

Alberta Palaeontological Society

Progress in Understanding Romer's Gap

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jason S. Anderson, PhD

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Location: B108, Mount Royal University

Time: April 19, 2024, 7:30 pm MST

Abstract:

There is a global hiatus in the fossil record between the late Devonian and early Carboniferous, which has received the name "Romer's Gap". Intensive work in recent years has greatly reduced this gap by actively hunting fossils from this time period, especially from the Tournaisian deposits of the Scottish Borders and at Blue Beach, Nova Scotia. The tetrapod fossils demonstrate the presence of taxa characteristic of faunas from both the Devonian and Carboniferous, suggesting a minimal impact of the end Devonian extinction event upon tetrapods. More recent work in my lab has been working to see whether actinopterygian and sarcopterygian "fish" communities present at Blue Beach demonstrate similar patterns. I will review a bit of the history of Romer's Gap, what the tetrapods demonstrate, and what we have found to be the case for ray and lobe finned fishes.