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5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

To: brennerg@npvm.newpaltz.edu
From: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
Subject: message, news items
Cc:
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

Dear Gil:

Universities have great liberty when it comes to things like space. Even tenure gives one no "right" to any facilities other than some minimal space--a desk and a chair, I guess. So, yes, I could refuse to retire, but they could take my space away, definitely. By agreeing to retire I was able to get a couple of years of freedom to use the space. I'm reminded of when I was a senior at Harvard. The Geography Department had a nice new building and lots of good projects, but the faculty was to a "man" what we now call gay. Harvard wanted them out. They discovered that even professors with tenure can be kicked out, if the ENTIRE program is dissolved. So they did it. I noted at my 50th reunion last week that the building is now another sort of institute, but the bas relief of the map of the world still is over the door, after 50 years. Harvard could now reintroduce geography, as all the guys who were canned have gone to their reward.

Too late about the crazy message. It's in the (snail) mail.

We're off to the Adirondacks to care for our property there for a week or so.

Best. Al.

X-Delivery-Notice: SMTP MAIL FROM does not correspond to sender.

Date: Mon, 16 Jun 97 10:46:40 EDT

From: Roger <BRENNERG@npvm.newpaltz.edu>

Subject: Re: message, news items

To: Alfred Traverse <traverse@ems.psu.edu>

They play a tough game at Penn State. They were much gentler to me as a grad student there. I loved being nurtured by Spackman. Although he did not spend much time with us he was very generous with financial support.

I wish that you had been there. I think it would have been symbiotic.

Do you ever hear from Bebout? Do you know Walter Riegal's E-mail address?

Best wishes,
Gil Brenner

To: brennerg@npvm.newpaltz.edu
From: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
Subject: Walter, mostly
Cc:
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

Dear Gil:

It was amusing to read your description of WS as "generous" with financial support. It's easy to be "generous" with money from the taxpayers, especially when the performance of the kids who got the money assured a continuing flow of such cash, from which you derived much benefit--including what amounts to a cut thereof.

For some reason I can't come up with Walter Riegel's e-mail address. However, I am in frequent touch with one of his co-workers, and you could get said address from him: Volker Wilde, at the Senckenberg Museum in Frankfurt: Vwilde@sngkw.uni-frankfurt.de

You could mention that I gave you Volker's address. Incidentally, be careful to use a hyphen after uni, not a ..

Haven't heard from John B. in years. He never published his Ph. D. thesis, and it should still be--but I am powerless. When last heard from he was an official with the Bureau of Land Management in D. C. We loved them both, John and Anne--but he hasn't been with her for decades, or so it seems. The three kids would now be adults.

Enough of this chatter. I have a Turkish lesson in a matter of minutes.

Best. Al.

*** PF03 UNDEFINED, 04:29 PM 6/29/97, Re: errant message etc.**

1

X-Delivery-Notice: SMTP MAIL FROM does not correspond to sender.

Date: Sun, 29 Jun 97 16:29:13 EDT

From: * PF03 UNDEFINED <BRENNERG@npvm.newpaltz.edu>

Subject: Re: errant message etc.

To: Alfred Traverse <traverse@ems.psu.edu>

Thanks for the papers! I liked your paper on the age of the Brandon Lignite.
I recently published a few papers on the Miocene of New Jersey.

Gil

Printed for traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)

1

Gilbert J. Brenner, 01:44 PM 6/10/97, <no subject>

1

Date: Tue, 10 Jun 1997 13:44:56 +0200

From: "Gilbert J. Brenner" <brennerg@npvm.newpaltz.edu>

To: traverse@ems.psu.edu

Subject: <no subject>

X-URL: <http://opal.geology.utoronto.ca/AASP/aaspemail.html>

Came across paper claiming that the Brandon lignite is Cretaceous!

Did you see it?

Gil Brenner

Printed for traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)

1

Jan. 18, 1966

DIVISION OF PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Dept. of Geology
Univ. of Texas
Austin, Texas

Dear Dr. Traverse;

I am making a study of Angiosperm pollen characteristics of North America from Aptian, Albian, + Cenomanian horizons. I have asked people from various areas to help supply me with material that would help me with the large task.

Could you send me material (either samples or slides) from these horizons in Texas so that I can put them into a region pattern? Any suggestions on the above would be gratefully received. My primary aim is geographic origin and dispersal routes of early ~~angiosperms~~ angiosperms.

Sincerely,
Gil Brenner

24 Jan, 1966

Dr. Gil Brenner
Division of Physical Sciences
State University College
New Paltz, New York


Dear Gil:

Good to hear from you. But my status here is that of visiting lecturer for the one year, and I have scarcely unpacked. Besides, I have not got down into the Cretaceous yet, so I am not the one to help you, I fear. I could collect materials for you if I had the time, but with the necessity of finding a job for next year in addition to my other duties between now and June, I just know there is no time for field work, except a day or two perhaps on some of my own projects.

I wonder if Dr. John Grayson, Pan American Petroleum, Tulsa, could not help you. I remember that he reported extensively on Texas Cretaceous pollen at the 1959 Botanical Congress.

Sorry to be such a dud.

Yours cordially,


Alfred Traverse

December 17, 1956

Dr. James Brooks
Department of Geology
Fondren Science Hall
Southern Methodist University
Dallas 5, Texas

Dear Jim:

Thanks for devoting so much time to showing Mr. van Raadschooven and me around the premises the other day. We especially appreciated this courtesy in that we dropped in on you without warning or invitation. We were greatly impressed with the facilities you have. I would be delighted if you would repay the visit if you happen to be in Houston with a little spare time.

Would you convey our thanks to Dr. Richards as well?

Yours very truly,


Alfred Traverse

AT:rlg

Shell Development Company
Exploration and Production Research Division

22 September, 1966

n. v. Boekhandel J. G. Broese
Nachttegaalstr. 20
Utrecht, Netherlands

Dear Sirs:

At the recent international Palynological Conference in Utrecht I saw in your exhibit several books that I would like to order. Could you send the books to me and bill me for them?

They are:

1. Krutzsch, Atlas der mittel und jungtert. dispersen Sporen und Pollen sowie der Mikroplankton formen des nördlichen Mitteleuropas. VEB Deutscher Verlag der Wissenschaften, Berlin.

Please send the parts that are now available and consider that I have a standing order for the parts that appear later.

2. Beug, H. J. Leitfaden der Pollenbestimmung. Gustav Fischer. Jena. 1963.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Alfred Traverse
Associate Professor of Geology

RUSSELL A. BRANT

GEOLOGIST

479 W. ROSSLYN AVENUE

WORTHINGTON, OHIO

LUDLOW 1064

May 10, 1954

Dear Al,

Just thought I would run off a note this AM before closing up the typewriter. Your report on Martha Jane, for the arrival of whom congratulations are due, disturbed us much. Of course the event is now history in the family and probably all of the immediately concerned can reflect on another grey hair (no pun intended). I trust that all especially Martha are quite at ease once more.

Of course we can appreciate your observations on Paul, it is certainly great fun to watch them develop. And I would expect him to be somewhat of an exception having found the genesis that he did. I know this does not always work- genetics you know. Lyssie is now in school and taking it quite well and Alan can't wait. He (at 4) is turning out crayon pictures that are good 6 year level and he has started on a pretty good appreciation or rather a comprehension of numbers- Like the other night he told me that 3 twos and 1 are 7. I was amazed. I found out he had been plying with 7 washers and had them in just that arrangement. Duane, is having difficulty with speech but is slowly forming words in an understandable fashion. Daniel- no comment except that he is now 7 months old growing fast and is quite alert.

I was supposed to start the field work on Stark County this month, I am much disturbed that I will not. Believe me Al, another aspect to doing a good job is the attitude of the administrator. I am not too happy with Melvin's policy- or rather lack of it. I like the man personally but this business of changing objectives from week to week is enough to get even a phlegmat like me down. This as a side note to your difficulties of housing. I can well appreciate the problem, we faced it, and it certainly is miserable as far as housing goes. I take it that you are looking to greener pastures where living conditions will be more amenable. I halfway thought that Schopf might have made you an offer. He took on a Paleobotanist by name of Felix lately.

Thanks for the reprint, I do not get too much out of our petrographic lab. Gil Smith is still learning and I hate to bother Cady, who spends one week out of the month here. All of the blocks are prepared and the identification counting and statistics will occupy the next year. Spores have a slight fascination for me, I still find pollen more fun and much more fascinating in all respects. Maybe I will end up doing a peat bog problem. There is no one on the campus currently interested (geol Dept) in pollen work.

Fort Union-- I don't know if I go along with the exclusiveness of non-marine origin. Pennsylvanian- Uppermost Gonemaugh and the "onongehela are presumed ~~to be~~ non-marine, with more evidence too. Permian is also all identified as non-marine. The aspects of coal swamps (pardon me- Peat swamps) is far from a clearly explained event to my way of thinking.

Best Close now- best regards to you Betty and the family,

Russ

May 4, 1967

Dr. Gilbert J. Brenner
Division of Physical Sciences
State University College
New Paltz, New York 12561

Dear Gil:

Doug Nichols, a graduate student who is working on a Wilcox problem with me, and I have a little two man seminar (occasionally swells to a vast three or even four!) to discuss palynological topics. We have lately been studying the various palynology theses produced here over the years. Yours came up this week, and it has been of uncommon interest to both of us--to Nichols especially since he did an invertebrate problem in the Merchantville (New Jersey--Cretaceous)--but to me also because of the overall excellent job you did and because of the fact that your thesis actually had some "theses". So many doctoral theses one reads are good as far as they go but they don't go very far. Your work makes a fine contribution to general knowledge of the Cretaceous of the area.

In your section on preparation techniques you state that you were convinced that your essentially non-chemical method did not lose any spores. You said that you examined the residue to convince yourself of this but you don't say how you processed the check to see whether you had lost anything--HF?

Your thesis was, I believe, published by somebody--Maryland Survey? Do you still have a copy for distribution? If not, could you tell me to whom to write and how much money to send?

One of these years I'd like to get to know you better. I told Nichols that I saw you at the International Pollen Conference last summer, and took him over to the wall to look at the picture I have framed of the group--but you aren't to be found in it. Wha' happened?

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Associate Professor of Geology

July 5, 1967

DIVISION OF PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Alfred Traverse
Coal Research Lab
Dept. of Geology + Geophysics
Penn State University
University Park, Pa

Dear Al:

Thank you for your recent letter. I suspect now that I am losing my megaspores in the Zinc Chloride method. You can purchase my book from the Maryland Geological Survey, Latrobe Hall Johns Hopkins Univ. Baltimore Maryland. — 2.50 soft cover, 3.50 Hard cover. I have no copies left for distribution! I would also like to get to know you better. I did plan, with your consent, to visit the Coal lab and make some recent preparations of pollen + spores. When will you be around in the next several months.

Sincerely,

Gil Brenner

CATALOG OF FOSSIL SPORES AND POLLEN

DEIKE BUILDING
THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY PARK, PENNSYLVANIA 16802
U. S. A.



THE
INTERNATIONAL COMPENDIUM
OF
PALYNOLOGICAL SYSTEMATICS

August 1, 1967

Dr. Gilbert J. Brenner
Director of Physical Sciences
State University College
New Paltz, New York 12561

Dear Gil:

Your letter of 5 July was waiting here for me when I returned from a collecting trip to Texas. I shall send off immediately for a copy of your book.

Regarding preparations of recent pollen and spores and other reference materials which are or will be available in the Palynological Laboratories here, I am establishing the policy that exchanges will be made only on a *quid pro quo* basis. Incidentally, in my preliminary efforts to get our reference slides and materials into workable condition, I have found no evidence that you left duplicates of your macerations and residues for use in connection with work here. I do hope you will correct me if I am wrong about this.

If you do wish to initiate an exchange of slides and or residues of fossil material for modern pollen slides, I will be happy to discuss the matter further with you. I guess part of the problem has been that there has never been a permanent palynologist on the staff here to assure continuity of procedures.

Please feel free to visit us whenever you like and I am sure that we can make some equitable arrangement regarding palynological exchange. Best wishes to you.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Associate Professor of Geology

AT:kaw

October 5, 1967

Dr. Gilbert J. Brenner
Division of Physical Sciences
State University College
New Paltz, New York 12561


Dear Gil:

We have canvassed the local motel situation (I am sure that even Lewistown is not far enough away to be unaffected by the football scramble) and find that the weekend beginning 26 October is the best. We have made a reservation for you at the Downtowner Motel, Pugh Street, for 26-27-28 October. They will hold the room for you until 6:00 p.m. without deposit. If you wanted to arrive later, a deposit would have to be made. The Traverses are expecting you for dinner circa 6:00, so probably arrival time is no problem.

Let us know if this isn't all right, and we'll try another arrangement.

Looking forward with pleasure to seeing you, I am

Yours very truly,


Alfred Traverse
Associate Professor of Geology

AT:kwc

DIVISION OF PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Oct. 13, 1967

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Dept. of Geology and Geophysics
Penn State
University Park, Pa.

Dear Al:

Thank you for making reservations for me. Those days will be fine, except that I might leave for home on Saturday rather than Sunday.

I will arrive in State College before 6:00 and call you.

Sincerely yours,
Gilbert J. Bruner

Oct 22, 1967

THE UPPER COLLEGE
DIVISION OF PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Dear Al,

If I left Saturday I would leave about 6pm. This should give me some time for collecting plant fossils.

I am looking forward to meeting your students and hope that I can contribute in some way to their interest in paleobotany.

I expect to arrive in State College in the early afternoon.

That postcard you sent me is sensational!

P.S. I would also like to talk to you about my research and the success & failures that have developed from it.

Sincerely,

Gilbert Brenner

February 28, 1968

Dr. Gilbert J. Brenner
Division of Physical Sciences
State University College
New Paltz, New York 12561

Dear Gil:

Whatever happened to the cuts of residues or
(at least) the duplicate pieces of rock from your
thesis material that I thought we might get from you?--
Nichols and I are working on the slide and residue
collections currently, and it reminds me that the
"Brenner locule" in the residue drawers should be
filled!

Best wishes.

Yours very truly,



Alfred Traverse
Associate Professor of Geology

AT:kwc

March 3, 1969

Dr. Gilbert J. Brenner
Department of Geology
State University College
New Paltz, New York 12561

Dear Gil:

Thanks for "Middle Cretaceous spores....Peru."
I take it that this is the paper on the "liberated"
oil company samples, but I couldn't be sure from the
acknowledgments!

Hey, don't forget the samples to go with slides
and paper on your thesis work--could use 'em for
course unknowns and reference.

I know I owe you a letter, but I can't at the
moment find yours--you made a very interesting and
(for me) gratifying confession of sophistry, if I
remember correctly. You sure had me fooled is all
I can weakly mumble!

Come see us again when you can. Plan to camp
on us if money is short.

Yours as ever,

Alfred Traverse
Associate Professor of Geology

AT:kwc

Dept. of Geology

DIVISION OF PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Dec. 10, 1968

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Dept. of Geology
Penn State University
University Park, Pa

Dear Al:

I sent you some time ago \$5 and a membership application for AASP. I have not heard from you acknowledging my membership.

Has the question ever come up about the possibility of AASP acting as a clearing house for the exchange of recent + fossil slide material?

I am now trying to finish up my Cretaceous study of the Middle Cretaceous Angiosperm occurrences, and have developed a side study that may be of interest to you. I am looking at some Miocene material from N.J. which is loaded with pollen (Kirkwood Formation). The genera present seem to indicate a warm temperate climate. What I ~~am~~ would like to ask you if Podocarpus has been found in Miocene deposits of North America?

By the way - if you will keep this off the record - I have been, and always was, a McCarthy supporter and against the way the present administration is handling the situation in Vietnam. The night when I was over your house I was engaging in pure sophistry.

As ever,

Ed Bremner

Oct 21, 1970

Hi,

Having an interesting sta
here. Working 6 days a week
on primarily Dinoflagellates
of Cretaceous Age. Visited
Ein Kerem and thought
you would like the card.
Best wishes to you in
the new year 5731.

Jif
Trenner

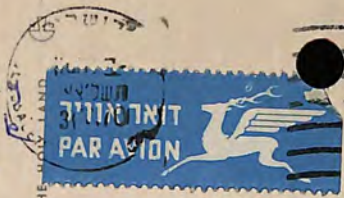
EIN KEREM

Vue général avec l'Eglise de la
Nativité de St. Jean Baptist.

EIN KEREM

General view with Church of
Nativity of St. John Baptist.

21 Hapalmach St. Jerusalem Israel



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Dr. Alfred Traverse
Dept. of Geology
Penn State University
State College, Pennsylvania
U.S.A. 16801



MADE IN ISRAEL

7978

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

Jerusalem, February 8, 1971

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Department of Geology
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pa.
U. S. A.

Dear Al,

Thank you for your postcard. My work here is no less ambitious than the Palynology of the lowest Cretaceous to Cenomanian sediments of Israel; from the Coastal Plain to the Negev. There is a rapid change in facies from more marine open sea in the west to near shore littoral deposits in the Negev. The western area contains primarily a dinoflagellate assemblage from Neocomian to Cenomanian while the assemblages become more and more continental and by the time one reaches the border rift area the assemblage is composed primarily of spores and pollen and a few dinoflagellates. The problem presents a classic example of palynofacies changes from open sea marine to nonmarine-littoral.

Life here has been very relaxing for me. No teaching and student disruptions. My free time involves studying outdoors, by car and foot, 4,000 years of archeology, and swimming in such places as the Gulf of Aquaba, Mediterranean and the Dead Sea. I have not as yet gotten up to the Galile.

There is another matter I would like to discuss with you at this time. The director of the Paleontology Division, Mr. M. Raab, is interested in doing a doctorate in Palynology in the U.S.A. He has a Master's degree in geology from the Hebrew University and has published several papers on Ammonites. The survey here needs a palynologist and Mr. Raab would like to fill this role in his country.

I have suggested Penn State. He has a good mind and I know he would learn palynology rapidly. Some of his support would come from the State of Israel but since he has a wife and

-2-

If for some reason he decides against us, then I will see what I can do about coming up with some other recommendations. For the time being, however, let me just say that we would welcome him with open arms here, especially based on your recommendation.

All best wishes to you as always.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Geology & Biology

AT/mdw

February 19, 1971

Dr. Gilbert Brenner
Ministry of Development
Geological Survey of Israel
30 Malkel Israel Str.
Jerusalem, Israel

Dear Gil:

Yours of 8 February was most interesting and welcome. How did you ever pull a deal like that off? I don't seem to be able to get more than 10 minutes of research time on any one day, and you sound as if that's all in the world you have to do, and in such fascinating surroundings.

Regarding Mr. Raab, by all means we would be most interested in having him work for his doctorate in palynology here at Penn State, and I think that a fairly sound argument could be made that this is the place he ought to do it. There may be other locations where the palynologist is a tad better, but I can't think of any place that combines fairly high quality of palynological facilities and instruction with really first class geological equipment and staff, in practically all fields. You may be interested to know that the Penn State geology setup was rated number nine in the country by NSF--I personally feel that is very unfair to Penn State--if all of our geology work were in one department, as it is in most places, I think there is no doubt that we would be one or two. But the point is that none of the eight places which is ahead of us has any palynology worth mentioning (I suppose Stanford would be an exception, if they're one of the ones on the list, which I can't remember). Mr. Raab would probably have some difficulty from not having any botanical background, but none at all from not having any palynology before. If he has had no previous botany, I would suggest he start reading in that area right away. I am sure he has had enough geology to carry him through.

Regarding his support, the best that we could offer would be a half-time research assistantship or teaching assistantship, but if the Israel government were going to support him to some extent, I don't think he should have any real financial problems. Of course, as you remember, being a graduate student is no way to get rich!

STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
NEW PALTZ, NEW YORK 12561

DEPARTMENT OF
GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

October 17, 1972

Mr. H. Tate Ames
Catalog of Fossil, Spores and Pollen
Deike Building
Penn State University
University Park, Pennsylvania

atten. AT

Dear Tate:

I will give you the original plates of my 1963 paper at the AASP meeting at Newport, Rhode Island. You have my permission to publish any part or whole of "The Spores and Pollen of the Potomac Group of Maryland", Bull. 27, Maryland Geol. Survey.

I am looking forward to seeing you again at Newport. I'm bringing with me a graduate student who seems promising in Palynology. After eight years of teaching he is the only one I can recommend. Do you know of any graduate assistantships available at schools in which he could pursue Palynology? I'll talk to Al about this when I see him at Newport.

Sincerely yours,

Gil Brenner
Gilbert J. Brenner

GJB:cl

November 3, 1972

Dr. Gilbert J. Brenner
Department of Geosciences
State University College
New Paltz, New York 12561

Dear Gil:

I have in my notebook regarding the enjoyable Newport meeting a memo to myself regarding some cores from Morocco which apparently you talked to me about. I seem to recall that the cores were Triassic and you wondered if I would have any interest in them. The answer is enthusiastically yes, and I look forward to hearing more about it from you at your convenience, -if you like, phone collect to discuss the matter.

Sure did enjoy getting to know your man Bebout and hope that he takes up my invitation for him to come and visit us at his convenience.

Best wishes to you as always.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Geology & Biology

AT/vsi

STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
NEW PALTZ, NEW YORK 12561

DEPARTMENT OF
GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

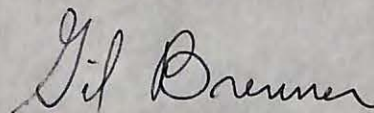
January 17, 1974

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Pennsylvania State University
State College, Pennsylvania

Dear Al:

It was nice to talk to you the other day and I appreciate your interest in nominating me for membership in Sigma Psi. I am enclosing a vita and also a sample of one of the publications. I also accept your request that I give a seminar in State College some time in the Spring. I would prefer to talk informally with a group of interested participants my work on the geographic origin and migration of angiosperms, the floristic provinces that existed during the time, the climatic interpretations based on the palynological evidence and also a little plate tectonics thrown in. You could call the seminar Middle Cretaceous Floral Provinces and Early Migrations of Angiosperms.

Sincerely,



GILBERT J. BRENNER
Chairman, Department of
Geological Sciences

GJB:cl

Encs.

p.s. Good dates for me are
Friday April 5 or 12, 19, etc.

8. Stratigraphic Age, Paleoecology and Palynological Zonation of the Potomac Group, Maryland Geological Survey Guidebook No. 1, pp. 12-14, 1968.
9. Upper Cretaceous - Tertiary Palynologic Analyses of a Well in Maryland, Maryland Geological Survey, 20 pp., 2 plates, (in press)
10. Albian-Cenomanian Spores and Pollen and its bearing on the Problem of Continental Drift, Gondwana Volume, Proceedings of the Gondwana Conference, 1968 (in press)
11. Palynology of the Cretaceous from the Coastal Plain of Israel, Bulletin of the Geological Survey of Israel (in press), 1972-73.
12. Palynological Analysis of the Upper Cretaceous to Lower Tertiary Section from the Magothy Test Well AA-De 100, Maryland Geological Survey, 1972-73.
13. Asked to be a judge for the best paper award at the 1972 American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologist Meeting.
14. Invited to join a small group of internationally known experts on plant evolution by giving a paper on angiosperm migrations during the Mesozoic at the First International Conference on Evolutionary Biology at Boulder, Colorado, August, 1973; see attached invitation.
15. Columbia University Press - chapter in forthcoming book, Fall 1974, title "Middle Cretaceous Floral Provinces and Early Migrations of Angiosperms"
16. Accepted: Paper - Geological Society of America in Dallas Texas, 1973, Nov. 14 (see attached sheet).
17. Brenner + Bebout - G.S.A. - Dallas 1973; Palynology of the Zohar 1 well from SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES The Negev of Israel.

Paleontological Society
 Paleobotanical Society of the Botanical Society of America
 National Association of Geology Teachers
 American Association for the Advancement of Science
 New York State Geological Association
 American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists

DEPARTMENT OF
GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

1964 Research at S.U.N.Y. resulting in numerous publications and awards

AWARDS AND HONORS

1. 1957-58 Carter Oil Fellowship - New York University
2. 1958-60 Research and Teaching Assistantship - Pennsylvania State University
3. 1960 National Science Foundation Fellow - Pennsylvania State University
(summer)
4. 1960-62 Teaching Assistant - Pennsylvania State University
5. 1962 National Science Foundation Fellow - Pennsylvania State University
(summer)
6. 1964 State University of New York Research Foundation Grant (\$600) - Devonian spores of New York
7. 1965 National Science Foundation, Sixth Summer Conference on Appalachian Geology
8. 1965 National Science Foundation Research Grant GP-5148 \$19,000
9. 1967 Elected to the "American Men of Science"
10. 1968 Elected to "Who's Who in the East"
11. 1968 \$3000 National Science Foundation Award to continue my research in paleobotany
12. 1970 Penrose Grant American Philosophical Society
13. 1970 Research Grant \$1600 Fellowship New York State
14. 1970 \$5000 Research Grant Israeli Geological Survey
15. 1971 National Science Foundation \$400 grant for Cretaceous Study
16. 1972 \$1600 Summer Fellowship S.U.N.Y. Research Foundation
17. 1972 \$956 Grant in Aid S.U.N.Y. Research Foundation

PUBLICATIONS AND TALKS

1. Zoogeographical analysis of some shallow water Foraminifera in the Gulf of California, Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History, vol. 123, 1962, pp. 253-297.
2. The Spores and Pollen of the Potomac Group of Maryland, Maryland Dept. of Geology, Mines and Water Resources, Bull. 27, 1963, 215 pages, 43 plates.
3. Early Angiosperm Pollen Differentiation in the Albian to Cenomanian Deposits of Delaware (U.S.A.), International Review of Paleobotany and Palynology, Vol. 1, 1967, pp. 219-227, 3 plates.
4. The Botanical Affinities of EUCOMMIDITES, International Review of Paleobotany and Palynology, Vol. 5, 1967.
5. Middle Cretaceous Spores and Pollen from Northeastern Peru, Pollen and Spores, Museum of Natural History of Paris, Vol. X, No. 2, 1968, pp. 341-383, 10 plates, 1 Table.
6. Palynological Analyses of Selected Samples Taken from Wells Contained in the Correlation Cross-Section Network of Southern Maryland, Maryland Geological Survey, Report of Investigations No. 7, pp. 29-32, 1968.
7. Palynological Analyses of Selected Samples from Southern Maryland, Maryland Geological Survey, Report of Investigations, No. 8, 4 pages, 1968.

(RESEARCH EXPERIENCE cont.)

1958-1962 Research and Teaching Assistant

1. Microbotanical research on peat formation in the mangrove swamps of Southern Florida (National Science Foundation grant).
2. Lignites from the Paleocene of North Dakota (Atomic Energy Commission grant).
3. Stratigraphic and palynological study of the Lower Cretaceous spores from the Atlantic Coastal Plain

1962-1964 Research Palynologist for Standard Oil of California

1964 - Research at S.U.N.Y. resulting in over 12 publications

DEPARTMENT OF
GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Gilbert J. Brenner

BORN - New York City, January 18, 1933

EDUCATION

City College of New York, B.S., Geology, 1955
New York University, M.S., Geology, 1958
Pennsylvania State University, Ph.D., Geology, 1962

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

1956-1958 Scientific Assistant and Consultant, American Museum of
Natural History, Department of Micropaleontology

1958-1962 Research and Teaching Assistant - Department of Geology
at the Pennsylvania State University

1962-1964 Research Paleontologist - Standard Oil Company of California

1964-Present Professor of Geology, State University of New York at
New Paltz
1973 - Chairman - Dept. of Geological Sciences. SUNY-New Paltz

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

1958-1962 Department of Geology, Pennsylvania State University.
Taught laboratory sections in Physical and Historical Geology.

1964-1966 Assistant Professor of Geology, State University of New York,
New Paltz.

1966-1970 Associate Professor of Geology, State University of New York,
New Paltz.

1970-Present Professor of Geology, State University of New York, New Paltz

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

1958-1958 Scientific Assistant - American Museum of Natural History

1. Various projects on Foraminifera and spores and pollen
2. Ecological study of Foraminifera from the Gulf of California

January 24, 1974

Dr. Gilbert J. Brenner
Department of Geological Sciences
State University College
New Paltz, New York 12561

Dear Gil:

Thanks for yours of 17 January and the veto which was enclosed. I have written up your nomination for Sigma Xi (note spelling). I got Dean Hosler to co-sign, and I would think that you should be elected without any problems at all. I am assuming that there is no Sigma Xi chapter at New Paltz. If there is, someone might object that they are the ones who should elect you. More about all that later, when the pot begins to boil.

Regarding your anticipated visit here, any of the dates you mention would be all right, although I would slightly prefer a Monday to a Friday (you could arrive Sunday evening) because I find it harder to get everybody together on Friday evening--there are conflicting field trips, etc. The format would be much as it was in 1967 or 68 when you last did this.

Whoops--I just noticed that Easter falls on 14 April, so perhaps I had better opt for later in the month. For example, if Monday were possible, how about 22 April? If it must be a Friday, I would say 26 April. Let's hear from you about this.

Best wishes.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

AT/vsi

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

Date: April 17, 1974

From: Mary Porter, 522 Moore, 238-9488

To: Alfred Traverse

Invitations to join Sigma xi were mailed on March 25 with the request that response be made no later than April 12 since the banquet is April 25. Your candidate, Gilbert Brenner, has not replied. You asked several years ago that we inform the nominator when this happened so that he could check to see if some error had been made. we did have return addresses on the letters of invitation. Let me know if I need to take any further action. Thanks!

file

STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
NEW PALTZ, NEW YORK 12561

DEPARTMENT OF
GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

April 23, 1974

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Department of Geology
Penn State University
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

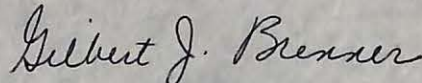
Dear Al:

I am enclosing a copy of my manuscript which I could develop into a talk under the conditions which you described to me for the Fall of next year.

Please read over the material and tell me if you feel it would be adaptable to your interests and needs for a guest speaker between interested people in geology and botany.

Again, I would like to thank you for your nomination of me to Sigma Xi.

Sincerely,



GILBERT J. BRENNER
Chairman, Department of
Geological Sciences

GJB:cl

Enc.

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

Date: May 2, 1974
From: Joseph G. O'Mara *JGOM*
To: Alfred Traverse

Brenner

We should be happy to have Professor Brenner and will pay his expenses for the visit. The budget for next year is now unpredictable, but a modest honorarium has been available in the past - fifty dollars seems to be neither extravagant nor insulting, in our experience.

100/1000
Fidelity Union S&I
May 14, 1974
Gibson

Dr. Gilbert Brenner
Division of Physical Sciences
State University College
New Paltz, New York 12561

Dear Gil:

You will be happy to learn (I hope) that I have succeeded in getting you invited as an official visitor for the fall term. You will be the guest of the Biology Department. They will pay your expenses plus possibly a modest honorarium. I seem to recall that as long as your expenses were paid that was the main thing but it would be nice to have, say, \$50 to sweeten the pot a little. Now what we need to do is discuss the exact timing so as not to have conflict with the AASP meetings, it seems to me that either September or November would be best. Would you let me know which would be your preference?

Best wishes as always.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

AT/vsi

P.S. I just talked to Prof. Hillson in the Botany group, who feels that a Monday or Wednesday in latish September would be best. So, when you've thought it over let me have your preference, and we'll begin to get it set up.

July 11, 1974

Dr. Gilbert Brenner
Division of Physical Sciences
State University College
New Paltz, New York 12561

Dear Gil:

On 14 May I wrote you asking for some further information as to the timing of your visit in the fall--presumably either September or November, per my letter. I don't seem to have heard from you regarding your preference. Could you either phone or write me immediately about this?

Best wishes.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

AT/vsi

STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
NEW PALTZ, NEW YORK 12561

DEPARTMENT OF
GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

July 25, 1974

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology
College of Earth and Mineral Sciences
Department of Geosciences
Palynological Laboratories
The Pennsylvania State University
Deike Building
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

Dear Al:

It was nice talking to you last week. I think you can pick any Monday in October. The title of my talk will be "Mid-Cretaceous Floral Provinces and Early Migrations of Angiosperms". Looking forward to definite date and schedule from you. I would appreciate it for my files if I could receive a copy of any official announcement form that comes out from the Botany Department about my talk.

Sincerely,

Gilbert J. Brenner /c.z.

GILBERT J. BRENNER
Chairman, Department of
Geological Sciences

GJB:cl

h. 1933

h. 1933

↓
B. Doctoral dissertation (PSU-1962):

*The spores and pollen of the
Potomac Group of Maryland (Cretaceous)*

*A. B.S.: C.C.N.Y.
U.S. "*

*C. Has worked for a year for
Biological Survey
of Iowa, ca. 2 yrs ago*

STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
NEW PALTZ, NEW YORK 12561

DEPARTMENT OF
GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

*Jim - as I said, I would
like to hear from you re
this. Oct. 7 would suit
me fine - when we get it
set, we also need to discuss
arrangement etc.*

July 25, 1974

AL T.

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology
College of Earth and Mineral Sciences
Department of Geosciences
Palynological Laboratories
The Pennsylvania State University
Deike Building
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

Dear Al:

It was nice talking to you last week. I think you can pick any Monday in October. The title of my talk will be "Mid-Cretaceous Floral Provinces and Early Migrations of Angiosperms". Looking forward to definite date and schedule from you. I would appreciate it for my files if I could receive a copy of any official announcement form that comes out from the Botany Department about my talk.

Sincerely,

Gilbert J. Brenner /c.z.

GILBERT J. BRENNER
Chairman, Department of
Geological Sciences

GJB:c1

Al: Oct. 7th looks OK to me.

Jim

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

513 DEIKE BUILDING
UNIVERSITY PARK, PENNSYLVANIA 16802

College of Earth and Mineral Sciences
Coal Research Section

Area Code 814
865-6544

August 8, 1974

Dr. Gilbert Brenner
Division of Physical Sciences
State University College
New Paltz, New York 12561

Dear Gil:

Jim Hillson has contacted me and said Monday, 7 October, would be fine for your public lecture here. I would suppose that Betty and I would follow previous custom by having a slight reception at our house the same evening. I presume that you would be arriving the day before. Please let me know if you wish me to make a reservation for you at the Nittany Lion Inn. I believe that that would be the best place for you to stay in terms of the biology department's plans to pay for your accommodations. They will cover all of your expenses while you are here and also pay you a small honorarium, as indicated by the enclosed xeroxed copy. Dr. Hillson and I will see to it that things are shaped up a little more definitely during September. But for now it seems to be sufficient. I certainly am looking forward to seeing you and having this opportunity to get to know you a little bit better. It's hard to believe that it's something like 7 years since you last were with us. Best wishes.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

AT:1sw

Enclosure: memorandum from the biology department
cc:JH

STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
NEW PALTZ, NEW YORK 12561

DEPARTMENT OF
GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

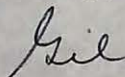
September 4, 1974

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology
College of Earth and Mineral Sciences
Department of Geosciences
Palynological Laboratories
The Pennsylvania State University
Deike Building
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

Dear Al:

What has happened with my trip to Pennsylvania? I would like to have enough time in advance to prepare for the talk and also to make reservations for my family and me. I hope that you pick a weekend that does not have a football game as it is almost impossible to find a motel during that time.

Sincerely,



GILBERT J. BRENNER
Chairman, Department of
Geological Sciences

GJB:cl

*Called Brenner, told him
of letter of 8-11-74 —
and sent him another copy!*

September 18, 1974

Dr. Gilbert Brenner
Division of Physical Sciences
State University College
New Paltz, New York 12561

Dear Gil:

NLI reservations set. Got a large room with two beds and two rollaways for the kids. They will expect you Sunday, the 6th, and Monday, the 7th. Biology Department will take care of cost of room for single occupancy. Also, you can sign for whatever meals you personally consume while there. I probably will do no more than phone over on the 6th, because I am just too bushed on Sunday evening! We are looking forward to a good visit with you.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

AT/vsi
cc Dr. J. Hillson

file Brenner

October 8, 1974

Dr. C. Conway
Dean of Liberal Arts & Sciences
SUNY at New Paltz
New Paltz, New York 12561

Dear Dr. Conway:

We just had a visit from Dr. Gilbert J. Brenner--who presented a seminar talk on his very important work on the origin of flowering plants. It was the best seminar presentation I have arranged in my eight years here at Penn State. Dr. Brenner is an outstanding person, and we have very much appreciated having him with us. It was a shot in the arm for our graduate program. Thanks for letting us have him.

Best wishes.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

AT/vsi

DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF
LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

October 17, 1974

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology
The Pennsylvania State University
Deike Building
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

Dear Prof. Traverse:

It was indeed kind of you to write to express your satisfaction at the recent seminar presentation by our Dr. Brenner. In these days of extreme pressure in higher education, it is all too easy to forget the significant contribution which such outstanding scholars can make.

Thanks for the reminder.

Sincerely,

Wec

Edmond C. Conway
Dean

ECC:bt

cc: Dr. Gilbert Brenner

PLEASE TYPE ALL INFORMATION

DUE NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 1

Correspondence

REFERENCE REPORT

F372-473

THIS FORM PROVIDED BY THE APPLICANT TO REFERENCES FOR COMPLETION, IS TO BE MAILED DIRECTLY TO:

UNIVERSITY AWARDS COMMITTEE

c/o The Research Foundation of State University of New York P.O. Box 7126, Albany, N. Y. 12224

(Last copy may be retained by Respondent)

- TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT -

NAME OF APPLICANT (PLEASE TYPE) Gilbert Jay Brenner		TITLE OF APPLICANT Professor of Geology	
DEPARTMENT Geological Sciences		INSTITUTION SUNY-New Paltz	
APPLYING FOR:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PROGRAM 1	<input type="checkbox"/> PROGRAM 2	<input type="checkbox"/> PROGRAM 3

TITLE OF PROJECT:

S.E. M. studies of possible angiosperm Neocomian monosulcates

(Attach a separate description of project or copy of front page of application and send to person from whom you request recommendation)

CONFIDENTIAL

- TO BE COMPLETED BY REFERENCE RESPONDENT -

CONFIDENTIAL

- Association with Applicant Have known him since he was a grad student at PSU ten yrs. ago.
- Acquainted with his professional work during period from 1962 (year) to 1974 (year)
- This space is provided for comments regarding the applicant and his proposed plan of study and research. Matters you may wish to comment on may be the applicant's mastery of knowledge in his field, technical skill, originality, competence to plan significant research, ability to make sound judgments, feasibility and significance of the projected study, as well as other strengths and weaknesses of the applicant and his project. Please use additional pages as necessary.

Dr. Brenner is one of the very best people in palynology in North America. It is sometimes slightly depressing to contemplate how much work he could have accomplished had he not had so many routine obligations over the years. As it is, his research on the origin of the flowering plants is outstanding and has been much copied and admired. He is a good field man, a good lab man and has an excellent analytical mind. He conceives problems and possible solutions as well as anybody I know. Because he is so well known around the world for his already published work, Brenner is in an excellent position to get cooperation on the project he proposes. ~~He~~ He certainly deserves enough support to have assistance in the laboratory and field. He really should be at a place with ample equipment--S. E. M. scope, etc.--to make progress on this very important piece of work.

The only negative thing I could mention is that Dr. Brenner is not as aggressive as he might be in pushing his interests in science. But, of course, if he were he would probably be at Harvard, not New Paltz, and I wouldn't be writing this appraisal.

TYPED NAME AND TITLE

RESPONDENT'S INSTITUTION

Alfred Traverse, Professor of Palynology, Pennsylvania State University

STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
NEW PALTZ, NEW YORK 12561

DEPARTMENT OF
GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

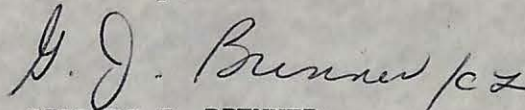
November 7, 1974

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Penn State University
Department of Geology
Deike Building
University Park, Pennsylvania

Dear Al:

You brought up a question about my dues to the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists. Therefore, I am sending you a copy of a letter responding to an inquiry I made to Herbert J. Sullivan. My offer to you to stay over at my house still stands so the next time you come through or on the way back from Boston, feel free to take advantage of my hospitality.

Sincerely,



GILBERT J. BRENNER
Chairman, Department of
Geological Sciences

GJB:cl

November 12, 1974

Dr. Gil Brenner
Department of Geosciences
State University College
New Paltz, New York 12561

Dear Gil:

With reference to yours of 7 November--yeah, and you're also listed in the yearbook. So, let's just forget about 1973-74, huh?

I am delighted to know that I would be welcome at the Brenner abode in New Paltz, and you just might see me there one of these months or years. However, with my son no longer a student at Harvard, I don't make the trip as often as I used to. We all missed you in Calgary.

Best wishes and thanks again for that great visit you paid us.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

AT/vsi

STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
NEW PALTZ, NEW YORK 12561

DEPARTMENT OF
GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

January 13, 1975

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology
College of Earth and Mineral Sciences
Department of Geosciences
Palynological Laboratories
Pennsylvania State University
Deike Building
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

Dear Al:

I just finished reading your article "Paleo-Palynology: 1947-1974" and I thoroughly enjoyed the overall history of palynology that it presented. It certainly conveys with accuracy the period in the late '50's and early '60's in which I was a student at Penn State. I am teaching a palynology course this semester to about six students and I was wondering if you would have about six extra copies of this paper which I would use for that class. If they are in short supply, perhaps I could borrow them and then return them at the end of the semester. I would use this as a reading assignment for general background in the development of palynology and its present state.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Gilbert J. Brenner/c.z.

GILBERT J. BRENNER
Chairman, Geological Sciences

GJB:cl

January 21, 1975

Dr. Gil Brenner
Department of Geosciences
State University College
New Paltz, New York 12561

Dear Gil:

I never thought I lacked self-confidence, but I surely did "blow" the reprint order for "Palaeopalynology"--the response has been astonishing to me. To make a long story short, what if I send you one additional copy to take apart and suggest you get it xeroxed for your class?

Best wishes and many thanks for the adulatory comments about the article.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

AT/vsi

STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
NEW PALTZ, NEW YORK 12561

DEPARTMENT OF
GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

April 17, 1975

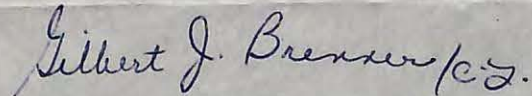
Dr. Alfred Traverse
Penn State University
Department of Geological Sciences
Deike Building
State College, Pennsylvania

Dear Al:

During a trip last summer to State College, our technical specialist, Mr. Tony Friedmann, collected some samples from the Chemung-Catskill Contact outside of State College along the Allegheny Front. It contains an extremely rich late Devonian or early Mississippian spore assemblage, and he seems very interested in extensively studying this horizon. I have indicated to him that he may not be able to publish some material since you might be interested in developing your investigation of this horizon in greater detail than you have in the paper on micropaleontology. I would appreciate hearing from you on this matter. "Whatever you say goes Al."

I will be going to Jerusalem on May 28th to collect some Lower Cretaceous, from preangiosperms and early angiosperms horizons. After that I will be bringing a group of students to State College like I did last summer and perhaps I could get to see you in spite of the fact that you won't stop over to my house everytime you come back and forth from State College to Boston.

Sincerely,



GILBERT J. BRENNER
Chairman, Department of
Geological Sciences

GJB:cl

Page 2

In any case, looking forward to our next meeting and with best wishes I am

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

AT/vsi

cc B. Wilson

Esleeck

Fidelity Onion Skin

100% COTTON

April 28, 1975

Dr. Gil Brenner
Department of Geosciences
State University College
New Paltz, New York 12561

Dear Gil:

Thanks for yours of 17 April. It is interesting to hear about Mr. Friedmann's work and especially his interest in the Devonian materials from what I take to be the "Port Matilda cut". Not only have I been carrying on my own studies of this stuff, but also I have a student, Bob Wilson, who is doing his Ph.D. on that very section. In other words, although it's a free country, and we can't discourage anyone from doing whatever he pleases, we would certainly appreciate it if Mr. Friedmann would not be in competition with us as far as publication is concerned for at least two or three years. After that time, I suppose whatever he wants to put into print would be his own business, and we would have been duly forewarned.

→ With regard to your potential visit in State College, I must be sounding pretty unfriendly because it doesn't seem ever to work out. However, I am going as an on-board palynologist on the Glomar Challenger cruise to the Black Sea, beginning May 15 or so, returning in the latter part of June for a few days and then taking off again for the Soviet Union, the International Botanical Congress, and other matters, not returning until approximately 1 August. In other words, it is exceedingly unlikely that you will find me in State College when you come through, and I really do regret that. I haven't passed New Paltz with a cheery wave of the hand but no visit for sometime--last June, when my son was graduated from Harvard. I keep planning to go up again one day because I have other connections in the Cambridge area, but it just doesn't come about. The son is now in medical school in Philadelphia, and it seems that when we do get time for a little trip Philly calls louder than Boston.

STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
NEW PALTZ, NEW YORK 12561

DEPARTMENT OF
GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

May 5, 1975

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Pennsylvania State University
College of Earth and Mineral Sciences
Department of Geosciences
Palynological Laboratories
Deike Building
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

Dear Al:

Is your student Bob Wilson working on megaspores? We have found some excellently preserved megaspores and they should be studied. Mr. Friedmann has agreed not to pursue any serious publication direction with the cut material. I am glad to hear that you are going to be the on-board palynologist on the Glomar Challenger cruise to the Black Sea -- you lucky stiff! Is it possible that you could get something like this for me sometime? I was invited to talk at the International Botanical Congress in Leningrad -- the same meeting that you will be going to -- but did not have the available funds to make such an expensive trip. Again, you are a lucky stiff! It is really great being a palynologist at a major university where you get all those opportunities while I have to slave away more with ideas without the worldwide experiences.

Have a good trip and you may see me in State College because I expect to be there when you come back.

Sincerely,

G. J. Brenner/cj.

GILBERT J. BRENNER
Chairman, Geological Sciences

GJB:cl

May 13, 1975

Dr. Gil Brenner
Department of Geosciences
State University College
New Paltz, New York 12561

Dear Gil:

Thanks for your most recent missive. Your complaints, ^{full} on a deaf ear. I seem to recall you had a field trip to Israel not long ago. The trip to the Soviet Union is being financed partly from my research grant and partly from being awarded money from the Botanical Society of America--they had a competition a year or so ago. If you belonged to the Bot. Soc., and perhaps you do, you were eligible to compete. In fact, from your having been invited to speak, I would suppose you had an even better claim than I. Mine is based mostly on my position as secretary of the International Committee for Plant Fossil Nomenclature. We have some business to contract at Leningrad.

Now regarding the Devonian-Mississippian materials from around here--yes, I was aware of the megaspores, and in fact Warg and I had looked at some of them. It was a project which I thought would be a good Master's thesis one of these days. However, I emphasize once again that it's a free world, and I really can't prevent anybody from working on what he wants to work on. This particular set of beds, however, have seemed to attract people like flies, and sometimes I wonder whether there aren't equally promising projects near their home quarters so that things which are within a bicycle ride of here could be studied by impecunious students I may have in the very near future.

Best wishes as always.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

AT/vsi

April 28, 1976

Dr. Gilbert J. Brenner
Department of Geoscience
State University College
New Paltz, NY 12561

Dear Gil:

Just a note that I thought I should let you have that the student I mentioned sometime ago who was working on megaspores from the Chemung Mauch Chunk in this area is indeed working up a doctoral dissertation on the subject. His name is John Stolar, and he and I have been getting some extremely good floras which we are studying and should be able to publish in part or entirety one of these days. Would your man be interested in co-authorship or something--or is he still in the field?

We are trying to get Leo Hickey up here to present a seminar on his thoughts on early angiospermous evolution, and, of course, it brings back fond memories of your most pleasant visit here a while back. I am hoping that you can find time to do that again one of these days. In the meantime, very best wishes.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

AT:jb

STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
NEW PALTZ, NEW YORK 12561

DEPARTMENT OF
GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

April 30, 1976

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Penn State University
College of Earth and Mineral Sciences
Coal Research Section
513 Deike Building
University Park, Pennsylvania

Dear Al:

A few years ago I gave you a copy of my original plates from the 1963 Potomac volume. Have you used it yet in any catalogue number and would it be possible to get a copy of this issue?

More important for the moment is the fact that I need these plates to help me in my preparation of a Lower Cretaceous paper for the 10th anniversary volume of the AASP. If you do not need the plates right now, could you please send them to me as soon as possible.

Best wishes to you, your family and all in the department.

Sincerely,

Gilbert J. Brenner/cj.

GILBERT J. BRENNER
Professor, Geological Sciences

GJB:cl

XXXXXX

May 12, 1976

Dr. Gilbert J. Brenner
Department of Geosciences
State University College
New Paltz, NY 12561

Dear Gil:

Regarding yours of 30 April--you didn't give the plates to me,
you gave them to Tate. I have referred the letter to him, along with
a certain amount of encouragement to get the plates photographed for
use in Volume 42 and return them to you. Best wishes as always from
your old friend,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

AT:jb

STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
NEW PALTZ, NEW YORK 12561

DEPARTMENT OF
GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

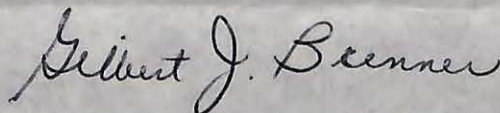
July 9, 1976

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Department of Geosciences
529 Deike Building
Penn State University
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

Dear Al:

Thank you for sending back the plates from my thesis. I have now a very urgent problem that I hope you can help me with. I was invited to give a talk at the Fourth International Palynological Conference in Lucknow, India. It was also suggested that you might give me some information that would easily supply me with funds to make this trip. It was not very clear from the description what agency is handling the funding, but it had to do with what is called PL-480 funds. These funds seem to be available because of a debt incurred by India in the purchase of wheat from the United States. If you have details, names, places, etc., that I could have as soon as possible, I would appreciate your assistance in this matter. There is absolutely no travel money available in the State University because of the fiscal crisis in New York State.

Sincerely,



GILBERT J. BRENNER
Professor, Geological Sciences

GJB:cl

G. J. Brenner

- 2 -

July 26, 1976

meeting coinciding with the Christmas holidays, but if one is to be a leader in palynology it seems that one must take part in the international affairs of the profession.

Best wishes to you. Hope that you survive the "fiscal crisis" unscathed.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

AT:jb

July 26, 1976

Dr. Gilbert J. Brenner
Division of Physical Sciences
Department of Geoscience
State University College
New Paltz, NY 12561

Dear Gil:

Thanks for yours of 9 July. You are right that I am trying to get funding to attend the Fourth International Conference. I don't really have any more information about the "P1480 funds" than your letter implies that you already have. All I know is that the international program section of the National Science Foundation does have some funds for travel to India, and one's likelihood of getting assistance is said to be greater if there is a likelihood of putting together a proposal for a joint project with an Indian. I had thought in terms of putting together such a proposal in cooperation with D.C. Bharadwaj, and have his encouragement. There is, however, a snafu probably developing in connection with that. Bharadwaj would very much like to be the next president of the ICP, and at the same time there is a minor "boomlet" to get me elected. Bharadwaj has heard of this, and is apparently quite angry about it. It may well be that my "joint" project with him is down the tube, and with it my chances of funding--we'll see.

In summary, I am no more certain of funding to attend the meeting than you are, certainly will get no aid from Penn State (or at most \$100 or so), and will not be able to attend unless the National Science Foundation comes through. I do have the additional advantage of having been named the "official American delegate" by the National Research Council. I take it that this may be helpful. I'm not really all that eager to go in terms of personal factors, because of the

May 12, 1977

DEPARTMENT OF
GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Dept. of Geosciences
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pa 16802

Dear Al,

I hope all is well with you and all my other friends at PSU. Perhaps I will see you at the next AASP meeting in Tulsa.

I have a sabbatical coming up within the next year or so and am looking for some university to teach and continue my research. Since you probably see more people in academia than I do - especially in palynology - I would appreciate it if you could keep me in mind if you hear anything that you feel would be interesting.

Things here are dismal; the state is broke; the student quality has deteriorated radically; there is no money for travel; and prophecies of doom pervade our conversations. The state is even considering closing some of the state colleges.

Many times you ~~me~~ have asked me "why I'm here!" I should have made a move long ago to a better academic atmosphere, but, now, I fear, it's too late for me. There doesn't seem to be a market for senior people like myself.

For your information I have taught - Stratigraphy, Paleo, Physical + Historical Geology, advanced historical, a popular course on evolution of the Earth, palynology, paleobotany, etc.

Best wishes

Gil

19 May, 1977

Dr. Gilbert J. Brenner
Dept. of Geosciences, State University College
New Paltz, New York 12561

Dear Gil:

Thanks for yours of 12 May . I certainly am sorry to hear that things are not looking as bright as they might, and will keep your request in mind. Look on the bright side--at least you apparently have your health. I have been having some difficulties in that area--most recently orthopedic problems, including an operation on my right arm.

Also, you should keep in mind, that things around universities often change rapidly and for no apparent reason; just when things are looking the worst often something good comes up.

I was very interested in your comment about the quality of students because I have made the same observation here and can hardly credit a general decline in intelligence over such a brief period of years. I think it must be something about our society, and it is pretty scary. The present class in historical geology is the very worst I have ever had to teach, even though on the face of it the students don't seem markedly different from five years ago. They're just not interested in learning. The implications are frightening. Best wishes.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

XXXX

9 January, 1980

Dr. Gilbert J. Brenner
Dept. of Geosciences
State University College
New Paltz, NY 12561

Dear Gil:

Perhaps you noticed on page 73 of the current Bibliography of American Paleobotany a reference to John Stolar's thesis on the megaspores which we discussed in correspondence previously. I have been after him since he left here to get the work expanded and published. I hope he will do it. I haven't heard from you in a long time--hope you're o.k.

Best wishes for 1980.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

cc: John Stolar

pollen development in Pteridosperm complex that was used again by early angiosperms in the Lower Cretaceous; however there is no proof of this at this time.

I am personally fine, but the State University of N.Y. is being slaughtered by the Governor! We expect more retrenchment at our campus - up to 50 positions!

The state has a surplus this year but the Governor is in a proposition thirteen mentality and wants to cut 100 million in taxes. So some of us will have a few more bucks in our pocket but no job. I have no money for travel but am hoping for the NSF proposal to help me begin to communicate with my colleagues again. Best wishes to you and your family.

Gil Brenner

Feb, 21 1980

DEPARTMENT OF
GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Dept. of Geology
Deike Building
Pennsylvania University
University Park, Pa

Dear Al,

I was glad to hear from you. I have given up depending on graduate students and others to cooperate on research. I just had a bad experience of getting a grant for a recent PhD from N.Y.U. to finish up some research of the Paleocene-Eocene from Maryland. The grant was for summer salary. The funds were gladly taken, but the research was not done! I am going to try to get some funding from the NSF for an expansion of the Israeli Lower Cretaceous material I worked on with Bebout. This time, I want to carefully examine the angiosperm pollen from Pre-Barremian (Valanginian - Hauterivian) to Albian sediments ~~of~~ using light, SEM & TEM. I'm particularly interested in this section for what it might reveal in the morphology of the early monosulcates and the development of the first tricolpates. The sections were in ~~the~~ an equatorial position during the Lower Cretaceous and part of the Northern Gondwana semi-arid province. Someone should look at the monosulcates from middle to Upper Jurassic in this area, and ^{other} areas around the Tethyan seaway in light of Coronet's discussion of tectate-collumelate grains from the Upper Triassic - Lower Jurassic. I believe Coronet's material might represent a ^{over}

tax incentives to bail out low paid professor
like you and I so they don't leave (my
daughter wants to go to Harvard!).

Take care and send my best to
your family and anyone else who deserves
it.

University of Pennsylvania
Dept. of Geosciences
Penn State University
University Park, Pa. 16802

Thank you for the reprints you sent me.
A lower Albian sample from Israel yielded
some pollen that can only be assigned to
the Winteraceae. This I feel is the
oldest fossil Angiosperm that can
definitely be assigned to a living
family of Angiosperms. I investigated
whether ~~the~~ pollen and we got
spots of the pollen and we got
a paper created to science (with
the cover picture) scheduled to come
out this Spring. I'm still interested
in a teaching-research appointment
I casually mentioned to you this past
Summer. I'll be due for sabbatical
around 1988 but possibly could take
a leave of absence earlier or later than that
date. I'm also interested in summer
jobs. I'm also a "company" the

DEPARTMENT OF
GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

March 2, 1983

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Dept. of Geosciences
Penn State University
University Park, Pa 16802

Dear Al,

Thank you for the reprints you sent me. A lower Albian sample from Israel yielded some pollen that can only be ascribed to the Winteraceae. This I feel is the oldest fossil angiosperm that can definitely be assigned to a living family of angiosperms. Jim & Audrey Walker ~~did the~~ took some beautiful shots of the pollen and we got a paper accepted to science (with the cover picture!) scheduled to come out this Spring. I'm still interested in a teaching-research sabbatical replacement I casually mentioned to you this past summer. I'll be due for sabbatical around 1986 but possibly could take a leave of absence earlier or later than that date. I'm also interested in summer employment with a company "ala" the New Government push to give companies (over)

21 March, 1983

Dr. Gilbert J. Brenner
Division of Physical Sciences
State University College
New Paltz, NY 12561

Dear Gil:

I loved your recent letter (2-III-83). You have a sense of humor that appeals to me. Part of your heritage.

I'm not sure I understand why you mention the sabbatical deal to me--did you think I could help in some way? I'll be at the NE-GSA in your area this week, so you could discuss it with me, if you are also there.

If your daughter gets into Harvard, \$ are no problem--at least, my son who went there cost us no more than those who went to PSU. Of course, they do make a very penetrating study of your net worth, and you may not like that!

Best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

Thanks a lot. A great book written with a personal fair and a good sense of humour. Also it is very rude and detailed. With love jokes then we usually find in textbooks. (if you can all it that).
 Corrections:

1. Heliz Formation

2. Brenner 1966 - wrote an article on Eucemm. +

3. Your next book should include my upper Valanginian inapturate angiosperm pollen (over)

It's gymnosperms affinities.

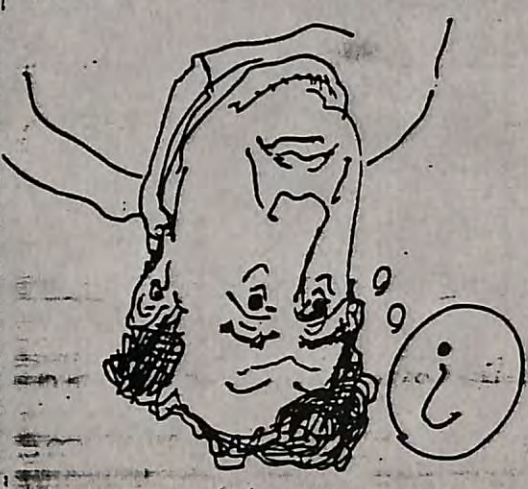
2) I + (CONSISTUS OF THOUGHTS) BUT SO DID THE (CONSISTUS OF THOUGHTS) ON A MUCH BIGGER

scale. How horrendous would it be if I told you that I think the monosyllabic aperture developed under your eye in the history of plants.

1. Once in the progymnosperms + gymnosperms in the Paleozoic + again in the Paleozoic + again in the small inapturate angiosperm (Gn. - alian like) pollen of the early Mesozoic.

THINKING OF YOU

Li Brenner



11-91

3) I + (CONSISTUS OF THOUGHTS) BUT SO DID THE (CONSISTUS OF THOUGHTS) ON A MUCH BIGGER

scale. How horrendous would it be if I told you that I think the monosyllabic aperture developed under your eye in the history of plants.

1. Once in the progymnosperms + gymnosperms in the Paleozoic + again in the Paleozoic + again in the small inapturate angiosperm (Gn. - alian like) pollen of the early Mesozoic.

Formation of Heliz
 1. Gymnophytic
 2. Hymenophytic
 3. Hymenophytic

Heliz Formation
 1. Gymnophytic
 2. Hymenophytic
 3. Hymenophytic

Heliz Formation
 1. Gymnophytic
 2. Hymenophytic
 3. Hymenophytic

IN NORTHERN GONDWANA - THE ANGIOSPERM GRADE EVOLVES FROM A STEM GROUP OF GYMNOSPERMS IN THE EARLY CRETACEOUS AS A RESPONSE TO SOME CO-EVOLUTIONARY ASPECT OF INSECT POLLINATION. GNETUM POLLEN ALSO EVOLVES FROM THIS COMMON ANCESTOR BUT REMAINS HEMIGYMNOSPERMOUS. IN THE LATE TRIASSIC AND JURASSIC TECTATE COLUMELLATE POLLEN, BOTH MONOSULCATES AND TRICOLPATES (ALA CORONET), DEVELOP IN GYMNOSPERMS THAT HAVE NOT FULLY REACHED THE ANGIOSPERM GRADE.

VALANGINIAN

INAPERTURATE, ONLY PARTIALLY TECTATE - COLUMELLATE, CIRCULAR AND SMALL LIKE GNETUM. NO ENDEXINE. THE TECTATE COLUMELLATE CONDITION IS FORMING AS A RESPONSE TO NEW ARRANGEMENTS IN INSECT POLLINATION EVOLVE.

HAUTERIVIAN

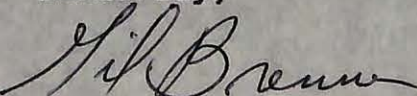
ENDEXINE DEVELOPS IN THE LOCUS OF SULCAL DEVELOPMENT. INAPERTURATES WITH ENDEXINE IN THE AREA OF AN INSIPIENT SULCUS COMMON, BUT INAPERTURATES DOMINATE THE ASSEMBLAGE. SOME MONOSULCATES WITH RAGGED MARGINS PRESENT.

BAREMMIAN/APTIAN

INCREASED DIVERSITY OF MONOSULCATES, A FEW RARE MONOPORATES (WINTERACEOUS) IN THE APTIAN AS WELL AS THE FIRST "TRUE" TRICOLPATES. I BELIEVE THAT THE TRICOLPATE GRAINS ARE DERIVED FROM PLANTS THAT HAVE TECTATE - COLUMELLATE SMALL MONOSULCATES WITH NO TRANSITIONAL POLLEN TYPES.

I would appreciate your comments pro or con on this discovery.

Sincerely,


Gilbert J. Brenner

September 24, 1991

Department of Geology
State University of New York
New Paltz, New York 12561
BITNET: BRENNER@SNYNEWVM
FAX: (914) 257-3009

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Department of Geology
Penn State University
435 Ddeike Bldg..
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

Dear Al,

Last year I gave a talk at the AIBS in Richmond that presented a different way to look at the evolution of the earliest angiosperm pollen. During the last few years I have been looking for angiosperm pollen below the Barremian/Aptian levels that contain Clavatipollenites in^c well from the Negev of Israel. Fortunately there were a few regressive phases of the shoreline in this well during the Late Valanginian to Upper Hauterivian. I expected to find large boat-shaped monosulcates that predate the Clavatipollenites horizons in the Barremian/Aptian levels. What I found predating the monosulcates were small, circular and inaperturate grains with a tectate-columellate sexine. An incipient endexine develops where the sulcus will later develop,] In the lower Upper Valanginian horizons, the endexinal development does not occur and the reticulum is poorly developed and incomplete around the grains. Most of the pre-Barremian grains are very small, under 15µm, and amazingly circular in shape like Gnetum. I could be wrong but I believe the ramification of my discovery has important implications to evolutionary thought on the origin of the angiosperms.

A monograph on the spores and pollen of the Late Valanginian to Aptian of Israel will be out in this years issue of Palynology. My theory on the origin of the earliest tectate-columellate angiosperm monosulcate grain can be found in this paper with some light microscope pictures. SEMs will be included in a paper that I am now in the early stages of preparation.

I would like your thoughts for better or worse on the following ideas. To repeat myself. I have found in the Valanginian some small, circular grains that have a poorly developed reticulum and that are just below the inaperturate, tectate - columellate types in in the Hauterivian above. There appears to be no endexine in the Valanginian types, which I believe is newly developed in the Hauterivian inaperturates angiosperms as part of the development of a sulcus. The sequence of events appears as follows:

EARLY CRETACEOUS

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES
435 DEIKE BUILDING
UNIVERSITY PARK, PA 16802
Phone: (814)863-3419; Fax: 814-863-7823

27 September, 1991

Dr. Gilbert J. Brenner
State University of New York
New Paltz, NY 12561

Dear Gil:

Yours of 24 Sept. was great fun!

I have meditated about Gnetum, both the plant itself and the pollen, for years.

It seems to me that you have a really hot discovery cum hypothesis here. I would rush it into print in Science or Nature, if I were you.

Gotta rush. Best regards and thanks a lot for letting me in on this very interesting piece of palynological detective work.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES
435 DEIKE BUILDING
UNIVERSITY PARK, PA 16802
Phone: (814)863-3419; Fax: 814-863-7823

22 October, 1991

Dr. Gilbert J. Brenner
Division of Physical Sciences
State University College
New Paltz, NY 12561

Dear Gil:

This is embarrassing. Betty and I are trying to get our affairs in shape for the forthcoming sabbatical, e.g., for tax purposes. In going over our accounts we don't find concrete evidence that we were paid for the copies of Paleopalynology sent to New Paltz, though I thought somehow I had been. (Your delightful thank you note with some welcome corrections--on notepaper with likeness of GB--doesn't say "check enclosed," which would have been a clue.)

If you did send a check, can you tell me if it ever cleared? As I have no deposit slip for it, if we were audited (again) I might need a xerox of front and back of the check. Ouch! I'm really sorry to lay this on you, old friend.

All the best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES
435 DEIKE BUILDING
UNIVERSITY PARK, PA 16802
Phone: (814)863-3419; Fax: 814-863-7823

10 November, 1991

Dr. Gilbert J. Brenner
Division of Physical Sciences
State University College
New Paltz, NY 12561

Dear Gil:

Thanks so much for your note! I thought I recalled your check, but had entered it incompletely in my book. Sorry to have bothered you about it, but glad to have problem resolved.

I leave in a couple of hours for Birbal Sahni Institute. How about that for a sabbatical?

Best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et

X-Delivery-Notice: SMTP MAIL FROM does not correspond to sender.

Date: Tue, 10 Jun 97 14:45:47 EDT

From: gil <BRENNERG@npvm.newpaltz.edu>

To: Al <traverse@ems.psu.edu>

I came across a paper in North Eastern Geology entitle: "What is the true age of the Brandon Lignite?" by Stockwell and Washington. They claim that based on paleomagnetic data the lignite is Cretaceous! Seems like they don't believe in evolution or paleontology!

Gil Brenner

To: brennerg@npvm.newpaltz.edu
From: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
Subject: Brandon Lignite
Cc:
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

Dear Gil:

Just returned from my 50th reunion at Harvard. As we drove by NP on I-84 we waved ceremonially, and I remember wondering out loud if you were still there. I also recall that some years ago I had a phone call from you asking whether I was into e-mail. At the time I had never heard of it--well not enough to be able to comment. Now, I still have mixed emotions. There were 50 messages when I got back from Boston. Most were telling me that the hot water would be off between 2-4 a. m. on Wed. and things like that.

Yes, I not only knew about the Stockwell and Washington "contribution," but Tiffney and I published a rejoinder to it, of which I am now going to send you a reprint, along with other items still available that I've never sent you--I never get around to general mailings. I also did a general revision of the Brandon palynoflora a while back, of which I hope I can find at least a xerox for you.

All the best. How about some sort of joint project? Al

To: brennerg@npvm.newpaltz.edu
From: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
Subject: home page
Cc:
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

Dear Gil:

Just after I sent my message of this morning a technician came in to work with me on my silly home page. To get an example of what a colleague might be doing with his, I asked him to call up Gil Brenner's page, but all we could get was your home and office phone number and a map showing exactly how to get to your house. Is it true that you don't even HAVE a home page? I was contemptuous of the damned things and had never even seen mine, but at the Harvard reunion various people told me they had seen mine, so I've decided that if it's out there it should be something I am happy with. I'm working on it. First thing--get the photo in color.

Best. Al.

X-Delivery-Notice: SMTP MAIL FROM does not correspond to sender.

Date: Wed, 11 Jun 97 23:24:31 EDT

From: gil <BRENNERG@npvm.newpaltz.edu>

Subject: Re: home page

To: Alfred Traverse <traverse@ems.psu.edu>

Amazing - I never asked anyone for a home page! I can't believe there is a map with directions to my house! Follow that map and visit me. I have some basal Cretaceous from Jordan that needs description and dating based on my previous work from Israel. Does that interest you? What joint project ideas do you have ??? I have a Czech palynologist visiting me from the Czech Academy of Sciences she an expert on the Cretaceous of the Bohemian Basin. Wouldn;t it be nice to invite her to Penn State to talk? Are there still a reasonable group interested in our subject at Penn State?

Best, Gil

gil, 11:25 AM 6/12/97, Re: Brandon Lignite

1

X-Delivery-Notice: SMTP MAIL FROM does not correspond to sender.

Date: Thu, 12 Jun 97 11:25:57 EDT

From: gil <BRENNER@npvm.newpaltz.edu>

Subject: Re: Brandon Lignite

To: Alfred Traverse <traverse@ems.psu.edu>

Are you retired? I couldn't find you on the Penn State home page.

Gil

Printed for traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)

1

To: brennerg@npvm.newpaltz.edu
From: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
Subject: three messages from you
Cc:
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

Dear Gil:

Just checked device and find three messages from GB--answered, but not in order of arrival:

1. I am officially retired. It means only that my checks come from a different source and I no longer teach. In fact, I did give the courses for one year after retirement in 1995, but it wasn't any fun because students weren't motivated, so I quit that. One of these days I'll lose my space here and will have to set up elsewhere. I am having an addition put on our house with this partly in mind. I'm going to fight hard to keep the wet lab but have no confidence that I can.

I have a home page of my own under the department, but I am investigating to find out why I'm not in the departmental home page, if indeed I am not. Truth is, the department is not used to a prof who wants to stay on after becoming emeritus.

2. I didn't say you have a home page--indeed, I said you apparently don't. But a map to your house from I-84 there definitely is.

I haven't really thought out the joint project idea. Just a thought to keep in mind. Who is the Czech lady? Magda Konzalova is a good friend of ours.

No, there no longer is anybody in palynology here but me, and I know from experience that I get nowhere with trying to get people invited. Just a fact of life that derives from facts presented in 1.

3. I got an item ostensibly from you dated 12 June, 11:05, that clearly isn't intended for me, even though it says subject is "home page." It starts out "I try to think positive" [meaning positively, I suppose] Among other things it says "I ...like Andriola's effort....I don't like the ill defined way that faculty governance...." This is a longish letter and has zero to do with AT or PSU.

Perhaps you had an early morning three martini lunch?

All the best. Al.

X-Delivery-Notice: SMTP MAIL FROM does not correspond to sender.

Date: Thu, 12 Jun 97 17:50:13 EDT

From: gil <BRENNER@npvm.newpaltz.edu>

Subject: Re: three messages from you

To: Alfred Traverse <traverse@ems.psu.edu>

I sent that strange message to a friend who is having difficulty with retirement. Do you have the technical savvy to send that back to me? I can then forward it to him.

I remember you telling me on the phone that your chairman asked you to retire and you asked me what you should say. I told you to tell him to "take a flying leap." I guess it went the other way.

I know what you mean when you refer to "unmotivated students."

Part of the cultural decline we are in!

Gil

doors without knocking too. Hmmmm.....

To: brennerg@npvm.newpaltz.edu
From: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
Subject: errant message etc.
Cc:
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

Dear Gil:

You don't explain how you happened to send me the message--I still suspect you of having a gin bottle in the desk drawer.

Yes, I have the savvy to send the message back to you--except that I deleted it after I printed it, and I can't recall it after deletion. However, I am mailing it to you in a few minutes, and you can take it from there. I was going to use it as evidence that you probably should retire, but oh well...

Which reminds me that I didn't retire until 70. I had planned not to at all. The head was always dropping in, urging me to do so. One day I lost my cool and told him that my Great Grandfather Chatterton lived to be 110 and practiced his profession until 104. I told the head that I expected he, the head, would be in a nursing home, at best, when I retired. He blanched. The next day I got a three page letter outlining a retirement offer. Among other things, it said I could continue to use my lab and wet lab and office until 1 Jan., 1999, if I agreed. Later, it said that if I refused to retire, none of the above is assured. All advisors agreed that he was telling me that I'd lose my space if I didn't retire. By agreeing I have given myself time to make other arrangements. The first is that we've bought a condo here in S. C., the second is that I have contractors at work putting an addition on our home in Huntingdon Co. This is to give me equivalent space to what I'll lose here in a little more than a year.

You didn't tell me the name of the Czech lady or if she knows our friend, Magda.

Your previous message made me go to the home page person for the department (we have no draftsperson or cartographer any more, but we have two full time cybergurus) and ask what gives. He says that I do have the miserable little home page I told you about--however, one gets that through the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, not Geosciences. Secondly, he says that he is working on having everybody get a home page under the department as well.

Off to the Adirondacks for a while. I guess you know that we inherited a place up there from Betty's family. I find the Ads. fundamentally boring. All rocks igneous or metamorphosed igneous, impoverished flora, too many bugs, etc. But it is quiet!

Best. Al.

P. S. You correctly wrote of cultural decline. One evidence of it is that for e-mail only a few old mossbacks like me think it is called for to begin such a piece of correspondence with a salutation and end it with at least a brief sign-off. I suspect that the cybercrowd would open

X-Delivery-Notice: SMTP MAIL FROM does not correspond to sender.

Date: Fri, 13 Jun 97 16:28:35 EDT

From: gil <BRENNERG@npvm.newpaltz.edu>

Subject: Re: **errant** message etc.

To: Alfred Traverse <traverse@ems.psu.edu>

Al, I like what you told your head. Can they just take your lab away?

Sounds like a highly authoritarian system.

The ladies name is Marcella Sobodova and she knows Magdya (spelling!)

She is from the Czech Academy of Sciences. No need to send me the message

Just throw it away. I'm several years younger but mentally slower than you. I would have suggested that you stayed until your head entered the nursing home. Perhaps we will meet in a nonvirtual situation.

Gil