

Discovering New Dinosaurs



Lindsay Zanno

Director, Paleontology & Geology Research Lab Scientific Board of Directors, Jurassic Foundation

CURRENT RESEARCH

Dinosaur paleontology helps us understand how life evolves in deep time

In order to tackle our most pressing global issues, we must be able to predict the outcome of changing environmental and climatic factors on the future of life. Nearly all research conducted on biodiversity and climate issues are restricted to the study of living organisms, which together comprise less than 1% of species that have inhabited our dynamic planet. By examining four billion years of life's responses to environmental fluctuation, paleontologists bring real world data to bear on societal challenges.

Dr. Lindsay Zanno, Director of the Paleontology & Geology Research Lab at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences and North Carolina State University, studies the interconnectedness of ancient ecosystems by uncovering how extinction events, sea-level rise, and global temperature rise impacted the evolution of dinosaurs. In particular, she uses new dinosaur discoveries from her on-going field expeditions to Mesozoic localities around the world (North America and Asia) to identify key factors in their success and tipping points leading to extinction. Determining the reasons why dinosaurs achieved global dominance in the Mesozoic and how birds--the singular lineage of living dinosaurs--ultimately survived the end-Cretaceous extinction event requires new approaches to studying dinosaur biology. Dr. Zanno and her team synthesize a rich fossil record with observations from living dinosaurs (birds) and other close living relatives, to tackle complex transitions in diet, social and sexual selective forces, and anatomical novelties in dinosaur evolution.

The Zanno Lab is on-exhibit to more than one million visitors a year and serves as a new model for 21st century museum science....

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AFFILIATION



North Carolina State University

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in Geology 2008, University of Utah

AWARDS

- Discover Magazine's Year in Science Top Research: Paleontology, 2006
- NSF Graduate STEM Fellowship in K-12 Education, 2005-2007
- Graduate Research Fellowship, 2006
- Sylvester-Bradley Award, 2006

RESEARCH AREAS

Environment, Ecology, Geology

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support Dr. Lindsay Zanno of the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences and North Carolina State University as she excavates dinosaur fossils to understand changes in ancient ecosystems. Donations will help fund the annual \$100K-200K required for a robust program of fieldwork and research, including domestic and international expeditions, studies on newly discovered species, and personnel including existing female and racial minority postdoc scientists. Partner with her as she brings science out from behind the proverbial curtain, bringing paleontology to public audiences!