The Florida Museum of Natural History is Florida’s state museum of natural history, dedicated to understanding, preserving and interpreting biological diversity and cultural heritage.

COVER PHOTO
This sculpture of Tgzme: Bird, by Richard Webber is displayed in the "Hall of Florida Fossils." Photo by Tommy Johnson

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None of us at the Florida Museum of Natural History will soon forget 2003-2004. Despite a third straight year of state budget cuts, we experienced one of our busiest and most successful years—a year filled with accomplishments. Let me mention just a few of the highlights.

On September 19th the UF Cultural Plaza hosted Party On The Plaza, an enormous, gala birthday bash to celebrate UF’s sesquicentennial. Over $1 million was raised for a Cultural Plaza Endowment and we have applied for state matching funds that could increase the total by 50 percent. Income generated from this endowment will be split equally among the Florida Museum and our neighbors, the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts and the Harn Museum of Art, in order to bring the finest in traveling exhibitions and performances from around the world to UF and the north-central Florida community.

In May the last of Powell Hall’s permanent exhibition galleries opened to the public. The much-anticipated Hall of Florida Fossils: Evolution of Life and Land tells the story of Florida’s unique record of ancient life. Its breathtaking design, lighting and workmanship, combined with state-of-the-art scientific content from Florida Museum collections and staff, have set a new standard for such exhibitions. Our audience is very enthusiastic about the Fossil Hall, visiting in record numbers. Since May, several museums have visited to take notes and borrow ideas, paying our Fossil Hall team a huge compliment in the process. We thank Fossil Hall sponsors Barbara & Reed Toomey as well as major donors Jon & Beverly Thompson and AEC Trust, and all of our other contributors who made this marvelous exhibition possible.

Scholarly activity on the collections and research side of the Museum continued to climb this year. A major indicator of productivity, competitive grant and contract funding, reached an all-time high as ichthyologist Dr. Larry Page received the largest research grant ever awarded to a museum researcher. His $4.7 million, multi-year grant from the National Science Foundation’s Planetary Biotic Inventory program, in cooperation with four other institutions, will facilitate the study of catfish systematics around the world by involving more than 250 researchers from 31 countries.

The Museum also hosted two NSF-sponsored workshops involving an international assemblage of scientists. Dr. Page organized the first, Producing A Decadal Vision for Taxonomy and Natural History Collections, in December. The second, A Workshop on Establishing a Comprehensive Database for Plant Systematics, followed in February and was organized by Drs. Pam and Doug Soltis.

A final and very gratifying highlight of 2003-04 was the launching of Museum Nights during the spring semester. Museum Nights represents a dynamic partnership between the Florida Museum, the Harn Museum and UF Student Government in which Student Government has funded both museums to remain open Thursday evenings when the university is in session. Special programs, music and refreshments have attracted a devoted and growing audience of students and community visitors to the museums who might not find it possible to visit during normal hours. Promoting greater participation by UF students has been a longtime goal of the Florida Museum and this historic partnership with Student Government has helped both organizations achieve their missions.

As fiscal year 2003-04 drew to a close, it was gratifying to see substantial completion of the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity, sited on the north and west sides of Powell Hall. Four years in the planning and construction phases, this world-class facility will firmly establish the Florida Museum as the epicenter for butterfly and moth research and education around the world.

Douglas S. Jones, Ph.D. • Director
ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOGRAPHY

Distinguished Research Curator Kathleen Deagan received the 2004 J.C. Harrington Award for “distinguished contribution to the discipline grounded in scholarship” from the Society for Historical Archaeology.

Along with Historical Archaeology Collection Manager Alfred Woods, Deagan continued research on Florida’s first Spanish settlement in St. Augustine, Columbus’ 1492 fortress of La Navidad in Haiti and investigation of Taíno responses to Spanish contact in Hispaniola at En Bas Saline in Haiti. With help from Office of Museum Technology staff, they also developed a web site on archaeology in Haiti.

Deagan and Woods also completed the development of an online, interactive ceramic comparative collection containing more than 40,000 digital photographs of the Florida Museum historical archaeology ceramic-type collections.

Environmental Archaeology Curator Kitty Emery was nominated as the 2004 Scientific Research Society of North America Lecturer. She and Collection Managers Irvy Quitmyer and Sylvia Scudder and Archaeobotanist Donna Ruhl have concentrated on research related to ancient human-environment interactions in the circum-Caribbean basin, in Florida and the Southeast, including human impact on the environment by over-exploitation of terrestrial and marine environments, the socio-economics of natural resource control in complex societies and study of methods in recovery and interpretation of environmental archaeology data.

Collections work included establishing a digital archive of skeletal images of all Maya terrestrial fauna in the Environmental Archaeology collections and upgrading the curation of the wet archaeobotanical collections.

Assistant Scientist Karen Walker focused on the environmental archaeology of the Pineland Surf Clam Ridge. She also curated collections from the Futch Cove Site at the Kennedy Space Center. Along with Ruhl, Walker curated the archaeobotanical collections from Pineland and continued work on a project on the environmental archaeological analysis of the Everglades National Park and curation of collections from the park.

Curator of Caribbean Archaeology William Keegan directed research projects in Jamaica and St. Lucia. The St. Lucia project is the first systematic survey of one of the Windward Islands of the Lesser Antilles. He also helped direct the first archaeological survey of the U.S. Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Curator of Florida Archaeology William Marquardt received the University of Florida Research Foundation Professorship Award for distinguished research and scholarship.

Under the supervision of Marquardt and John Worth, coordinator of research programs and services, field research and educational outreach continued at the Museum’s Randell Research Center on Pine Island. Marquardt and Walker also wrote a page for the National Park Service web site on the Museum’s southwest Florida research.

Florida Archaeology Curator Jerald Milanich received the 2004 Florida Academy of Sciences Medalist Award for outstanding contributions to the promotion of scientific knowledge, the stimulation of interest in the sciences, or the diffusion of scientific knowledge. He also was recently elected to the board of trustees of the Archaeological Institute of America.

Curator of Latin American Art and Archaeology Susan Milbrath was involved in a Mayapan archaeological project involving the analysis of the corpus of ceramic incense burners to identify different patterns of representation and form a typology. Along with help from Museum Registrar Elise LeCompte, Milbrath completed a 500-object database for the Museum’s Pearsall Collection of Native American artifacts. Work also continues on an online database of the Latin American archaeological ceramics collection.

Museum Ceramicist Ann Cordell completed investigations of pottery and clay samples from archaeological sites in St. Lucie, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee and Okaloosa counties. Florida Archaeology Collection Manager Scott Mitchell accepted the position of director of the Silver River Museum in Ocala in June 2004. Diane Kloetzler and Donna Ruhl have been acting Florida Archaeology collection managers since Mitchell’s departure. The Florida Archaeological Council honored longtime Anthropology volunteer Thomas Vickery with a 2004 Stewards of Heritage Preservation Award in recognition of his special efforts to support archaeology and historic preservation through his work at the Museum.
The Museum continues its successful relationship with the University of Florida’s Museum Studies Program in the College of Fine Arts. Graduate level interns from the program work with Museum curators and collection managers on projects related to collections curation, exhibits and museum administration. Several Museum curators, such as Charlotte Porter, and collections staff, such as Elise LeCompte, also teach courses and classes related to museum theory and collections management for the program.

Porter completed work on the development of the Bartram Trail Conference. She started a research project with the UF Museum Studies students to locate artifacts made from deerskins obtained by the British from the Creek and Seminole of Florida. She also is developing a CD-ROM on William Bartram.

**VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY**

**Ichthyology**

Assistant Scientist William Crampton and Assistant Curator James Albert completed a faunal inventory of the Peruvian Amazon floodplain and studied the evolution of electric signaling in gymnotiform fishes. This project included study of the systematics, phylogeny and biogeography of these fishes, as well as the development of software for analysis of electric signals of fish. Crampton was involved with a 2003 National Geographic film on electric eels.

Collection Manager Rob Robins worked with ichthyologist Larry Page on the All Catfish Species Inventory, a $4.7 million grant the National Science Foundation awarded to the Florida Museum.

The International Shark Attack File staff continues to investigate shark attacks, determine trends and consult internationally...

The Florida Program for Shark Research staff, including George H. Burgess, director, Franklin Snellson, visiting scientist, and Cathy Bester, education coordinator, had a very active year. Among the new and continuing projects underway are five studies determining the ages and growth rates of tiger, basking and hammerhead sharks, investigations examining the reproductive biology of 10 shark and stingray species, dietary studies of sharks and rays, development of fishery management measures for protected dusky sharks and the documentation of movement patterns of bull sharks in Florida and reef-associated sharks in Belize.

The International Shark Attack File staff continues to investigate shark attacks, determine trends and consult internationally on reducing the threat of shark attack.

**Herpetology**

Curator Wayne King surveyed exotic herps that have been introduced into Florida and attempted to develop an index to predict which exotic reptiles and amphibians released in the state will not become established, which will become established in local populations only, and which will become widespread invasive pests. He also collaborated with Charlotte Porter on documentation of wildlife exploitation and trade at the time of William Bartram’s visits to Florida.

Curator Max Nickerson pursued research on the effects of flooding and harvesting on various populations of hellbender salamanders. He also carried out studies on chelonian populations and on venom glands in snakes.

Associate Scientist Richard Franz worked on new species of fossil tortoises from the Caribbean, South Carolina and Florida, while continuing to research fossil tortoises in Nebraska. The Florida Gopher Tortoise Council honored Franz through its establishment of the Auffenberg and Franz Conservation Award.

Collection Manager Kenneth Krysko headed a multi-agency team that researched four newly introduced species to Florida and the impact these species will have on native Florida ecosystems. Krysko and museum scientist Kurt Auffenberg discovered a new angular-toed gecko from Pakistan. Auffenberg also researched land snails in Pakistan and the Philippines. All Herpetology curators and staff expanded the herpetology publications on the Florida Museum web site by more than 300 pages.

**Mammalogy**

Assistant Curator David Reed conducted research on the genetic analysis of lice and the support for direct contact between modern and Archaic humans. He also initiated the BioCorder Project (www.flmnh.ufl.edu/biocorder). This web-driven database will track specimen data and products derived from those specimens such as DNA sequences, morphological data, images, datasets and publications. Collection Managers Laurie Wilkins and Candace McCaffery continue the division’s research on the endangered Florida panther, thanks to support from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Wilkins also oversaw installation of the Museum’s Images of the Maya exhibition, which she designed and curated.

**Ornithology**

Curator David Steadman conducted research on the paleontology, biogeography, evolution, systematics and community ecology of birds on tropical islands and changes in bird communities in the Neotropics.

Steadman also worked on the higher-level phylogeny of birds as revealed by the Cenozoic fossil record. This project includes study of fossil birds from the Thomas Farm site in Gilchrist County, Fla. A 2003 BBC film featuring Steadman won the Carl von Linne Science Trophy at the Living Europe Film Festival in Sweden.

Collection Managers Andrew Kratter and Tom Webber continued to curate new additions to the collections, including skins salvaged from rehab clinics throughout Florida. Steadman, Kratter and Webber gained biological knowledge of Florida’s birdlife through specimen salvage at wildlife rehabilitation clinics in conjunction with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Along with Steadman, Kratter surveyed and collected birds on Espiritu Santo in the South Pacific.

**The Katharine Ordway Nature Preserve**

The Museum welcomed Ordway Eminent Scholar of Ecosystem Conservation Scott Robinson from the University of Illinois. His research focuses on the nesting success and populations of birds of the Ordway Preserve, including the effects of urbanization on community composition.
INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

Malacology
Associate Curator Gustav Paulay researched the marine biodiversity inventory of Oceania, the molecular phylogeography of Indo-West Pacific mollusks and systematics and biogeography of tropical Indo-West Pacific marine invertebrates.

Curator Fred Thompson researched Mexican land snails and freshwater snails in Florida. Thompson also surveyed mollusc biodiversity in Honduras, Chihuahua and Veracruz.

Collection Manager John Slapcinsky studied new species of invertebrates in Papua New Guinea, researched introduction of exotic species to North America, and, along with Invertebrate Paleontology Collection Manager Roger Portell and Anthropology Curator Bill Keegan, studied changes in invertebrate taxa from prehistoric sites in Jamaica.

Paulay, Thompson and Slapcinsky started a project to computerize all newly acquired tropical and subtropical mollusk collections at the Museum.

BOTANY

Herbarium
Curator Norris Williams and Laboratory Director Mark Whitten researched the molecular systematics and biogeography of several orchid families by focusing on DNA sequence data. They also researched the molecular phylogenetics of certain orchids. Williams received the first Lankester Prize from the University of Costa Rica for pioneering work on the ecology, evolution, phylogeny and systematics of orchids.

Collection Manager Kent Perkins initiated a cooperative program between the Herbarium and Kanapaha Botanical Gardens to conduct a floristic inventory of the gardens. The project seeks to document the native, naturalized and cultivated vascular plants in the gardens. Data and specimen images collected as part of this project are available online, www.fmmh.ufl.edu/herbarium/kanap/. Perkins also is working with the University of Florida Libraries Digital Library Center on Herbarium web site improvements to aid users with plant recognition and identification questions.

Molecular Systematics and Evolutionary Genetics Laboratory
Curator Pam Soltis and Adjunct Curator Doug Soltis researched questions of angiosperm phylogeny, patterns and genetics of floral evolution and patterns and processes of gene and genome evolution.

Specific projects include the development of a comprehensive phylogenetic tree of living and fossil angiosperms, research on the origin and evolution of the floral genetic program and phylogenetic tools for evolutionary and functional genomics of angiosperms, as well as development of the Tree of Life database (a digital library of biodiversity information) and establishment of a comprehensive database for plant systematics.

Assistant Scientist Matt Gitzendanner researched the genetic diversity and self-incompatibility locus characterization of the Florida jujube and developed microsatellite loci for genetic analysis for Lewton’s milkwort and Avon Park harebells.

Paleobotany
Graduate Research Professor David L. Dilcher and Museum Biologist Terry A. Lott researched fossils from Alabama, Brazil, China, Costa Rica and Tennessee and created a database for early angiosperms of the world and morphotypes of Eocene fossils of Tennessee.

With major help from Graduate Research Assistant Shusheng Hu, they also conducted pollen counts of northeastern Florida. Dilcher and Beth Kowalski worked on leaf physiognomy and climate of the eastern U.S. The lab also participated in field research on the Cretaceous of Minnesota, Eocene of Tennessee and Miocene of Alum Bluff, Fla. Curator Steve Manchester researched the Eocene floras of western North America, the anatomy of specific fossil plant families from the Paleocene and Cretaceous and the systematics and fossil history of Vitaceae.

Research Associate David Jarzen returned to the Museum and researched Florida and the southeastern U.S. palynofloras from Tertiary and Quaternary deposits and lake cores. He continued to work with colleagues in Australia on Proteaceae and other Gondwanan taxa. He also curated and catalogued the modern pollen and spore reference collection and fossil palynofloral localities into a database.

Collection Manager Hongshan Wang continues his research on Cretaceous Dakota Flora of the Western Interior. His research focuses on the diversity of angiosperms during the mid-Cretaceous and the comparisons between the Dakota flora and other coeval floras of North America. Graduate Research Assistant Xin Wang researched the effects of lightning in preserving cytoplasm in plants that then become fossils.
Invertebrate Paleontology
Collection Manager Roger Portell conducted fieldwork at several quarries in St. Lucie County where unique species of sand dollars, sea urchins and sea biscuits were discovered in shell beds approximately 120,000 years old. Many new fossil species were collected as part of the Florida Geological Survey State Map Program. Portell, along with colleagues in the Netherlands and Jamaica, began National Geographic Society-funded research documenting fossils from a rare 2 million-year-old raised reef on the north coast of Jamaica. Thus far, more than 60 species of marine snails and clams have been identified along with four new crab species.

“Thus far, more than 60 species of marine snails and clams have been identified along with four new crab species.”

Vertebrate Paleontology
Assistant Curator Jonathan Bloch joined the Museum. His research focuses on the early evolution of primates, bats and insectivores.

Distinguished Research Curator Emeritus David Webb collected Miocene vertebrates at sites in southwestern Montana. Collection Manager Richard Hubert and Research Scientist Art Poyer continued fieldwork at Thomas Farm. Preparator Russell McCarty worked on fossils from the Thomas Farm excavations and ran a workshop on mold making and casting techniques.

TEACHING

Graduate Committees Served: 111
Graduate Committees Chaired: 50
Independent Studies: 85

NEW GRANTS & CONTRACTS
Florida Museum faculty and staff received 28 new grants totaling more than $1.8 million from the following agencies:

Administration for Children & Families
All Species Foundation
American Association for Advancement of Science
American Orchid Society Fund
American Ornithologists Union
Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Florida Department of State
Evolving Earth Foundation
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
Foundation for Advancement of Mesoamerican Studies
Institute of Museum & Library Services
National Science Foundation
St. Louis Zoological Park
State University of New York
University of Guam
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Department of the Interior

PALEONTOLOGY

Invertebrate Paleontology

Vertebrate Paleontology
VISITATION AND OUTREACH
With more than 123,000 visitors, Museum attendance increased just over 4 percent from the last fiscal year. The Museum’s various outreach programs reached 175,020 people, representing a 20 percent increase over last year.

AWARDS
The Southeastern Museums Conference awarded its “2003 Award of Excellence” to South Florida People and Environments, the Museum’s permanent exhibition hall that opened in 2002.

This prestigious peer-juried award recognizes the finest new exhibition in the southeastern states with a budget of more than $1 million.
PERMANENT EXHIBITIONS

Hall of Florida Fossils
The Museum’s third permanent exhibition, the Hall of Florida Fossils: Evolution of Life and Land, opened May 22, 2004. This 5,000-square-foot exhibition draws upon the Museum’s internationally acclaimed fossil collections and has already become a visitor favorite, boosting attendance figures and garnering nationwide publicity.

Initial designs, by well-known designer Ralph Appelbaum and Associates of New York, were taken to completion by Florida architects VOA Associates, Museum staff and many talented national artists. This hall was made possible through the generosity of Reed & Barbara Toomey, Jon and Beverly Thompson, AEC Charitable Trust, Stephen and Rena Jacobson, Cliff and Pat Jeremiah, and Roger and Anne Portell, with matching funds provided by the state’s Alec P. Courtelis Facilities Enhancement Challenge Grant program.

The exhibit describes the last 65 million years of Florida’s history. Over the last 40 years, Museum scientists have contributed a great deal to our understanding of the geology and paleontology of the Americas, particularly Florida. The exhibit brings this science to life with a walk through time, starting in the Eocene, when Florida was underwater, and traveling through the geological epochs to the arrival of humans in the Pleistocene. Florida’s first land animals and the 3-million-year-old land bridge between North and South America provide an exciting environment to view numerous reconstructed skeletons, including a 15-foot-tall ground sloth and a 2-foot-tall horse. More than 90 percent of the 500 fossils are real and many were found within 100 miles of Gainesville. Hands-on bronze animal sculptures and 3-dimensional globes add interactivity and dimension for the unsighted.

The Saturday public opening included lectures by visiting paleontologists such as Jack Horner and Chris Brochu, guided tours, book signings, temporary tattoos, shark tooth giveaways, “Stump the Paleontologist,” information from Florida Fossil Clubs and a larger-than-life-sized giant shark for visitors to paint.

TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

The Changing Exhibits Gallery hosted The Everglades: Exploitation and Conservation from the Historical Museum of Southern Florida in Miami; Hunters of the Sky from the Science Museum of Minnesota; and the Florida Museum’s own exhibition Images of the Maya, which features Maya textiles and photographs and included a week-long visit from Mayan weavers.

Planning also continued for future shows, including the nationally renowned blockbuster Chocolate: The Exhibition from the Field Museum scheduled for fall 2004.

In the Galleria, the Museum hosted the photographic exhibit Gamba: The Edge of Africa, a painting and specimen exhibit titled Micro Minerals, and watercolors of native plants in Flora of La Florida. These smaller exhibits provide the opportunity to feature the works of artists and scientists exploring interesting natural history topics.

Other temporary exhibitions included the seventh annual Trashformations art show. Sponsored by the Alachua County Office of Waste Alternatives, this show highlights high school and college student art made from recycled material. Additionally, in conjunction with the Alachua County Public Schools Visual Arts Program, the Museum featured artwork created by elementary students to complement the Hunters of the Sky and Hall of Florida Fossils: Evolution of Life and Land exhibits.

Other McGuire activities include:
- Construction and delivery of more than 10,500 new specimen drawers
- Planting of the 6,400-square-foot screened Butterfly Rainforest with 2,000 plants
- Moving the highly successful captive propagation project of the endangered Miami Blue butterfly into new laboratory facilities
- Phase I installation of exhibits in the public galleries
PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Programs for Students

More than 27,600 pre-K through 12th-grade students participated in Museum education programs, and docents led more than 8,500 students on tours of permanent and temporary exhibits. *Sky Hunters and Cave Crawlers* and Florida *Treasure Hunters* were developed as new programs for preschool and kindergarten children.

Museum docents made *Inquiry Box* outreach presentations for more than 18,300 students in six counties. These object- and activity-rich programs feature five different topics and include a collection of objects and teacher guide with participatory lessons and activities.

The fall *Homeschool Activity Mornings* featured a variety of activities such as owl pellet dissections, and *Home School Nature Series* classes included *Beak, Feet & Feathers, Bird Watching for Beginners, Pond Ecology* and *Hooray for Herps*.

More than 800 seventh-graders from 10 schools attended *Sensational Science*, a program with interactive displays by 30 community and University of Florida presenters highlighting the role science plays in a variety of careers and daily life.

Teacher and Adult Education

The Florida Museum and Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art collaborated with Alachua County Schools on the Educators Open House, which features the educational resources of the UF Cultural Plaza museums and community agencies.

More than 50 students participated in a variety of spring classes, including *Dye Naturally, Pre-Columbian Food & Fibers*, and *Wild Toxics, Medicinals & Edibles*.

Seventeen students completed the Florida Master Naturalist Coastal Module class, attending 40 hours of instruction and discovering Florida’s natural heritage in the beaches and estuaries as they learned to understand and appreciate the state’s coastal habitats and wildlife that depend on these delicate ecosystems.

Classes

Nearly 800 spaces were filled in children’s classes during 2003-2004. One-day classes encouraged students to explore the world of owls, the amazing continent of Africa, or the outdoors to search for signs of spring, and then turn their observations into art. During one week of classes, students had an opportunity to converse with Maya weavers who visited the Museum during the *Images of the Maya* exhibit. Other summer class topics included photography, buried treasures and the world of archaeologists, tropical ecosystems, natural habitats of Florida, insect expeditions, fossil creatures, extinct and endangered species, kitchen chemistry and geology.

Public Events

Providing something for practically everyone, the Museum’s public programs include annual events such as *Bats, Bats and More Bats, Science Spooktacular* and *Animal Fair*. The 25th Annual Collectors Day featured diverse collections from Barbie dolls to souvenirs, spoons to antique glass figurals bottles and railroad lanterns to antique and classic vehicles.

Annual programs also included the *July Summer Programs* for families, focusing this year on weaving, estuaries, plants and museum collections, and *Buchholz BioTrek*, a monthly program where 10th-grade biology students from Buchholz High School share animals from their classroom zoo with Museum visitors.

Hundreds of participants of all ages viewed Saturn, Jupiter, Mars at its closest, Venus in transit, and a lunar eclipse through telescopes provided by the Alachua Astronomy Club as part of the *Celestial Celebrations* special events.

LECTURES

*Why Crocodiles Are Better Than Dinosaurs*
Chris Brochu, University of Iowa

*Dinosaurs and the Less Interesting Vertebrates That Came After Them*
Jack Horner, Museum of the Rockies (Montana State University)

*A Birder Looks at Butterflies*
Kenn Kaufman, author of the Kaufman Focus Guide

*The Crested Caracara*
James Layne, Archbold Biological Station (Lake Placid, Fla.)

*Birds Eye View of the Swallow-tailed Kite*
Ken Meyer, Director, Avian Research and Conservation Institute (Gainesville, Fla.) and Courtesy Associate Professor, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

*Natural Gardens of North Florida*
Gil Nelson, author of Florida’s Best Native Landscape Plants

OUTREACH PROJECTS

*SEEK: Science and Engineering Experiences for Knowledge*, an after-school program at Howard Bishop Middle School the past two years, was expanded to include Lincoln Middle School. A collaborative program of the Florida Museum, UF College of Engineering, Alachua County Public Schools and Gainesville Regional Utilities with funding from the National Science Foundation, *SEEK* engages students in inquiry-based activities to promote interest and achievement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

*M E S S : M a r v e l o u s Explorations through Science and Stories* is a science curriculum in place in all Alachua County Head Start classrooms. Formed in 2001 as an innovative partnership between the Florida Museum, Alachua County Library District/Youth Services, and Alachua County Public Schools Head Start/Pre-K, the program provides a literature-based science program for more than 850 low-income, pre-school children enrolled in Head Start. Funding has been provided in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and ChevronTexaco Foundation. The goals of the program are to foster children’s language development, literacy skills, love of reading, curiosity and interest in science by increasing the amount and quality of time children are engaged in science in the classroom and at home.
**NEW EXTERNAL FUNDING**

- General Program Support grant for $78,536 from the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts. This grant provided support for education and outreach programs.
- 2003 Learning Opportunities Grant award for $150,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. IMLS received 934 applications and selected 169 projects to receive funding. This grant provides funding to continue implementation of MESS in Alachua County Head Start classrooms.
- Funding for Enhancing Natural History Museum Visitor Understanding of Evolution is provided in part by the National Science Foundation through a grant of nearly $145,000. The project research partners collected data at six natural history museums across the country, interviewing 800 visitors to assess their understanding of key concepts of evolution and the nature of science. In addition to the Florida Museum, research partner institutions included the Institute for Learning Innovation, which interviewed visitors at the National Museum of Natural History, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and George C. Page Museum, Denver Museum of Nature and Science and the University of Kansas Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center. Fall 2004 conference attendees will examine the study findings and develop recommendations for ways museums can enhance visitor understanding of evolution through exhibits and programs.

**VOLUNTEERS**

Docents participate in training programs that include background information about the Museum’s permanent and temporary exhibits as well as effective techniques for engaging students in learning through objects and exhibits.

- More than 370 individuals volunteered a total of 20,144 hours.
- Nearly 80 docents were active during the 2003–2004 school year.
- 40 docents provided assistance with Sensational Science.
- Three docents attended the National Docent Symposium in Chicago.
- Docent Annette Perry was elected to the National Docent Board.

**Office of Museum Technology**

Florida Museum web visits continue to climb

**Annual Budget**

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- Operations: $1.6 million (11%)
- Exhibits & Public Programs: $3.4 million (24%)
- Gifts: $2.2 million (16%)
- Collections/Research: $9.3 million (65%)
- Total Expenditures: $14.3 million

- Investments: $1.5 million (11%)
- Gifts: $3.2 million (22%)
- Grants: $2.2 million (16%)
- State Allocation/UF: $7.3 million (51%)
- Total Revenues: $14.3 million

Office of Museum Technology staff participated in several grants, contributing to proposals and receiving $17,500.

Staff members have been actively involved with the McGuire Center construction project, serving as advisors to ensure compliance with University of Florida standards.

Staff received $8,500 from consulting activities.

OMT staff completed 2,486 help desk requests.

Staff completed many various database and web projects for programs and divisions throughout the Museum.
Honor Roll

2003-2004

Gifts of $1,000,000 or more

William W. & Nadine M. McGuire
Family Fund.

Gifts of $500,000 or more

ChevronTexaco Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight D. Sippel
Jon L. & Beverly A. Thompson (fs)

Gifts of $250,000 or more

Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund
Maple Hill Foundation
Shands at the University of Florida (fs) (b)

Gifts of $10,000 or more

Bonita Bay Group
Gladys G. Cofrin (ms) (b)
Louise H. Courtelis (fs) (ms)
Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Dorion
Elizabeth Ordway Dunyan Foundation, Inc.
John W. & Peggy B. Kirkpatrick (fs) (ms) (b)
Kenneth R. & Linda G. McGurn (fs) (ms) (b)
Mr. & Mrs. Edward J. Amsler (fs) (ms) (b)
cesar alvarez (b)

Gifts of $2,500 or more

Michael & Judy Adler (b)
School Board of Alachua County
ARAMARK- Educational Services (b)
BeaGrady (b)
Clark L. Beatty (cs) (b)
Alyce B. Boyd (ms)
Burns Brothers, Inc. (fs) (ms) (b)
Leighton E. (d) & Beth A. Cluff (b)
Nathan Collier (b)
Charles V. & Elizabeth B. Covell (fs) (ms)
Mashall & Paula Criser (ms) (b)
Allen (d) & Lou Delaney (b)
Sheila K. Dickson (ms)
Thomas C. Emmel (ms) (b)
Florida Institute of CPAs (b)
Follett Higher Education Group (b)
Leonard T. & Elizabeth T.
Furlow (fs) (ms) (b)
Harrell & Johnson P.A. (b)
Douglas S. & Sheila H.
Jones (fs) (b) (ms) (b)
Kha Le-Huu & Partners (b)
Korge & Korge (b)
David Lawrence, Jr. (b)
Martin Z. Margulies (b)
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Powell Family Foundation (b)
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Jay & Charly Rossin (b)
Roberto & Maria Elena Sanchez (b)
Santa Fe HealthCare, Inc. (b)
S.P.I. (b)
Grag D. & Kris Shaak (fs) (b)
Sonny's BBQ (b)
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Toomey (b)
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Catherine A. & Herbert G. Vazdey (b)
Patti & Ron Zollars (fs) (b)

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AnswerThink, Inc. (b)
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Sarah B. & Joshua G.
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The fiscal year began with a very successful sesquicentennial celebration for the University of Florida, which raised more than $1 million to be shared equally by the three institutions of UF’s Cultural Plaza. When these funds are matched by the state in an endowment fund, the Florida Museum will use the proceeds to enhance public programs and exhibitions. The Florida Museum will continue to partner in joint fundraising and programs with our UF Cultural Plaza neighbors, the Harn Museum of Art and the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.

Major gifts from Reed and Barbara Toomey, Jon and Beverly Thompson and AEC Trust were key in our completion of the Hall of Florida Fossils. This technically complex exhibit, epochs in the making, completed the permanent exhibition planned for Powell Hall only seven years from its opening.

As the fiscal year ended, the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity neared completion as a result of several very generous gifts from the McGuire Family Foundation totaling $1,214,200. The McGuire Center is already recognized as the premiere address for Lepidopterists, and the Museum is hiring world-class research, curatorial and educational staff. To support McGuire Center public exhibitions and programs, the Museum created the Monarch Society to recognize donors who commit at least $10,000 for this new center. Nearly 20 donors pledged their support within the first few months after the fund’s creation.

The Museum Associates Board strengthened its fundraising with strong participation in all events and generous contributions lead by President Peggy Kirkpatrick. The Museum increased its new and renewing memberships to 788.

Thank you!

The Florida Museum of Natural History has continued to grow in excellence as a result of public and private donors. Thank you for your generous support!

The Florida Museum is associated with the University of Florida Foundation, which receives, invests and accounts for all charitable contributions. The UF Foundation is a direct support organization and charitable contributions are regulated by section 501c(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Museum’s private support came from five sources:

- Foundations $1,333,139 (49.5%)
- Corporations $427,969 (15.9%)
- Organizations $244,275 (9.1%)
- Non-alumni $433,799 (16.1%)
- Alumni, students, parents $254,034 (9.4%)

Total: $2,693,216


Popular Publications, Miscellaneous Reports:


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July 1, 2003—June 30, 2004

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