The University of Alberta Dino Lab opened in 1920 and is vital to fossil preparation for scientific research. Dino Lab is currently overseen by **Dr. Philip Currie** (Canada Research Chair in Dinosaur Palaeobiology), **Dr. Corwin Sullivan** (Philip J. Currie Professor of Vertebrate Palaeontology), and their grad students.

Dino Lab volunteers directly partake in, and contribute to, scientific research by preparing real fossils. Palaeontologists from around the world visit our collections to study these fossils. All volunteers must **sign a waiver** (those under 18 must always be accompanied by a parent/guardian) and wear **long pants** and **closed-toed shoes**. We are in the Biological Sciences Building.

DAYTIME LAB (CW-004)

- By appointment with Howard Gibbins (gibbins@ualberta.ca) or Clive Coy (ccoy@ualberta.ca)
- Monday–Friday, 9am–4:30pm

EVENING LAB (Z-423)

- Drop-in during academic year (September–April)
- Monday–Thursday, 5–7pm
- For more info, email Mark Powers (powers1@ualberta.ca)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON REVERSE

How can I learn more about **PALAEONTOLOGY** at the University of Alberta?

Visit our website for info and resources at grad.biology.ualberta.ca/dino-lab/

Follow us on Facebook for updates at www.facebook.com/DinoLabUAlberta

Enroll in DINO 101, a free Massive Open Online Course available through Coursera at coursera.org/course/dino101

Check out University courses on fossil vertebrates, invertebrates, and plants, and a vertebrate palaeontology field school (course code: PALEO)

Visit the Paleontology Museum in the Earth Sciences Building (ualberta.ca/earth-sciences/facilities/collections-and-museums/index.html)

Join the UofAPS (University of Alberta Palaeontological Society), a student group that hosts monthly seminars, social events, and occasional field trips. Website: eas.ualberta.ca/paleo/

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

DINO LAB

FOSSIL PREPARATION GUIDELINES

Updated 2021-12-07

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

To open a field jacket:

- Hand saw (trained supervisors may use a reciprocating saw if needed)
- Pliers (standard or end cutting)
- Pocket knife or box cutter

To prepare a fossil:

- Dental pick
- Pin vice
- Toothbrush
- Paintbrush
- Paraloid (reversible glue)
- Sandbags
- Scalpel (rare)

POTENTIAL HAZARDS (AND RISKS)

- Consolidants/adhesives dissolved in acetone (flammable fumes; irritant to skin, eyes, and airway)
- Sharp tools (cuts and scrapes)
- Dust, sand, airborne debris (irritant to eyes and airway)
- Equipment noise (noise exposure)

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Proper tool use and common sense will eliminate most safety concerns. If something happens, the lab has:

- First aid kits
- Eye wash kits
- Supervisors trained in Standard First Aid and WHMIS

PUT THE FOSSIL FIRST

Fossils are ancient, old, unique, and priceless. If our fossils get destroyed, our data get destroyed. Each specimen requires patience and care because it may be used for:

- Research
- Scanning or sampling facilities
- Museum display
- Outreach
- Education
- Long-term storage

PROPER TECHNIQUES

- Dig horizontally, in layers, to evenly remove matrix until bone is exposed
- Upon finding cracks, add sufficient consolidant to stabilize without adhering the specimen to the jacket
- Take your time
- Brush out loosened matrix, don't lift or tilt the jacket to do so

SPECIMEN & LAB ETIQUETTE

- **Be careful** to avoid damage to tools, specimens, glue, or other volunteers
- **Securely close glue lids**. Acetone is volatile and dissolves our floors!
- Always keep ID cards/info **with the specimen** (boxes and bags available to keep parts associated)
- Be **appropriate and respectful** with equipment. Some tools and supplies are sensitive and expensive
- Lab spaces and tools are **shared**. Clean up after yourself and return tools to their proper locations
- **Don't touch** anything in the lab not assigned to you. Many specimens are deceptively fragile
- Take **pride** in your work
- **Immediately** inform a supervisor if an accident occurs

If you are ever unsure how to proceed,

ASK A SUPERVISOR!

We love questions and are eager to help.

Our logo is a stylized depiction of UALVP 2, one of the most complete and well-preserved specimens of *Stegoceras*. This pachycephalosaur (dome-headed dinosaur) is on display in the Paleontology Museum on campus.