



# Lisa D. White

GRFP Recipient: 1984

*Undergraduate Institution:*

B.A. 1984, San Francisco State University

*Graduate Institution:*

Ph.D. 1989, University of California, Santa Cruz

*Graduate Field of Study:*

Earth Sciences

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*Current Position:*

Director of Education  
University of California  
Museum of Paleontology,  
University of California at  
Berkeley

## RESEARCH INTERESTS //

A fellow of the California Academy of Sciences and the Geological Society of America, Lisa D. White is a micropaleontologist by training, specializing in fossil diatoms in the Miocene Monterey Formation of California and associated biosiliceous sediments around the Pacific Rim. At the UC Museum of Paleontology, Lisa enhances research programs in paleontology by providing avenues through which to share that research with the general public, the media, and K-12 educators and students.

## POSITION PROFILE //

As Director of Education and Outreach at the University of California Museum of Paleontology (UCMP), White facilitates and promotes an understanding of the history of life and the diversity of the Earth's biota through the UCMP's research and education mission. She guides collaborations between UCMP and organizations and institutions to increase public understanding of the nature and process of science and the importance of evolution. Past positions Lisa has held include Professor of Geosciences and Associate Dean of the College of Science and Engineering at San Francisco State University teaching and guiding research in paleontology, the history of life, and oceanography; Visiting Professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of New Orleans; and Coordinator of the Minority Participation in the Earth Sciences (MPES) Program at the U.S. Geological Survey. White is actively engaged in efforts to diversify the geosciences through education and outreach, and manages

several programs designed to broaden the participation of underrepresented high school students in geoscience research supported by NSF grants: SF-ROCKS (Reaching Out to Communities and Kids with Science in San Francisco) and its next iteration, METALS (Minority Education Through Traveling and Learning in the Sciences). Both programs embrace approaches common in successful participatory programs and contain elements of field-centered teaching and learning, mentoring and peer interaction, and science relevant to the lives of a diverse urban population.

Lisa states: “receiving a GRF from the NSF to attend UC Santa Cruz made me feel part of a community of scholars and the award guided a career-long commitment to designing engaging programs aimed at diverse populations in the geosciences.”

#### AWARDS/ HONORS //

- Fellow, Geological Society of America, elected in 2009
- Inaugural recipient of the Bromery Award for Minorities, Geological Society of America, 2008
- Outstanding Journal Paper Award (1998) in Palaois, SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology); Shipboard Scientist, Ocean Drilling Program Leg 127 (1989) and Leg 170 (1996)