



Florida Museum *of* Natural History

annual report

2007-2008

FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
Marketing and Public Relations
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“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.”

This Annual Report features images from the Florida Museum Ornithology Collection. The Florida Museum Ornithology Division curates the world’s fifth-largest collection of modern bird skeletons and the second-largest collection of bird sounds in the Western hemisphere in number of species. The egg collection represents approximately 90 percent of the living species and subspecies of North American birds.

For information on joining the Florida Museum Ornithology Club, go to www.flmnh.ufl.edu/birds/club.htm or call (352) 273-1969.

Detail on front cover is Golden-hooded Tanager (*Tangara larvata*)

DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As the Museum enters its second century on the University of Florida campus, it remains youthful, vibrant and dynamic. This annual report reveals a museum tightly woven into the fabric of UF, clearly focused on research, collections and teaching while also serving its constituents through exhibitions, educational programs and public outreach.

In 2007-2008 several notable transitions occurred among our curatorial staff. Long-serving faculty members Jerry Milanich, Dick Franz and Graig Shaak retired; however, we were able to jump-start our fledgling bioinformatics initiative by hiring curators Reed Beaman and Nico Cellinese from Yale University.

The Exhibits and Public Programs Division had a year filled with highlights. Our newest traveling exhibition, *Megalodon: Largest Shark that Ever Lived*, received the 2007 Award of Excellence from the Southeastern Museums Conference. *ButterflyFest* was a huge success, and *Inside Africa*, a temporary exhibition from The Field Museum, helped attract a more diverse audience and boost annual attendance to 217,974.

Never was there a time when fund-raising was so crucial to our institutional well-being.

As I write this message, the United States is plunged into its worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. The Museum was forced to reduce its state budget by 4.3 percent in 2007-2008, and by another 6 percent heading into 2008-2009 as state revenues continued to decline. These cuts eliminated nearly \$900,000 from our recurring state budget and forced several staff lay-offs. Currently we are planning for another 10 percent cut in the face of further revenue shortfalls. Endowment earnings have also plummeted in the wake of the banking crisis and turmoil on Wall Street, further undermining the financial base of the Museum.

The \$1.5 billion UF Tomorrow Capital Campaign kicked-off its public phase in September 2007. The Museum’s goal within the campaign is \$30 million. Never was there a time when fund-raising was so crucial to our institutional well-being. Fortunately we were able to hire a top-notch Director of Development, Josh McCoy, to replace Beverly Sensbach who now serves the Museum as Assistant Director. With your help we expect to exceed our campaign goal and look forward to overcoming our financial challenges in the year ahead.

DOUGLAS S. JONES, PH.D.
Florida Museum of Natural History Director

Spotted Tanager (*Tangara guttata*)

Golden-hooded Tanager (*Tangara larvata*)

Red-headed Tanager (*Tangara erythrocephala*)

Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*)

COLLECTIONS AND RESEARCH

THE FLORIDA MUSEUM'S CURATORIAL AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES CONTINUED TO FLOURISH THIS YEAR. THE MUSEUM HOUSES MORE THAN 28 MILLION SPECIMENS, ALONG WITH THE ASSOCIATED FIELD NOTES, PHOTOGRAPHS, DATABASES AND LIBRARIES THAT ENHANCE THEIR IRREPLACEABLE SCIENTIFIC VALUE.

The Museum brought in more than \$3.8 million in new and continuing multi-year grants to support research, curation of collections and education. Museum research focuses on studies of anatomy, molecular genetics, ecology, paleontology, evolution of plants and animals and the development through time of human cultures. While the Museum's primary collections and research strengths are focused in Florida, the southeastern United States and the Caribbean region, the programs span the globe. Most of the collections of plants, animals, fossils and artifacts rank among the top 10 nationally and internationally.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOGRAPHY

Caribbean Archaeology

- Continued to study important ceramic collections from Savanne Suazey (Grenada) and Paradise Park (Jamaica) and faunal collections from the Giraudy site, St. Lucia.
- Collaborated with the Island School, Eleuthera, Bahamas, to develop an archaeology program.
- Collaborated with Caicos Conch Farm to re-create a Lucayan village on Grand Turk.
- Organized and hosted an international symposium, *In the Footsteps of Ripley and Adelaide Bullen: A Survey of Caribbean Archaeology*.

Environmental Archaeology

- Developed a database that includes a Maya zooarchaeology component, georeferences for all Mesoamerican sites and taxonomic and locality dictionaries for Mesoamerican research.
- Investigated methods in recovery and interpretation of environmental archaeology data, as part of the *Proyecto Zooarqueológico del Área Maya* project.
- Continued research on ethnographic/ethnohistoric ritual Maya animal caching and implications for ancient Maya diet in Guatemala highlands, animal material disposal patterns in the Southern Maya Lowlands and medicinal animal curation and use by Itza Maya in Guatemala.
- Completed an online digital image Fish Atlas and added images of molluscan fauna to the Mesoamerican database.

Ethnography

- Completed curation of the Indigenous Amazonian ethnographic collection.
- Received a donation of modern South American textiles to complement the Andean Folk Art Collection.
- Received a donation of Seminole/Miccosukee clothing and other cultural objects.
- Developed ethnographic displays for local agencies' Native American Heritage Day programs.

Florida Archaeology

- Began re-curation of the Pineland Collection, an internationally significant systematic collection from a major Calusa Indian town site.
- Continued digital imaging of the Bullen Projectile Point Type Collection to publish on the Museum's web site.
- Curator Jerald Milanich retired in January and was appointed curator emeritus.
- Conducted archaeological testing and excavation at Pineland, Brown's Complex Mound 4 and Useppa Island, as well as archaeological dating of Mound Key.

Latin American Archaeology

- Research focused on Mesoamerican Postclassic period and the intellectual exchange between the Maya and Central Mexico cultures.
- Continued research on Maya calendar for *Past and Future Time on Earth: Mesoamerican Calendar Records of the Natural World*.
- Began systematic study and developed database of Bullard Collection, a major Maya ceramic sherd collection.
- Organized a course for Oak Hammock on Climate Change and Human Behavior, co-sponsored by the Museum and the UF Land Use and Environmental Change Institute.

Spanish Colonial Archaeology

- Research focused on understanding cultural transformations and cultural diversity of Spanish American society after European contact, and refining the understanding of landscapes and configurations of St. Augustine, the first European colony in the U.S.
- Continued the synthesis of research at En Bas Saline, Haiti.
- Completed conservation and curation of Fountain of Youth Park artifacts; upgraded pre-1980s collections to national museum-quality standards.
- Kathleen Deagan received the 2007 Order of La Florida, awarded by the City of St. Augustine in recognition of extraordinary contributions to the city.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)



Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*)

BOTANY

Herbarium

- Initiated the project *Revealing the Rare: A Virtual Collection of Florida's Endangered Plant Species*.
- Continued genetic bar-coding of Florida species focusing on invasive and poisonous plants.
- Continued to develop a web site for the National Science Foundation *Assembling the Tree of Life* program.
- Phylogenetic study of subfamilial and tribal relationships in two groups of orchids (Oncidiinae, Sobraliinae) using molecular and morphological data.

Molecular Systematics and Evolutionary Genetics Laboratory

- Research focused on questions of angiosperm phylogeny, patterns and genetics of floral evolution, patterns and processes of gene and genome evolution, phylogeography, and conservation genetics of rare Florida plant species.
- Continued to collaborate with the Botanical Society of America to provide educational K-12 materials from *Deep Time: A Comprehensive Phylogenetic Tree of Living and Fossil Angiosperms* and *The Floral Genome* project.
- Pam Soltis served as a Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar, lecturing on conservation biology, plant evolution and women in science.
- Comparative phylogeography of eastern North American tree species and woody and herbaceous plants from southeastern North America.

Paleobotany

- Research focused on new Early Cretaceous angiosperms from China, Paleocene flora of western North America, South America, China and Japan, and Eocene fruit and leaf floras of England, Germany, Oregon and Wyoming.
- Updated database of Lower Cretaceous angiosperms worldwide, data to be included in the *Atlas of Early Angiosperms*.
- Received the Ed Deevey pollen collection, a modern reference pollen collection of Florida plants.
- A new species of Eocene fossil fruit, *Palaeophytocrene manchesterii*, named after Steve Manchester.

INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

Malacology

- Research focused on understanding the distribution and origin of marine biodiversity in tropical reef systems and documenting systematics, evolution and biogeography of selected taxa of marine invertebrates worldwide.
- Conducted genetic bar-coding of marine invertebrates, including a survey of Moorea Island (French Polynesia) and in the northwestern Hawaiian Islands.
- Undertook a systematic revision of aspidochirotid holothurians (sea cucumbers).
- Completed *An Annotated Checklist and Bibliography of the Land and Freshwater Snails of Mexico and Central America*.

Invertebrate Paleontology

- Directed paleontological resource surveys at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, Cuba, documenting new Oligocene to Miocene fossil sites.
- Described nine new species of early Miocene gastropods.
- Continued National Science Foundation-funded curation of a late Eocene collection of fossil mollusks, brachiopods and sea stars from Seymour Island, Antarctica.
- Completed an NSF-sponsored collaborative project with the University of South Florida to provide undergraduate research experiences.

MUSEUM STUDIES

- Continued to study the impact of Native American encounters on natural history, using accounts of 16th-century Neotropics and management of commercial deer hunting in the 18th-century Southeast.
- Completed scholarly monograph on William Bartram and 18th-century Natural History (Linnaean Science).

VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

Herpetology

- Conducted conservation and management assessment of critically endangered amphibians in Honduras.
- Surveyed the Florida distribution of Teiid lizards, the Madagascar Giant Day Gecko, the Curly-Tailed lizard, boa constrictor, and Burmese python.
- Studied the status of the Eastern Back and Mole kingsnakes in Georgia.
- Continued the study of genetic diversity of the Eastern Indigo snake in Florida and southeastern Georgia.
- Studied fossil tortoises from Florida, Nebraska and the West Indies.

Ichthyology

- Continued the *All Catfish Species Inventory* research project.
- Continued a major revision of the *Peterson Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes of North America*.
- Began new aspects of systematic research on percid, siluriform and cypriniform fishes.
- Monitored, documented and reported shark attacks and other shark/human interactions world-wide through the Florida Museum International Shark Attack File.
- Added interactive educational shark dissection activity to web site to help the public become more familiar with the internal and external anatomy of sharks.
- Developed the *Sawfish in Peril* outreach initiative to educate fishers and the general public about the endangered status of the smalltooth sawfish.

The Katharine Ordway Chair of Ecosystem Conservation

- Studied the effects of productivity gradients on avian community composition and structure in South America with special emphasis on the Amazon, the Andes and Venezuela.
- Researched factors underlying elevational distributions and range limits of birds in the Andes, including changes in plant communities, climate and interspecific territoriality.
- Studied the effects of urbanization on Florida bird communities with attention to the mechanisms that influence community composition, abundance and nest predation.
- Studied the population dynamics and behavioral adaptations of avian brood parasites, especially the Brown-headed Cowbird.

Mammalogy

- Began a project to reconstruct the evolutionary history of bacterial endosymbiosis in obligate blood-feeding lice.
- Continued to study the parasitic lice of humans and other primates to evaluate rates of evolution.
- Studied the molecular genetics of pocket gophers and Florida mice using skin samples preserved in the Museum's Genetic Resources Repository.
- Continued research on the endangered Florida panther, including the use of stable isotopes and Harris lines to assess their health and diet.

Ornithology

- Studied Miocene, Pleistocene and Holocene fossil birds from the Thomas Farm site in Gilchrist County, Fla. and numerous sites in northern Mexico, southwestern U.S., the Bahamas, Trinidad & Tobago, Peru and Venezuela.
- Explored Bahamian blue holes and dry caves for fossils of extinct birds, reptiles and mammals.
- Continued morphological and paleontological research to resolve the deep nodes in avian phylogeny as part of NSF's *Assembling the Tree of Life* program.
- Continued to salvage important bird specimens from wildlife rehabilitation clinics across Florida.

Vertebrate Paleontology

- Investigated the origin and early evolution of primates.
- Studied mammalian faunas across the Paleocene-Eocene boundary (Bighorn Basin, Wyo.) to document biotic changes in response to ancient global warming.
- Continued research on fossil vertebrates and plants from a Paleocene rainforest in northern Colombia.
- Studied the paleobiology and biodiversity of Miocene mammals along the Panama Canal.
- Continued research on macroevolution and geochemistry of Cenozoic giant sharks.
- Bruce MacFadden was featured scientist in the American Museum of Natural History's *The Horse* exhibit.

Genetic Resources Repository

- Added material to the more than 8,000 samples of plants, birds, amphibians, reptiles, fishes and marine invertebrates.
- Integrated the Genetic Resources Repository database with databases of other Museum collections.



Turquoise Tanager (*Tangara mexicana*)



RESEARCH LOCATIONS

RESEARCH LOCATIONS

Florida - All counties with special attention to Alachua, Bay, Brevard, Broward, Calhoun, Charlotte, Collier, Dade, De Soto, Dixie, Escambia, Franklin, Gilchrist, Glades, Gulf, Hendry, Highlands, Hillsborough, Jackson, Jefferson, Lee, Leon, Levy, Liberty, Marion, Monroe, Okaloosa, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, Taylor, Volusia and Walton counties.

Other States - Alabama, Arizona, California, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming.

International - Anguilla, Bahamas, Carriacou, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, England, France, French Polynesia, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, New Guinea, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos, U.S. Virgin Islands, Venezuela.

GRANTS

Florida Museum of Natural History faculty and staff managed \$3.8 million in new and ongoing multi-year grants and contracts during 2007-08. Faculty and staff received 25 new grants totaling \$2 million from the following institutions:

American Museum of Natural History	Global Biodiversity Informatics	Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
Conservation International Foundation	Institute of Museum and Library Services	Smithsonian Institution
U.S. Department of Environmental Protection	Lee County	Southwest Florida Community Foundation
Evolving Earth Foundation	National Science Foundation	Université de la Réunion
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission	Nature Conservancy	U.S. Department of Agriculture
	Schlumberger Foundation	U.S. Department of Commerce



(Clockwise from top left) A diver explores a submerged cave passage in the Bahamas. Museum researchers excavate a Lucayan Indian village in the Bahamas. A Museum field work camp site in the Andes Mountains, Bolivia. Museum staff and volunteers work at the Haile 7G site in Newberry, Fla.

TEACHING

Courses

ANG 4905 Individual Research in Anthropology, 22 credits
ANG 6115 Problems in Caribbean Prehistory, 3 credits
ANG 6120C Environmental Archaeology, 3 credits
ANG 6905 Individual Studies in Anthropology, 33 credits
ANG 6910 Supervised Research, 9 credits
ANG 6915 Research Projects in Social, Cultural, and Applied Anthropology, 3 credits
ANG 6945 Internship in Anthropology, 8 credits
ANG 6971 Research for Master's Thesis, 6 credits
ANG 7979 Advanced Research, 14 credits
ANG 7980 Research for Doctoral Dissertation, 29 credits
ANT 4905 Individual Research, 1 credit
ANT 4147C Environmental Archaeology, 3 credits.
ARH 6900 Independent Study in Museology, 3 credits
ARH 6930 Museum Ethics, 3 credits
ARH 6946 Museum Practicum, 3 credits
ARH 6971 Masters Research, 6 credits
BIO 432 Marine Invertebrate Zoology (Univ. of Washington), 9 credits
BOT 4905 Individual Studies in Botany, 4 credits
BOT 6910 Individual Studies in Botany, 5 credits
BOT 6927 Systematics Journal Club, 1 credits
BOT 7979 Advanced Research, 32 credits
BOT 7980 Research for Doctoral Dissertation, 22 credit

Graduate Committees Served: 115

Graduate Committees Chaired: 67

Independent Studies: 77

University of Florida Scholars: Lisa Barrow and Tamar Carter, mentor David Reed, Ph.D.

BOT 2710 Practical Plant Taxonomy, 3 credits
GLY 5786L Topics in Field Geology-Florida Vertebrate Paleontology I, 2 credits
GLY 6971 Research for Master's Thesis, 8 credits
GLY 7979 Advanced Research, 7 credits
HIS 4905 Individual Research, 3 credits
HIS 4970 Senior Thesis, 3 credits
HSC 4905 Individual Research, 4 credits
INT 7979 Advanced Research, 8 credits
PCB 6605 Principles of Systematic Biology, 4 credits
PCB 6905 Principles of Systematic Biology, 3 credits
ZOO 2203C Invertebrate Zoology, 4 credits
ZOO 4905 Individual Studies in Zoology, 19 credits
ZOO 4926 Seminar in Macroecology, 1 credit
ZOO 6905 Individual Studies in Zoology, 10 credits
ZOO 6927 Advanced Invertebrate Zoology, 4 credits
ZOO 6927 Methods in Phylogenetic Inference, 3 credits
ZOO 7979 Advanced Research, 33 credits
ZOO 7980 Research for Doctoral Dissertation, 23 credits
ZOO 5115C/GLY 6932 Vertebrate Paleontology-Fossil Record and the Evolution of Vertebrates, 3 credits
ZOO 6927/GLY 6932 Cenozoic Vertebrates of the Neotropics, 3 credits
ZOO 6927/GLY 6932 Vertebrate Paleontology Seminar, 2 credits

McGUIRE CENTER FOR LEPIDOPTERA AND BIODIVERSITY



The Museum is working to re-establish the endangered Miami Blue butterfly in south Florida.

The McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity aggressively expanded acquisition and curation of new collections of butterflies and moths from private collectors and public institutions from across the U.S. and around the world, including Belgium, Denmark and Germany. Staff members also began new research and conservation initiatives and widened the McGuire Center's contributions to graduate and undergraduate student instruction at the University of Florida.

Highlights:

- Added African butterfly species to the Butterfly Rainforest to coincide with the Museum's *Inside Africa* temporary exhibit.
- Promoted conservation-based projects with endangered species of Lepidoptera through grants from various agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Florida Wildflower Foundation.
- Led expeditions to locations around the world, including Costa Rica, the Galapagos Islands and Madagascar to collect Lepidoptera and expose interested members of the public to remote tropical habitats and wildlife.

McGuire Center Lepidoptera Assistant Curator Keith Willmott presents a collection of Andean butterflies.



Detail of a Speckled Tanager (*Tangara guttata*)

RENOVATIONS AT HOME

This year the Museum redesigned its front entrance gallery to provide a friendlier, more attractive and more informative initial guest experience. The colorful design evokes natural history themes and the use of recycled materials expresses the Museum's "green" mission. A large, etched glass backdrop illustrates Florida flora and fauna and represents the diversity of Museum research and education programs.



2007-2008 EXHIBITS OVERVIEW

FROM GIANT SHARKS TO AFRICAN CULTURES, FLORIDA MUSEUM VISITORS ENJOYED A RICH YEAR OF CHANGING EXHIBITS AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS. NEARLY 218,000 PEOPLE VISITED THE MUSEUM DURING THE YEAR AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS REACHED MORE THAN 143,000.

National Service

In addition to state and regional programs, exhibit staff members represent the Florida Museum at the national level. This year, Exhibits Director Darcie MacMahon was elected to the *National Association for Museum Exhibition* board and Traveling Exhibits Coordinator Tom Kyne was selected to represent the Southeast on a national *Traveling Exhibits Professional Interest Committee*.



Visitors enjoy the exhibit *Megalodon: Largest Shark That Ever Lived*, which the Museum displayed June 16, 2007, - Jan. 6, 2008.

Traveling Exhibits

The year opened with the Florida Museum-produced *Megalodon: Largest Shark that Ever Lived*, which garnered plenty of local and regional attention during its six-month run and boosted Museum visitation by 13 percent during the same time period the previous year. Florida Museum of Natural History scientists and artists collaborated to create this 5,000-square-foot exhibit based on Florida Museum research and funded in part by a coveted National Science Foundation grant. Following its Gainesville debut, staff prepared the exhibit to travel on a nationwide tour. The exhibit's first stop is Hawaii's Bishop Museum and then it is scheduled to return to Florida for a Miami venue before continuing around the country.

Other current traveling exhibitions include: *TUSKS! Ice Age Mammoths and Mastodons*, *Journal of Light: A Photographer's Search for the Soul of Florida*, and *Fort Mose: Colonial America's Black Fortress of Freedom*.

AWARDS

The Florida Museum's newest traveling exhibition, *Megalodon: Largest Shark that Ever Lived*, won the Southeastern Museum Conference's esteemed Award of Excellence, a peer-juried award that places *Megalodon* at the very top of exhibits produced in the Southeast in terms of design, educational value and contribution to the field.

Temporary Exhibits

The Museum's changing gallery hosted two major exhibitions during 2007-08: *Megalodon: Largest Shark That Ever Lived*, followed by the temporary exhibition *Inside Africa*.

The 5,000-square-foot *Inside Africa* is based on a permanent exhibit at the Field Museum of Chicago, and explores the many facets of Africa – its people, lands, rich cultural history and stories. The exhibit also includes sections on the African Diaspora and Underground Railroad. *Inside Africa* was well received by the community and drew new audiences to the Museum.



The Museum hosted *Inside Africa* from March 15 through Sept. 7, 2008.

The Galleria hosted smaller temporary exhibits created in-house.

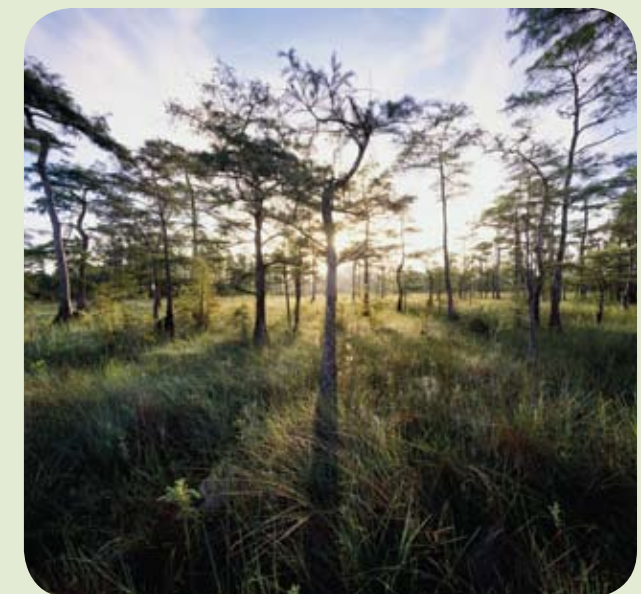
- *African Pathways to Urbanism* documented African Studies professor Peter Schmidt's forays into African archaeology and the ancient urban centers of Eritrea in the "Horn of Africa."
- *The Soul of Florida Landscapes* featured paintings by Gary Borse. His colorful landscapes search for the "soul of a place" by capturing the mystery and excitement someone might "feel" more than "see" when experiencing Florida's natural areas.
- *Florida's Vanishing Habitats and Wildlife* showcased Ken Sourbeer's photography from three Florida ecosystems – coastal zones, freshwater wetlands and upland habitats, all part of his ongoing project to document these increasingly threatened wild places.
- Gainesville artist Mary Jane Volkmann created a stunning new series of paintings for *Namibia: The Smile of Africa*. Based on her 23 years in Namibia, Volkmann's work captured the nation's ageless traditions and changes with modernization.

Other temporary exhibitions included:

- The 10th annual *Trashformations* – art made from recycled material by area middle school, high school and college students.
- The *Children's Natural History Gallery* hosted several exhibitions of Alachua County Schools student artwork exploring the themes of our temporary exhibits.
- The *Discovery Room* featured butterfly photo collages by the Butterfly Learning Project at the Caring & Sharing public charter school of Gainesville.

In Design

Exhibitions take time to develop, and the Museum had a few extra projects in the hopper during 2007-08. A new permanent installation in the Galleria will feature rotating current science stories that reveal behind-the-scenes research. New permanent additions to the McGuire Center's butterfly exhibit galleries will interpret what visitors observe in the laboratories and collections rooms. Other exhibits in the design phase included a temporary exhibition about the Everglades and a traveling exhibit titled *Dugout Canoes: Paddling Through the Ancient Americas*.



Planning began for a new Everglades exhibit featuring landscape photographs like this cypress grove by Jeff Ripple.

OVERALL PROGRAMMING

MORE THAN 92,000 VISITORS PARTICIPATED IN THE MUSEUM’S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING DURING 2007-08, WITH AN OVERALL ATTENDANCE OF 217,974, AND AN ADDITIONAL 6,307 SERVED THROUGH OUTREACH PROGRAMS. PROGRAMMING INCLUDED CURRICULUM-BASED TOURS FOR STUDENTS, HOME SCHOOL CLASSES, TEACHER WORKSHOPS, WEEKDAY AND WEEKEND CLASSES FOR CHILDREN, SUMMER CAMPS, LECTURES, OUTREACH PROGRAMS TO SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY CENTERS, AND PUBLIC EVENTS RANGING FROM TEMPORARY EXHIBITION OPENINGS AND MUSEUM NIGHTS TO ANNUAL EVENTS SUCH AS COLLECTORS DAY AND BUTTERFLYFEST.

Starry Nights, left, and Collectors Day, right, are two of the Museum’s most popular public programs.



School Programs

More than 20,000 pre-K through 12th-grade students participated in educational programming either on-site at the Museum or through Inquiry Box outreach presentations at their schools. On-site programs included docent-led guided tours of the permanent and temporary exhibit galleries, four-week home school programs and Outdoor Naturalist programs utilizing the UF Natural Area Teaching Laboratory south of the Museum. In partnership with the Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County, WUFT-TV, Alachua County Library District and several public and private daycare providers, the Florida Museum piloted its first Pre-K Day for 400 educators and 4- and 5-year-old students in February. All educators participated in pre- and post-event workshops that included materials and activities for the classroom.

Self-Guided Visits:	6,580 students	2,179 adults
Guided Tours:	7,105 students	1,634 adults
Outreach:	6,307	
Counties –	Alachua, Bay, Bradford, Brevard, Broward, Citrus, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lake, Lafayette, Leon, Levy, Marion, Nassau, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, St. Johns, Seminole, Sumter, Suwannee, Taylor, Volusia, plus North Carolina.	

Public Programs

Nearly 72,000 adults and children participated in public programming at the Museum. These activities included spring and summer camps, lectures, weekend and school holiday classes for kids, family day exhibition openings and a preschool program for tots and parents. The second year of the expanded Museum Nights programming (i.e. Starry Nights, Can You Dig It? and Day of the Dead), through partnerships with the UF departments of Astronomy and Geology, as well as the Center for International Studies and the Mexican-American Student Organization, continued to grow in popularity. These highly successful programs drew more than 1,000 visitors per evening. Summer camp programming became so popular that another full week (10 sessions) was added to the schedule and the newly implemented field camps for 5th- and 6th-graders all filled within one day.

Summer Camps:	3,313
Kid’s Classes:	313
Birthday Parties:	641
Science Sundays:	395
Museum Nights:	
Can You Dig It?	1,534
Starry Nights:	1,138
Day of the Dead:	808

Volunteer Program

The Museum’s Volunteer Program continues to grow and diversify. More than 650 volunteers provided 30,609 hours to the Museum during 2007-08. The new program for middle and high school students – Junior Volunteers – reached 115 students again for the second year. These JVs are trained to work as interpreters in the Discovery Room, at discovery carts stationed throughout the Museum, in the Butterfly Rainforest, and as classroom assistants during kids classes and summer camps. All Museum volunteers participate in enrichment programs held throughout the year. These include training sessions on the permanent and temporary exhibits as well as effective techniques for engaging students in learning through objects and exhibits. From docents who work with our visiting school groups to individuals working behind-the-scenes in research and collections, volunteers provide a wealth of knowledge, expertise and time to the institution and its visitors.



Volunteer Coordinator Julie Crosby, left, with 2008 Volunteer of the Year Annette Perry and Museum Director Doug Jones.

Financial Assistance

The Florida Museum strives to make its exhibits and programs accessible to all visitors, regardless of socioeconomic status. While general admission to the Museum is free, there is an admission charge for the living Butterfly Rainforest exhibit. In an effort to make this exhibit and fee-based programs accessible to everyone, the Museum developed several assistance funds. The Museum actively solicits contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations for the exclusive purpose of offering these programs. Along with free admission and two assistance funds, the Museum’s Special Events including exhibit openings, Museum Nights, Discovery Room, and Family Days are always free and open to the general public.

Admission Assistance:	served 4,103 children and 1,719 adults
Camp and Children’s Programming Scholarships:	provided 52 scholarships

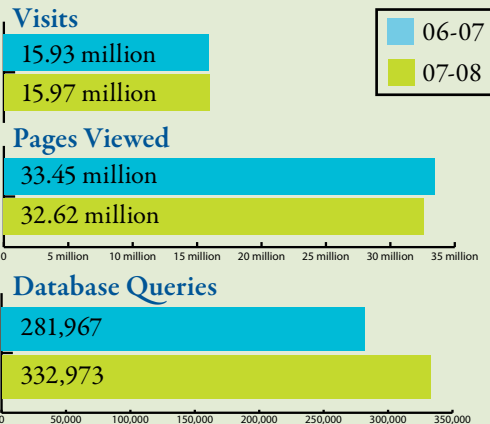
OFFICE OF MUSEUM TECHNOLOGY

2007-08 Major Projects:

- Genetics Resources collection database application put into production. The custom application was written in open-source software. This application will be used as a model for future collection database applications.
- Installation of new OMT, Natural History, Exhibits and Public Programs, research and museum-wide servers in the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity.
- Began developing a museum-wide Storage Area Network and backup system with an expected 2009 completion date.
- Numerous web projects and database projects were undertaken and are either under development, completed or waiting in the queue.
- Installed various e-mail and other software upgrades and licensing and provided periodic training sessions for museum staff and students on relevant topics including e-mail, spam, safe computing practices and security.
- Completed 1,653 Help Desk requests

Web site

The Museum web site has more than 30,000 pages with more than 40 contributors and recorded nearly 16 million visits during 2007-08.

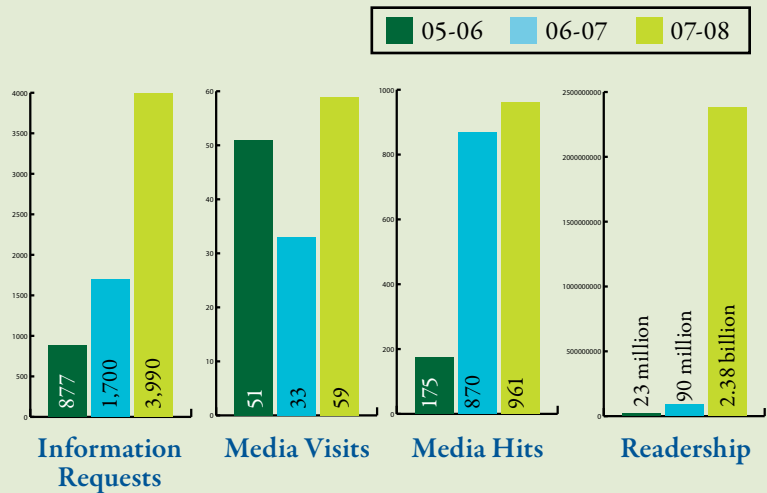


MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Marketing and Public Relations Department, including Photography and Media Services, continues to increase its assistance to internal and external audiences. This includes support for the Museum's temporary and traveling exhibits programs, fulfilling audio-visual, media and filming requests in Powell and McGuire Halls, and providing photography and other public relations services throughout the Museum.

Highlights:

- Fulfilled 3,990 work orders and information requests from internal and external audiences, including 455 from members of the media.
- Planned and coordinated 41 on-site and 18 off-site media visits.
- Produced 107 press releases and media advisories and 105 advertisements in newspapers, magazines and other publications for various Museum programs, activities and events.
- Received and tracked 961 media hits for the Museum, with a readership of more than 2.38 billion.
- Coordinated and produced the Museum's four pages for 10 issues of Natural History Magazine.
- Distributed Museum brochures and exhibit rack cards at more than 750 locations on interstates 4, 10, 75 and 275 and on U.S. 19 throughout Central and North Central Florida as well as in AAA offices across the state and at all Florida Turnpike service plazas and Florida welcome centers.



Information Requests Media Visits Media Hits Readership



Museum education staff member Beverly Rogers, right, leads a school outreach program.

CENTER FOR INFORMAL SCIENCE EDUCATION

Broader implementation and steps toward national dissemination were the focus of program efforts this year.

Highlights:

- The federal Administration for Children and Families awarded a \$397,298 Head Start Innovation and Improvement Projects Year 3 implementation grant for *An Innovative Science-based Head Start Literacy Curriculum: Expansion and Evaluation of Marvelous Explorations through Science and Stories* in Marion County. A collaborative project with Childhood Development Services, Inc. of Marion County (a Head Start grantee) and Marion County Public Library System, *MESS* is a science-centered early childhood curriculum implemented in 30 Head Start classrooms in Marion County. *MESS* includes 10 comprehensive science units, teacher training and support, and opportunities for family engagement. The *MESS* Teacher Guides and other program resources are being prepared for the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center, a web-based national resource offered by the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start.



Volunteer Bonnie Ogle leads the Pollinator Parade during ButterflyFest.

- The Community Agency Partnership Program Grant from the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners ended Sept. 30. This grant provided funding for continued implementation of *Marvelous Explorations through Science and Stories* in 36 Head Start classrooms in Alachua County during the 2006-2007 school year and the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year. Alachua County *MESS* partners are the School Board of Alachua County Head Start/School Readiness and Alachua County Library District/Youth Services.
- *Project Butterfly WINGS: Winning Investigative Network for Great Science* is a citizen science program developed for 4-H youth ages 9 to 13 by the Florida Museum in collaboration with Florida Cooperative Extension Service. Funded in part by a grant from the National Science Foundation, *WINGS* uses butterflies to develop science inquiry and life skills. *WINGS* participants explore the outdoors, learn to identify common butterflies, develop their own investigations, and contribute to science by tracking butterflies and sharing their results online. Over time this data will inform scientists about the distribution and population trends of common butterfly species. *WINGS* is one of the first three Science, Engineering, and Technology curricula being premiered by the National 4-H Council in fall 2008.
- CISE, the McGuire Center, and IFAS Extension received a grant of \$18,615 from the State of Florida, Florida Wildflower Foundation, Inc. for a second printing of 100,000 copies of the *Florida Wildflowers and Butterflies* brochure. This popular brochure is available at the Museum and distributed to extension offices, garden clubs, parks, nurseries and similar venues throughout the state. The brochure also is available as a printable PDF on the Museum's web site, www.flmnh.ufl.edu/wildflower/books.asp.
- CISE staff members co-chaired the Museum's two-day ButterflyFest 2007 program attended by more than 8,000 participants.

EVERY GIFT TO THE FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY- WHETHER OF TIME, RESOURCES OR COLLECTIONS - ENHANCES AND EXPANDS ALL OF ITS ACTIVITIES AND THUS THE QUALITY OF THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE. THERE ARE A VARIETY OF WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MUSEUM AND ITS MISSION, AND PARTICIPATION IS WELCOMED AT ANY LEVEL.

MEMBERSHIP



The Florida Museum’s members form the core of its support and are important participants in its programs, as well as community advocates. In fiscal year 2007-2008 membership grew 5 percent to more than 900 Associates and Curators Society donors.

Memberships support all areas of the Museum as well as the members’ preview lectures and special events. In the past year previews were held for *Inside Africa*, which had an extended stay due to its popularity within the community. The Museum also offered a *Tastes, Tunes and Treasures VIP Open House* featuring the Ornithology Collections. Guests viewed a selection of the Museum’s finest specimens of birds, eggs and nests and listened to bird sound recordings while interacting with curators, staff and graduate students.

The Florida Museum Associates Board held its most successful Passport to date, *Passport to Paris by Night!* on March 7, 2008. Board members, community sponsors, host committee members and other attendees raised more than \$52,000 to fund Museum research and programs while enjoying an evening of fabulous costumes, decorations, dancing and Parisian cuisine.

The Museum expanded membership during 2007-08 to include the Butterfly Rainforest exhibit with Membership*Plus* categories. For a slightly higher cost, Membership*Plus* entitles members to all benefits and also allows them to enjoy unlimited admission to the Butterfly Rainforest exhibit year-round.



Membership Levels:

	Associates:	Membership <i>Plus</i> :
Student	\$25	
Individual	\$50	\$70
Dual	\$75	\$110
Family	\$100	\$150
Supporting	\$150	\$200
Explorer	\$250	\$300

Curators Society:

Benefactor	gifts of \$500 and above
Fellow	gifts of \$1,000 and above
Patron	gifts of \$2,500 and above
Director’s Circle	gifts of \$5,000 and above

For more information please contact:

Gifts and Corporate Sponsorship: Joshua McCoy, Director of Development, (352) 273-2086

Membership: (www.flmnh.ufl.edu/membership) Leslie Campbell, Membership Coordinator, (352) 273-2047

DEVELOPMENT

The 2007-08 fiscal year brought change and growth to the Florida Museum, which is enjoying a golden age of donations of collections. As many of our peer institutions no longer support the systematic research and analysis of the world’s biodiversity, the Museum has increased its efforts to study and preserve as much of the Earth’s precious flora and fauna as possible before environmental pressures cause their extinction. As a result, many world-class biological specimen collections are finding their way to the Florida Museum.



Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*)



Minerva owl butterfly
(*Opsiphanes blythekitzmillerae*)

In an effort to raise awareness and support of butterfly research and conservation, a unique butterfly-naming opportunity was auctioned by the Museum, raising \$42,071. This new species of owl butterfly from Mexico and the southern U.S. was named *Opsiphanes blythekitzmillerae* in honor of Margery Minerva Blythe Kitzmiller, and given the common name of the Minerva owl butterfly. Other new initiatives include the creation of a new Legacy Society to honor and thank donors who have made provisions in their estate plans for the Museum, such as former Florida Museum Director Arnold Grobman, whose bequest will support Herpetology, and Nathaniel Reed, whose estate gift will create an endowment to fund the Nathaniel Pryor Reed Scholars in Florida Biodiversity.

To continue its efforts to be a better steward of the environment, the Florida Museum partnered with a local developer, donor, volunteer and friend to “go green.” Phil and Barbara Emmer have passionately led an initiative to rid the world of plastic shopping bags. They have donated time and resources to help spearhead a re-usable canvas shopping bag program. The initial sale of 5,000 bags was so successful that a second order of bags was purchased. Proceeds from the program support exhibits and public outreach within the Museum. The Museum is honored to partner with the Emmers and extends its deepest appreciation to them.

The end of this fiscal year also marked a transition for two members of the Museum family. Beverly Sensbach, who had been Development Director for several years, assumed the position of Assistant Director of the Museum, and Josh McCoy, a native of Gainesville and long-time friend of the Museum, joined the ranks as the Museum’s new development officer.

The Museum is extremely thankful for the support of its friends, donors and volunteers. The last decade’s unprecedented growth of new facilities, research and programs would not have been possible without the generosity of donors who believe in the importance of the Museum’s mission. Private gifts are essential to the Museum’s success and continued growth. Tax deductible gifts such as cash, securities, real estate, collections, and other assets are accepted and may be unrestricted or directed to the department or program of the donor’s choice.

For more information on how you can support the Florida Museum of Natural History, please contact the Museum Development Office, (352) 273-2086.

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KEY:

- * Museum Associates
- g Gifts in Kind
- ** Deferred Gifts
- c Curators Society
- d Deceased



Golden-hooded Tanager (*Tangara larvata*)

Peer-Reviewed and Other Scientific Publications:

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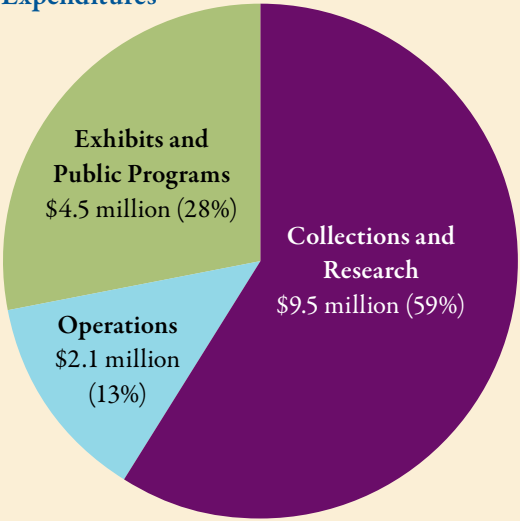
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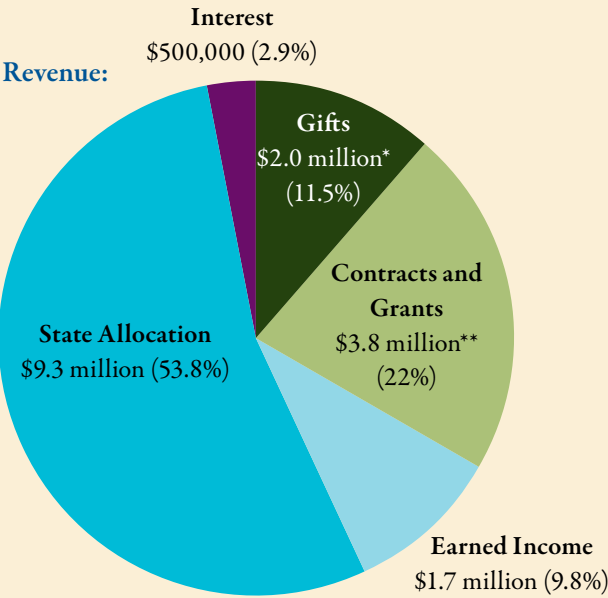
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FY 2007-2008 FINANCIALS

Expenditures



Total- \$16.1 million



Total- \$17.3 million

* Gifts include \$400,000 to endowment principal.
** Contracts and Grants includes \$800,000 in multi-year grants.

Speckled Tanager (*Tangara guttata*)



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