Washington University
Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences

COLLOQUIUM

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2017

Distinguished Visiting Scholar
Lisa White
Director, Education and Outreach
University of California Museum of Paleontology
Host: Slava Solomatov

“Increasing Public Engagement through Research and Education at the University of California Museum of Paleontology”

Abstract: For more than 125 years, fossil vertebrates, invertebrates, microfossils, and plants from more than 10,000 localities worldwide have been housed at the University of California Museum of Paleontology (UCMP), a museum uniquely situated on the campus of UC Berkeley. The extensive fossil holdings (approximately 5 million specimens) and significant online resources are linked to UCMP educational websites, databases, specimen photographs, and digital archival materials and support the needs of both the research and teaching communities. Two award winning UCMP websites, Understanding Evolution (www.understandingevolution.org) and Understanding Science (www.understandingscience.org), deliver paleontological information online and provide novel ways to engage the K-16 education community in scientifically valid, real-life portrayals of how evolution and science works. The next planned UCMP web resource, Understanding Global Change, will fill a unique and sorely-needed niche by providing the content, teaching resources, and strategies that will enable K-16 teachers to effectively incorporate global change science into their existing curricula. Recent grants received by the UCMP support greater archiving and digitization of fossils and field materials, and are providing new avenues and opportunities for public engagement through shared collections networks, virtual field experiences, use of rich visualizations, and informational graphics.

Location: Rudolph Hall, Room 203   Time: 4:15 p.m.

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