

Christian Maloney Cicimurri

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Summary

- Eighteen years of professional experience in the museum field, specifically in the areas of natural history, interpretation, and collection management.
- Dedicated to using current best practices in museum management and collections care.
- Experienced in field collection and documentation, identification and preparation of fossils, rocks and minerals, museum collection management, exhibit installation, and written and oral communication.

Education

1999 MS Paleontology South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, Rapid City, SD
Thesis: *Additions to the Pliocene (Blancan) Mammalian Paleofauna of the Ringold Formation, Washington*

1993 BS Anthropology Rutgers University, Douglass College, New Brunswick, NJ
Concentration in physical anthropology and human origins.

Professional Experience

Curator of Natural Science

10/2014 – Present

McKissick Museum, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

Direct all facets of the museum's natural science collections, including stewardship, development, legal documentation, and research (accessioning, cataloging, loans, exhibitions).

- Develop and install natural science exhibitions and assist with other installations as needed.
- Successfully wrote, and currently manage grant: **Historic Southern Naturalists: Bringing USC's History & Natural History Together Online**, \$83,500 grant awarded by USC ASPIRE program to digitize historic archives and specimens, develop a cross-referenced website, and add interactive touchscreens to the natural science exhibition.
- Manage, maintain, and oversee PastPerfect collection database, including training all users.
- Monitor, identify, and control integrated pest management for entire museum.
- Guest lecture in Museum Management courses specifically related to collection management.
- Supervise graduate students, interns, and volunteers working with natural science collections.

Project Manager for IMLS, Museums for America grants

10/2011 – 9/2014

McKissick Museum, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

Managed all activities associated with two consecutive projects.

2011-2013 - Inventoried and cataloged the museum's historically significant natural science collections encompassing nearly 75,000 rocks, minerals, fossils, gemstones, and Recent shells.

2013-2014 - Inventoried specimens found in offsite storage and safely rehoused 700 radioactive specimens.

- Developed and revised procedures for computerized catalog entry, organization, labeling, and storage of specimens.
- Determined and assigned catalog numbers as necessary, reconciling 5 different numbering systems used during the past 200 years.

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- Associated specimens with historic labels and entries in 19th century catalog of geological collections. Transcribed 19th century geologic catalog into searchable Excel document.
- Identified specimens and managed data entry of metadata into PastPerfect database, including identification, detailed description, dimensions, condition, photograph, locality of origin and collector history.
- Developed protocols for handling hazardous specimens (radioactive ore and asbestos), surveyed collection storage areas to locate and rehouse these items, and cleaned contaminated storage materials.
- Designed and installed custom storage system for radioactive minerals to vent radon gas.
- Trained and supervised 6 part-time curatorial assistants in museum best practices in collection management and object handling.
- Set blog schedule, assigned topics and contributed entries.

Curator of Education

8/2000 – 9/2011

Bob Campbell Geology Museum, Clemson University, Clemson, SC

One of two employees tasked with all aspects of the daily management of the university's geology museum housing more than 10,000 specimens.

- Responsible for all aspects of educational programming at museum, including creation and presentation of all tours, programs, development of website content, and brochure design.
- Maintained teaching collection of rocks, minerals, and fossils.
- Collaborated with Curator of Collections to develop and install new exhibits.
- Established and managed Friends Membership program for Geology Museum and parent institution, the South Carolina Botanical Garden (including 20+ restricted gift accounts).
Created and maintained FileMaker Pro database for gift and donor information management.
- Conducted geological and paleontological fieldwork with Curator of Collections.
- Cataloged 2400 volume museum and garden reference libraries in online database.
- Managed visitor services including specimen identification, gift shop sales, and gallery maintenance.
- Developed and led 10-day 'eco-tourism' fundraising trip to the Great Plains (Summer 2011)
- Recruited and trained student staff, community volunteers, and docents.
- Collaborated with companion educators at SCBG, Clemson University, and region.

Site Interpreter

Summers 1995, 1996, 1998

Badlands National Park, Interior, SD

Interpreted paleontological and geologic concepts at a publicly accessible active excavation for up to 350 visitors daily. Served as site supervisor for 1998 field season.

- Excavated, mapped, and jacketed Oligocene mammal fossils from a complex bone bed.
- Authored field collection protocol for Big Pig Dig site.
- Supervised rotating staff of 13 and served as SDSMT (university) liaison to park.
- Instructed college students and volunteers in fossil collection, documentation, and mapping techniques.

Grants

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Submitted 12/2017 IMLS, Museums for America \$226,436
Historic Southern Naturalists: Bringing USC's History & Natural History Together Online to extend the HSN project to include material from additional naturalists and materials from other institutions.

2016-2017 USC, Advanced Support for Innovative Research Excellence \$83,500
Historic Southern Naturalists: Bringing USC's History & Natural History Together Online to digitize objects and archival material from all USC collections related to three significant naturalists, publish the results in a cross-referenced website, and install interactive touch screens at McKissick.

Teaching Experience

Courses Taught at University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

Geology 101 – Introduction to the Earth (4 credits)	Fall 2013 - 2017
Geology 103 – Environment of the Earth (4 credits)	Spring 2016
Geology 110 – Cultural Geology (3 credits)	Spring, Fall 2015

Courses Taught at Clemson University, Clemson, SC

Geology 291/292, 391/392, 491/492 - Carolina Paleontology Project	2009 - 2011
Developed program to engage teams of 5-10 undergraduate students in current research on SC paleontology, culminating in their senior research and professional communication.	
Geology 102 – Historical Geology (4 credits)	Spring 2011
Biology 735 – Learning from the Fossil Record (3 credits)	Summer 2003, 2011
Geology 790 – Exploring Curriculum Standards in Geology (3 credits)	Summer 2001

Contractual Positions

Contract Curator	Clinton Museum, City of Clinton, SC	06/2017 – 01/2018
Hired to conduct inventory of permanent collection and loans of local house museum. Responsible for coordinating return of loaned material and setting up exhibits until full-time staff is hired.		

PastPerfect Trainer	Belton Museum, Belton, SC	02/2014
Trained Belton Museum staff and board members in how to use PastPerfect museum software to document and track the museum's collections, loans, exhibits, and contacts.		

Selected Conference Presentations

2018 "Illuminating Dark Data to Engage Audiences: Integrating Digital Images into Academic and Avocational Knowledge Creation" session at Association of Academic Museums and Galleries, Miami, FL

2018 "Consistency in Collections: How to Turn Your Database into a Rockstar" & "Just Write a Grant for That (It's More than Buzzwords)" session at South Carolina Federation of Museums, Walhalla, SC

2017 "ILLUMINATING DARK DATA: Digitizing Hidden Collections for Exhibitions" session at South

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Carolina Federation of Museums, Walterboro, SC

2015 “Improved Storage of a Radioactive Geologic Collection: A Case Study at McKissick Museum, University of South Carolina” oral presentation at Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, Gainesville, FL & poster at American Alliance of Museums, Atlanta

2015 “Pee Dee River Journey: Where History meets Prehistory” field trip session at South Carolina Federation of Museums, Florence, SC

2014 “Managing Mayhem: What to Do When a Backlog of Unprocessed Collections Go Awry” session at Southeastern Museums Conference, Knoxville, TN

2010 “The Role of University/College Museums and Galleries” session at South Carolina Federation of Museums, Greenville, SC

2006 “What in the World? Verification & Exhibition of Stray Natural History Specimens” session at South Carolina Federation of Museums, Clemson, SC

2001 “Natural History Museum Tours: Your Museum and Science Curriculum Standards” session at South Carolina Federation of Museums, Spartanburg, SC

1996 “Biostratigraphy of Late Cretaceous Sea Turtles in the Western Interior Seaway” oral presentation at Symposium on Turtle Evolution, Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, NY

Professional Leadership and Service

Museums United, State Museum Association Convening	2014 - 2016
Museums United Phase 2, Task Force 3 - Online Toolkit	2015 - Present
South Carolina Federation of Museums, member	2001 - Present
2007 - 2016, Served on Executive Committee (2VP, 1VP, President, Past President)	
2005 - 2007, Served on Professional Development Committee, Chair 2006-2007	
Southeastern Museums Conference, member	2011 - Present
2011, Served as Chair of Publications Competition and Local Arrangements Committee	
Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, member	intermittent
Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, member	1995 - Present

Certificates

National Association of Interpreters, Certified Interpretive Guide	2010 – 2014
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Technical Skills

PC and Mac systems, Microsoft Office suite, Adobe Creative Suite (Lightroom, Photoshop, In Design), PastPerfect Museum software (versions 4.0, 5.0, and PastPerfect Online), FileMaker Pro, Blackboard Learn, DSLR photography.