of knowing the geographical distribution of mollusks in their monitoring and management. Dr. Fernanda Britto da Silva focused on the phylogeography of species of *Donax* and *Mesodesma* in South East Brazil and Dr. Jan A. Pechenik, on using Calyptraeid gastropods as models of functional and evolutionary diversity. Friday afternoon, the closing conference by Dr. Winston F. Ponder illustrated the importance of museum collections as a source of historical distribution of mollusks.

The VII CLAMA also hosted six symposia: mollusk fisheries and their sustainable management in Latin America (organized by Dr. Dalila Aldana Aranda), mollusk invasions (organized by Dr. Gustavo Darrigran), the biology of molluscan handedness (organized by Dr. Takahiro Asami and Dr. Toshie Kawano), Cenozoic paleontology (organized by Dr. Thomas De Vries and Dr. Sven N. Nielsen), the contribution of Biomphalaria to the development of malacological research (Dr. Toshie Kawano), and links between mollusks of the Antarctic and Magellanic provinces (organized by Dr. Jesus Troncoso and Dr. Cristian Aldea).

During the celebration of the Latin American Association of Malacology (ALM) assembly, Tuesday afternoon, the lasting contributions

of Dr. Cecilia Osorio and Dr. José Stuardo to malacology were recognized with life-achievement awards. In the same meeting, an emotive homage to the life and work of late Louis Di Salvo and Mel Carriker were conducted by Dr. Juan Cañete and Dr. Pablo Penchaszadeh.

Field trips by bus to Parque Nacional Oncol and by boat to Península de San Ramón, including a traditional and filling lunch of “cordero asado al palo” (lamb BBQ), occupied Wednesday’s schedule.

Posters covering papers in 13 research subjects, were presented on Thursday and Friday inside a special temporal pavilion set up for this purpose on the foregrounds of the Nahmias Building.

A wonderful dinner and a dancing party in a luxurious hotel in Valdivia was the social corollary of the meeting. During the ceremony of closure, best student papers were awarded the third edition of “Dr. Antonio García-Cubas Prize.” Awards went to undergraduate students Vanessa Sanchez from Venezuela (poster) and Daniel Coscarelli from Brazil (talk), and to graduate students Cintia Pinheiro from Brazil (poster) and Claudio Gonzalez from Chile (talk).

Additionally, the VII CLAMA offered seven workshops between Saturday 8 and Tuesday 11. They focused on applying tools for age determination in bivalves (organized by Dr. Christopher A. Richardson), using interacting keys for mollusk identification (organized by Dr. Winston F. Ponder), classifying and studying feeding in chitons (organized by Dr. Boris Sirenko), writing scientific papers (organized by Jan. A. Pechenik), reconstructing 3D computer images of molluscan anatomy (organized by Dr. Gregorio Bigatti and Timea Neusser), applying molecular tools in the analysis of molluscan evolution (organized by Dr. Fernanda Britto da Silva and Dr. Suzete Rodriguez Gomes), and evaluating the status of the conservation of mytilid and ostreid bivalves in Latin America (organized by Dr. Alvar Carranza and Dr. Omar Defeo).

The active participation of students and researchers alike and the high quality of all the contributions presented in the VII CLAMA

set the bar high for the next meeting. The VIII CLAMA will be held in 2011, year in which CLAMAs reach two decades of existence, and will be organized in Puerto Madryn, Argentina, by Dr. Gregorio Bigatti and a group of young and enthusiastic researchers from Centro Nacional Patagónico.

**Roberto Cipriani**

*President, Latin American Association  
of Malacology*

## Conferences

### **CIAC 2009: CEPHALOPOD INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

We are now one year away from CIAC'09 Symposium.

The organizing committee has been advancing in the management of this meeting and already it has outlined the most important items. Thus, we are pleased to announce you that the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) become a formal sponsor of our meeting and have granted us with a special issue in ICES Journal of Marine Science. We want to thank Andy Payne and Adi Kellermann for their valuable help and diligence concerning that issue.

The diversity of topics that are going to be presented at CIAC'09 provides opportunities to many specialists, and simultaneously offers them the possibility of hear about other areas of the biology and ecology of the cephalopods that we may not be familiar with. That means a good opportunity of scientific enrichment. Therefore, we expect many participants in this event. We think that for all (but especially for our colleagues from Central and South America) this is an unsurpassable opportunity. On the other hand, as always occurred in these symposia, this event offers an excellent occasion to meet old friends and colleagues and also an opportunity to meet young scientists who are currently studying cephalopods.

The Secretariat of the congress has informed us that it has received some subscriptions. We expect an increasing subscription from now to

the deadlines already established.

Regarding this issue, we have to inform that the Organising Committee decided to extend one month and a half the deadline for submission of abstracts. Therefore, the closing date for the submission of abstracts of oral presentations and posters will be 15th March 2009.



This is quite about what we want to inform you in this second announcement. There will be other one with more detailed information in May, 2009.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Vigo!

<http://www.iim.csic.es/>

### **ISLAND EVOLUTION 150 YEARS AFTER DARWIN**

150 Years after Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, island evolution is entering a new phase. By habitat fragmentation, we humans create more and more islands, while at the same time, by transporting species from their native biomes, we remove the dispersal barriers that kept habitats isolated.

The National Museum of Natural History in Leiden, the Netherlands, together with the Darwin Center for Biogeology in Utrecht, the Netherlands, will organise an international congress on "Island Evolution 150 Years After Darwin" 12 & 13 February 2009, Museum Naturalis, Leiden, the Netherlands.

The meeting will bring together traditional students of island biotas, community ecologists, and evolutionary biologists, to explore the role of island-biological processes in a world in which the "island processes" of isolation and dispersal are being drastically altered.

Registration fee: Early (before 15 January 2009): € 150 (regular participants); € 100 (students); Late registration (15 January 2009 and later): € 175 (regular participants); € 125 (students).

The registration fee covers book of abstracts, ice-breaker, free entry to the museum, lunches,

buffet dinner, Darwin Year opening reception, and refreshments.

Registration closes on January 28th, 2009. Abstracts for posters should be submitted to Jeremy Miller (miller@naturalis.nl) before December 15, 2008.

<http://www.naturalis.nl/darwin2009>

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## SAGE 2009

Southeast Asian Gateway Evolution 2009: 14-17 September 2009, Royal Holloway University of London.

In September 2009 an international meeting at Royal Holloway will focus on the Indonesian Gateway, the current connection between the Pacific and Indian Oceans. The meeting is aimed to bring together Life and Earth Scientists to discuss the history, development and current state of the region.

We welcome contributions on all aspects of the geology, oceanography, climate, biology and development of this region, particularly those that cross discipline boundaries, and can explain the relevance of their work to other scientists including non-specialists in the field.

Abstracts of not more than 400 words should be submitted by 31 March 2009.

A limited amount of funding (up to £500) will be made available to one student based in Southeast Asia and **working on molluscs**, to allow them to attend the meeting and present either a poster or talk.

<http://sage2009.rhul.ac.uk/>

## New WWW Project

A team of people from Stanford and Cambridge, have just launched a website, [www.academia.edu](http://www.academia.edu), which does two things:

It displays academics around the world in a 'tree diagram' format, according to which institution/department they are affiliated with.

It enables researchers to keep track of the latest developments in their field - the latest people, papers, and talks.

We're hoping that the site will eventually list every academic in the world: Faculty members, Post-Docs, and Graduate Students. People can add their departments, and themselves, to the tree by clicking on the arrows.

The site is getting some traction. Over 9,000 academics have joined Academia.edu in the last two months. We're trying to spread the word about Academia.edu as much as possible. It would be terrific if you could visit the site, and add yourself to your department on the tree. If your university is not there, you can add it by clicking on the arrows coming out of the university boxes.

*Richard Price*

[oxford.academia.edu/RichardPrice](http://oxford.academia.edu/RichardPrice)

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## Publications

### **FRESHWATER MUSSELS of Alabama and the Mobile Basin in Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee**

James D. Williams, Arthur E. Bogan, Jeffrey T. Garner

908 pp., 766 figures, University of Alabama Press, ISBN 978-0-8173-1613-6

USD \$ 70.00 [ask the authors for the magic code for a 30% discount!]

This book is composed of comprehensive synoptic entries on each of the 178 species of freshwater mussels known from the study region. The text includes information and illustrations about the morphology, distribution, conservation threats, and biology for each

species. It has received excellent reviews and is reportedly an invaluable resource for freshwater mussel studies in North America and abroad.

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### ***Micromollusc Proceedings Volume Published***

The proceedings volume of the UNITAS WCM Antwerp Symposium *Micromolluscs: Methodological Challenges, Exciting Results* has been published on July 25, 2008, in *Zoosymposia* 1, 308 pp., i.e., in a regularly quotable journal with web site and electronic versions (see [www.mapress.com/zoosymposia](http://www.mapress.com/zoosymposia)). It is the first proceedings volume to come out following the Antwerp meeting, just one year and five days after the closing of the 16th World Congress. Contributors from Argentina, Germany, Great Britain, India, Japan, Malaysia, The Netherlands, Singapore, Spain, and the USA wrote the various papers. The volume contains 15 articles ranging from methods in morphology and molecular studies, to description of new species and (paleo-) ecological studies.

It is available as hard-bound book and as digital files. One electronic paper contains 3D-interactive figures of anatomical models, a first in the peer-reviewed, biomedical literature to the best of our knowledge.

Three papers are available as open-access pdfs from the publisher's website free of charge. [www.mapress.com/zoosymposia](http://www.mapress.com/zoosymposia)

We think that this proceedings volume was published in relatively short time (barely over one calendar year), while maintaining solid journal standards. It was possible by setting right from the beginning a fixed timetable for all steps of the process: submission, review, revision, proof, and publication. Periodic updates and some gentle individual reminders helped to keep everybody aware of the progress. Second, production of the volume—layout in InDesign, pdf generation for print and web—was also carried out by us, bypassing one step in the production chain, and permitting flexible formatting of the various contributions.

We would like to thank Thierry Backeljau and Jackie van Goethem and their team for

organizing the UNITAS Antwerp meeting and for running it so smoothly, the series editor Zhi-Qiang Zhang for guidance during conception and production, and the authors and reviewers for quick turn around of manuscripts.

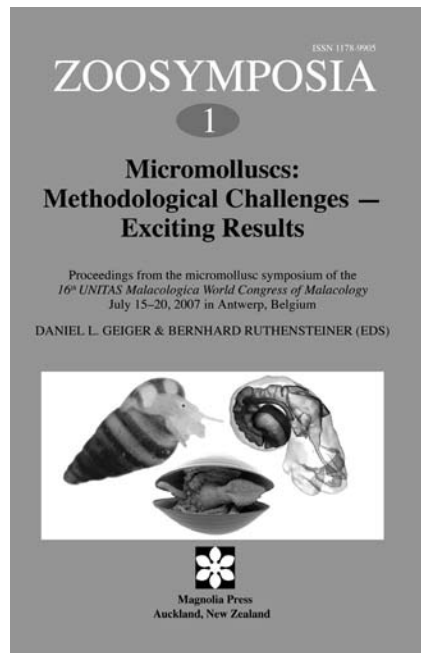
This volume underscores the extraordinary potential that lies within the small molluscan fauna. The slightly greater effort expended is well worth the resulting discoveries.

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## Secretary's Column

Dear Members,

The 2008 UM Council meeting was held in Phuket, Thailand on July 31st, where we were hosted by our President, Somsak Panha – if this represents a sample of the Thai hospitality that we can expect in 2010 at the 5th WCM in Phuket, then this will be a congress that you should definitely not miss! Naturally, our principal business was the arrangements for the WCM 2010 and Somsak, ably assisted by Nontivich Tandavanitj, outlined his plans and gave us a tour of the various venue options. Since financial considerations are of considerable importance to most malacologists, even before the current credit crunch, you will be glad to hear that we favoured the more modest options. In reality, this should give us a more authentic glimpse of Phuket and its culture, which I think most of us would also prefer. Somsak will no doubt fill us in on the details as these emerge over the coming 18 months.

Another important item of business was the finalisation of the UM Student Research Awards for 2008. This was perhaps more difficult this year than it ever has been. In total we had 16 applications, but these were so varied in their subject matter and scope that it was difficult to compare and evaluate them using a single set of criteria. Thanks to profits from the Antwerp WCM, our Treasurer indicated that we could again afford to make four awards rather than the standard two, and after considerable discussion we managed to come to some consensus on the winning applications. Congratulations to them – further details of the winners and their projects are given below (next page).

### **Election of new office bearers**

At the 2010 WCM, the terms of office of Council member, Guido Pastorino and myself, UM Secretary, come to an end. In addition, our longstanding Treasurer, Jackie Van Goethem, has decided that he must call it a day in 2010 and hand over the UM purse strings. Between now and then we also need to identify a new President and venue for the WCM 2013.

Therefore, in accordance with Article V,

Section 4 of our constitution [now available on the website], Council now calls for nominations for the following positions: President, Secretary, Treasurer and Council Member (1). A ballot for these positions will then be held prior to the next General Assembly in Phuket. Each nomination requires a proposer and a seconder, as well as the signed agreement of the nominee (all three of whom must be personal UM members in good standing).

Although it may seem that the next General Assembly is a long time away, I ask that members give this matter serious thought now as we need to get the ball rolling – **don't, as usual, leave it up to Council alone to make the nominations!** In view of financial considerations, Council feels it would be preferable for the new Treasurer to come from a Euro-zone country. Since it is important that we have at least one good option for the venue for WCM 2013 and the associated President, Council will be considering this matter at its next meeting in August/September 2009 – any input prior to this would be welcome.

**Dai Herbert**  
Secretary



## Student Award Winners

Four Student Research Awards were made for 2008. The winners, in alphabetical order, are as follows:

Florencia ARRIGHETTI (Universidad de Buenos Aires)

*Ultrastructure and cytochemical study of the digestive gland cells of the marine gastropod *Adelomelon beckii* (Broderip, 1836)*

Martine CLAREMONT (Natural History Museum, London and Imperial College, University of London)

*What is the scale of phylogenetic differentiation in a muricid with teleplanic larvae?*

Marty MEYER (University of Hawaii at Manoa)

*Ecosystem services provided by terrestrial Mollusca in Hawaiian rainforests*

Norhanis RAZALLI (Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang)

*The diversity and distribution of microsnailes in Langkai Islands, Kedah, Malaysia*

**Congratulations!**

## Member report: Brazil

The month of March 2008 ended the first stage of our private project that seeks the integral rising of marine, freshwater and terrestrial malacofauna existent in the Santa Catarina's State, Southern Brazil region. A reasonable total of 766 confirmed species and subspecies (608 marine, 55 freshwater - 32 gastropods and 23 bivalves, and 103 terrestrial), included 173 families and 390 genera, completing 12 years of exhaustive regional researches (1996 - 2008) and involving, before besides the essential cadaster of regional biodiversity of mollusks commented, important considerations such as the taxonomy, ecology zoogeography and conservation, as well as exhaustive analysis of the regional historical bibliography production, generated to the 59 year-old plaza, between 1949 and 2008. Five specific items were involved in the course of the progress of the works: invasive species,

marine and continental malacoculture, vectors of parasitic diseases and public health, agricultural and urban plagues, and bio-indicators of environmental quality.

However, and in parallel with the work developed in Santa Catarina's State, since the year of 2001, we developed another inventory of terrestrial and freshwater mollusks, in the neighboring territory of the State of Paran, with a total up to now confirmed of 131 species and subspecies (78 terrestrial and 53 freshwater - 31 gastropods and 22 bivalves), systematically included in 36 families and 64 genera.

The South American countries of Brazil - through its southern region, Uruguay and Argentina - form the geography of the "Atlantic Slope of the South Cone" (Fig. 1), presenting reasonable well-known risings of freshwater and terrestrial mollusks.

For references to studies completed in progress, and for taxonomic details of involved species, please contact the author of this report.

**A. Ignacio Agudo-Padrón**

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<http://www.malacologia.com.br>



Dear Members,

Once again I can express deep sympathy for a past UM President in particular in his capacity of congress organiser. Indeed the latest World Malacological Congress, held in Antwerp in 2007, was very beneficial. Arranging the financial issues in a very careful and forethoughted way, Thierry Backeljau was able to maintain around 15,800 euro in the UM accounts.

He generously donated this amount to the Unitas Malacologica Trust Fund. This in turn will favour an ever growing amount of money available for congress travel grants whilst research awards can continue to be yearly secured. Many thanks Thierry, and welcome in the gallery of congress organisers benefiting from warm feelings by the UM treasurer.

I foster analogous feelings for some other UM members. You may know that our Society was founded in 1962 starting with 61 members on the 21st of September together with two affiliated organisations. Six more members joined that same year. It is a real joy to see that from these 'founding members' no less than seven are still active members of Unitas paying their dues in an exemplary way and adding extras for the Trust Fund.

I hereby pay a special tribute to those 'magnificent seven' who present a long standing UM membership uninterrupted for more than 46 years. A golden membership is not far away for:

Em. Prof. Herbert Ant, Dr A.D. Berrie, Dr George I. Crawford, Dr Malcolm Edmunds, Dr h.c. J.G.J. Kuiper, Em. Prof. Claus Meier-Brook, and Dr Robert Moens.

Finally I again have the pleasure to mention several individual donations to the Trust Fund which together and over a three years period may reach interesting benefit: two generous donations by George I. Crawford and Günter Schmid, smaller ones by Robert A.D. Cameron, Klaus-Jürgen Götting, Arie W. Janssen, Edward Johannes, Alan Kabat and Dolf van Bruggen, and round-ups by Barry Colville, Johannes Kuiper, José W. Thomé and Kenji Torigoe.

Thank you all *very* much, and best wishes.

**Jackie Van Goethem**  
Treasurer

### Student Awards 2009

#### **Call for applications: UM Student Research Awards for 2009**

Two awards, each of up to €1 000, are offered every year to students engaged in research projects of a malacological nature. These will generally be projects undertaken in pursuit of higher academic degrees (e.g. M.Sc. and Ph.D.). Normal budget items include supplies, expendable equipment and research-related travel. The awards cannot be used to cover salaries, institutional overheads, permanent equipment or conferences. Only students who are members of UM in good standing are eligible to apply for these awards.

The next deadline for submissions is **31st May 2009**. Applications must be completed on an application form which is available on the **UM website** and should be sent as an e-mail attachment to the UM secretary, Dr Dai Herbert.

[www.ucd.ie/cobid/unitas/projects.html](http://www.ucd.ie/cobid/unitas/projects.html)

Supervisors are especially reminded to advise their students that students must be paid up members of UM in order to be eligible for these awards!

### World Congress of Malacology

**Phuket, Thailand**

**18 - 24 July 2010**

The 17th International Congress of UNITAS MALACOLOGICA, the next World Congress of Malacology (WCM), will be held in the island of Phuket, Thailand, from the 18th to the 24th July 2010 (inclusive) at the majestic and luxurious Royal Phuket City Hotel. This is the first time that the WCM has ever been

held in Asia and is jointly organized by Unitas, Chulalongkorn University and the Biodiversity Research Program of Thailand. Phuket, often called the “Pearl of Andaman” is one of the most beautiful islands in the Andaman Region, located in the southwest of Thailand within and next to the Sirinath and Phang-Nga Bay National (Marine) Parks, respectively, and a short boat trip away from the equally well known Krabi (Hat Noppharat Thara National Park) and Phi Phi Island. It thus offers internationally renowned excellent recreational beaches and scuba diving in addition to outstanding marine wildlife including, of course, molluscs. However, both the island of Phuket itself, as well as the nearby mainland (including Khao Sok National Park) offer exciting opportunities to study a diverse range of freshwater and terrestrial wildlife and trekking, or just explore the diverse local, and world famous, Thai cultures, cuisine and hospitality.

The congress will adopt the style of the last highly successful Congress in Antwerp, Belgium (2007) and, building upon their expertise, we expect the Phuket meeting to be at least as successful. The congress offers a great opportunity for people who work on or are interested in molluscs to come to Phuket, Thailand. Currently, five symposia are planned:

- Phylogeny and Biology of Freshwater Bivalves (by Arthur Bogan and Randy Hoeh)
- The Biology and Evolution of Limpets (by Alan Hodgson)
- Bivalve Evolution (in Conjunction with the Bivalve Tree-of-Life Project; Rüdiger Bieler, Gonzalo Giribet and Paula Mikkelsen)
- Community Ecology of Tropical Forest Land Snails (by Dinarzade Raheem and Fred Naggs)
- The Last 50 Years of Malacology: Specialization, Methodological Transformation and Globalization (by Robert Hershler and David Lindberg)
- There is still room for further symposia, please send you suggested symposium proposal to the organizer (see below)

In addition to the main symposia listed above, there will also be both contributed paper sessions and poster sessions which are open to cover all aspects of Malacology.

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The conference will start with an icebreaker on Sunday evening, 18th July 2010, with the sessions being held on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday is set aside for excursions (see below), and the



conference dinner and farewell evening will be on Friday night. Three-star hotel accommodation will be available at the conference venue itself (Royal Phuket City Hotel), as well as at nearby hotels. These are established tourist hotels and thus well suited to cater for diverse cultural (and electrical appliance) requirements and languages. This conference will be one of, if not the cheapest and yet impressive meetings ever held before, and so will represent ideal value!

A choice of four excursions is tentatively planned for Wednesday;

- Visit to Phuket Marine Biological Center
- Visit Phuket Seashell
- Tour of Ao Phang-Nga (Phang-Nga Bay) National Park with its limestone outcrops and spectacular caves (hongs) and islands
- Excursion to the Phang-Nga Mangrove area

Further information on both scientific (conference) and related matters, including international transport details, expected weather, suitable dress and local customs, and nearby sites of malacological or tourist interests for those planning an extended stay, will be available on the conference website which will be activated soon and regularly updated thereafter. Alternatively, information can be obtained from the Conference Organiser.

*See You In Phuket!*

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<http://www.wcm2010.com>