



Plants shown are a part of the Florida Museum of Natural History's Herbarium Collection at Dickinson Hall, housing more than 430,000 specimens.

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poinsettia • Euphorbia pulcherrima



dwarf dandelion • Krigia virginica



garden nasturtium • Tropaeolum majus



lily-of-the-Nile • Agapanthus hybrid



crapemyrtle • Lagerstroemia indica

FLORIDA **MUSEUM** of Natural History

ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006



waterlily • Nymphaea hybrid



loblolly bay • Gordonia lasianthus



chinese-lantern • Abutilon hybridum



flowering-maple • Abutilon striatum



musk mallow • Abelmoschus moschatus



'Flare' hardy hibiscus • Hibiscus 'Flare'

"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."



But a larger staff is only one aspect of growth. EQUALLY SIGNIFICANT IS OUR GROWTH IN STAFF QUALITY AND DIVERSITY.

A Message From the Director



Museum Women In Science, Naturally

The Florida Museum of Natural History is extremely proud of its outstanding faculty and staff. These dedicated men and women have created one of the finest university natural history museums in the nation. They represent this institution's single greatest resource.

In 1906, when the University of Florida opened its doors in Gainesville, the Museum occupied the third floor of Science

Hall. There was no permanent staff until the first Museum director, Thompson Van Hyning, was hired in 1914. A quick glance at the professional staff listing in this Annual Report shows just how much the Museum's staff has grown in the last century. Our professional staff now tops 125, supplemented by an even greater number of part-time and hourly employees.

But a larger staff is only one aspect of growth. Equally significant is our growth in staff quality and diversity. Unlike the early years when all the Museum's personnel were men, about 40 percent of current staff and faculty are women, several of whom achieved notable distinction this past year.

Curator Emeritus Elizabeth Wing was elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences in 2006, an achievement considered one of the highest honors in American science. Dr. Wing is recognized worldwide as a pioneer in zooarchaeology, the study of animal remains in archaeological sites. She initiated the world's first formal program in zooarchaeology at the Florida Museum in 1961 which she nurtured during her 45-year career into the present-day Environmental Archaeology Program. Dr. Wing is only the tenth member of the National Academy from UF, and the third from the Florida Museum (including Drs. David Dilcher and the late Ed Deevey.) We are enormously proud of her contributions to the profession, and particularly of her many associates and students who now continue this work in universities and museums around the world.

Another of our leading female faculty members achieving signal honors this year was Dr. Pamela Soltis who directs the Museum's Molecular Systematics and Evolutionary Genetics program along with husband Doug, Chair of the UF Department of Botany. Pam and her co-authors received the 2005 Stebbins Medal from the International Association of Plant Taxonomists for their landmark book, *Phylogeny and Evolution of Angiosperms*. The Stebbins Medal is awarded for an outstanding publication in plant systematics and plant evolution.

Likewise Pam, Doug, and David Dilcher received 2006 Centennial Awards from the Botanical Society of America. This award was established to acknowledge and honor outstanding contributions to plant sciences. Pam and Doug also jointly received the 2006 Asa Gray Award, the highest honor awarded by the American Society of Plant Taxonomists, established to recognize outstanding scientists for their contributions to systematics research.

The awards and recognition garnered by outstanding women scientists like Drs. Wing and Soltis in the past year speak to the growing reputation of the Museum's professional staff, its research programs and its scholarly accomplishments. Like UF, the Florida Museum has grown in both size and stature from 1906-2006. Led by its dedicated professional staff, the next 100 years promise even more growth.

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Douglas S. Jones, Ph.D. • Director



Collections and Research

Research and curatorial activities at the Florida Museum of Natural History saw another year of vigorous growth during 2005–06. Dickinson Hall, which is no longer open to the public, is where most of the Museum's 24 million objects are housed along with the associated field notes, photographs, databases and libraries that enhance their irreplaceable scientific value.

The Museum brought in more than \$3.1 million in new and continuing multi-year grants to support research, collections curation and education. Museum research focuses on studies of DNA, anatomy, ecology and behavior and the evolution of plants, animals and human cultures. While the Museum's primary geographic strengths are in Florida, the Southeastern United States, and the Caribbean, the collections and research programs span the globe. Many of the collections of plants, animals, fossils and artifacts rank among the top 10 in the United States.

2005-2006 Collections and Research Highlights

Archaeology and Ethnography

Caribbean Archaeology

- Completed a comprehensive survey of St. Lucie, Windward Islands.
- Coauthored an overview of Caribbean Archaeology with Corinne Hofman of Leiden University.
- Initiated development of archaeology program at Island School in Eleuthera, Bahamas.
- Assisted with development of Clifton Heritage Park in the Bahamas.
- Assisted with development of recreated Lucayan village on Grand Turk.
- William Keegan appointed Distinguished Lecturer at the University of the West Indies.

Environmental Archaeology

- Investigated human impact on ancient environments in cooperation with the Museo de Historia Natural, Universidad de San Carlos.
- Researched migration in ancient Mesoamerican trade, changing environments and climates.
- Acquired the St. Catherine's Island Zooarchaeological and Archaeobotanical Collections.
- Organized St. Catherine's Island Environmental Archaeology Round-Table.
- Expanded FAO Schwarz-funded Fish Atlas.
- Kitty Emery listed in Who's Who of American Teachers and Who's Who of American Women.

Ethnography

- Curated Visions of Wind River exhibit.
- Completed curation of Andean Folk Art collection.
- Curated Native Amazonian ethnographic collection.





Florida Archaeology

- Completed major hurricane restoration to Randell Research Center, including Calusa Heritage Trail and surrounding properties.
- Assisted in architectural restoration of historic Gill House, administrative center for the Randell Research Center.
- Assisted in urban forest rehabilitation of Randell Research Center and surrounding properties.
- Established Pineland charter regional center within the statewide *Florida Public Archaeology Network*.
- Jerald Milanich awarded 2005 Ken Meeker Travel Writer Award by the Sanibel-Captiva Chamber of Commerce and Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau.

Florida Archaeology research included:

- Late Holocene climate archives preserved in archaeological shells.
- National Science Foundation program on calibration of strontium-calcium ratios in clam shells.
- Diets of Florida Indian populations.
- Archaeologically detected foodways as a measure of culture change.
- Petrographic research on pottery from Puerto Rico and Alabama.
- Manufacturing origins of Safety-Harbor related pottery at Pineland, and on chronology of Useppa Island pottery.

Latin American Archaeology

- Studied Mayapan censers to determine chronology, iconography and external connections on Postclassic censer traditions across Mesoamerica.
- Postclassic Central Mexico research project focused on *Codex Borgia*.
- Susan Milbrath selected as project advisor for Maya Skies planetarium program, Chabot Space & Science Center.



COLLECTIONS & RESEARCH

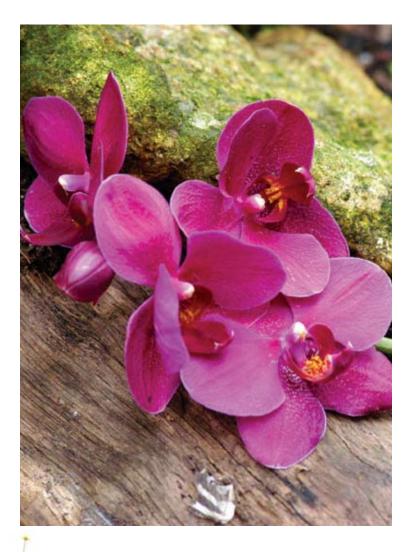
Spanish Colonial Archaeology

- Prepared GIS database for St. Augustine archaeology.
- Excavated Mission San Francisco de Potano, an important Spanish mission site.
- Received donation of a collection of 18th- and 19th- century historic ceramic objects from John Goggin, a seminal figure in the development of Spanish Colonial archaeology.
- Kathleen Deagan received Society for American Archaeology Presidential Recognition for service on the National Historic Landmarks Review Committee and served as instructor for the Florida Humanities Council-National Endowment for the Humanities project, *Teaching American History*.

Botany

Herbarium

- Researched mechanisms of the evolutionary origins of crassulacean acid metabolism in tropical orchids.
- Researched the systematics of Maxillariinae (Orchidaceae).
- Continued development of Assembling the Tree of Life database.
- Created Revealing the Rare: a Virtual Collection of Florida's Endangered Plant Species.





Molecular Systematics and Evolutionary Genetics Laboratory

- Researched genome evolution and macrodiversification in green plants.
- Continued development of Deep Time: A Comprehensive Phylogenetic Tree of Living and Fossil Angiosperms.
- Continued work on *The Floral Genome Project: Origin and* Evolution of the Floral Genetic Program and Phylogenetic Tools for Evolutionary and Functional Genomics of Angiosperms.
- Continued collaborative research project *Resolving the Trunk of the Angiosperm Tree and Twelve of its Thorniest Branches.*
- Organized workshops on understanding species diversity, unifying field, museum and laboratory scientists in global biodiversity studies and on establishing a comprehensive database for plant systematics.
- Pam Soltis served as consultant for NOVA program on first flowers.
- Soltis received Centennial Award from the Botanical Society of America.

Paleobotany

- Researched a new first flower in the world from China.
- Investigated fossil plant deposits in the Bahamas, Tennessee, Kansas and Nebraska.
- Hosted Advances in Paleobotany Conference, the Florida Paleontological Society annual meeting, and the MidContinent Paleobotanical Colloquium.
- David Dilcher listed in Who's Who in the World, Who's Who in America, Who's Who in American Education and Who's Who in Medicine and Healthcare.
- Dilcher awarded the Paleobotanical Society International Medal.



INVERTEBRATES

Malacology

- Researched molecular phylogeography and speciation of Indo-West Pacific marine invertebrates.
- Continued marine biodiversity inventory of Oceania.
- Undertook systematic study of neotropical land snails and southeastern freshwater snails.
- Developed online photographic resource for the identification of coral reef invertebrates.
- Created a checklist of land and freshwater snails of Mexico and Central America.

Invertebrate Paleontology

- Researched new species of frog crabs in the Pliocene Seroe Domi Formation, Curacao.
- Collected and studied 10 new species of recently discovered Florida Eocene crabs.
- Received major donation of Antarctica fossils from the University of Illinois.
- Developed new online database.
- Participated in National Science Foundation-sponsored collaborative project with the University of South Florida to provide undergraduate research experiences.
- Researched sclerochronology of coquina clams.

MUSEUM STUDIES

- Worked on major monograph on William Bartram.
- Researched 18th-century deerskin trade with Creek peoples in east Florida.
- Performed reanalysis of Scientific Revolution as influenced by European Neotropical exploration.
- Presented a lecture prior to a performance of *The Monkey Trial* for UF Performing Arts.
- Charlotte Porter, as Florida Director of the Bartram Trail Conference, spearheaded the *Evinston to Cross Creek Paint Out: Florida's Eden*.

VERTEBRATES

Herpetology

- Conducted herpetological species surveys throughout Parque Nacional, Honduras.
- Continued research on introduced exotic herps.
- Studied molecular genetics of king snakes throughout North America.
- Researched turtle populations and water quality in Missouri.
- Studied the ecology of cottonmouths at their northern limit.
- Acquired wet collections from the U.S. National Park Service South Florida Collection Management Center.
- Hosted the 29th Annual Herpetology Conference.
- Co-chaired symposium Conservations about Invasive Herp Species: Can a Pan-herpetological Approach Help Find Solutions to Some Problems?



- Wayne King appointed Florida Museum representative to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council by Gov. Jeb Bush.
- King served as consultant for BBC Natural History Unit film on crocodiles for David Attenborough's *Life in Cold Blood* TV series.
- King and Kenneth Krysko served as consultants and oncamera experts for National Geographic Society TV film on alligators and pythons in the Everglades.
- Max Nickerson appointed Conservation Fellow to the Saint Louis Zoo Wildcare Institute.

Vertebrate Paleontology

- Collaborated on Crazy Mountains Basin Project: Composition, Diversity, and Evolution of Paleocene mammalian faunas.
- Continued work on collaborative project to document biotic change in response to rapid, large-scale global warming.
- Investigated origin and early evolution of primates.
- Studied Eocene-Oligocene mammals, paleoecology and geochemistry and fossil mammals from the Neotropics.
- Studied vertebrates and plants from a neotropical rainforest in northern Colombia and Pliocene vertebrates from Florida.
- Investigated macroevolution and diagenesis of giant Cenozoic sharks.
- Continued excavations at the Haile 7G vertebrate site.
- Researched systematics of North American fossil tapirs.
- Studied fossil vertebrates of the Central Florida Phosphate District.
- Continued research on fossil tortoises in Florida, Nebraska and South Carolina.
- Conducted uplift studies of the Andes using stable isotopes.
- Received donation of Dr. Clifford Jeremiah's collection of shark fossils and models, facilitating the development of an upcoming Florida Museum traveling exhibit.
- Received donation of the Hutchens collection of fossils from the Nebraska badlands and from the Florida Neogene (6,000 specimens total), significantly increasing the research potential of the existing northeastern Eocene-Oligocene Badlands and Pliocene Florida.
- Launched online database as part of the international *Paleontology Portal*.

COLLECTIONS & RESEARCH



The Katharine Ordway Chair in Ecosystem Conservation

- Continued research on effects of urbanization on community ecology and population dynamics of birds in Florida.
- Investigated coevolution between cowbirds and their hosts and cowbird parasitism in Florida.
- Studied habitat selection and populations of migratory songbirds in the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- Scott Robinson led UF Alumni field trip to Amazonian Peru.



Ichthyology

- Studied a new darter from the Upper Tennessee River Drainage.
- Collected freshwater fishes from Sumatra in collaboration with Indonesian scientists.
- Continued research project All Catfish Species Inventory.
- Curated Buck Island Reef Monument Bill Smith-Vaniz Cryptic Reef Fish collection.

Florida Program for Shark Research

 Monitored, documented, evaluated and reported on shark attacks and other shark/human interactions on world-wide basis through Florida Museum International Shark Attack File.

- Involved in international conservation of sharks and rays through IUCN Shark Specialist Group and other initiatives, including co-organizing a fishery training workshop for West African biologists in Senegal.
- Helped orchestrate initial efforts at recovery of first federally endangered marine fish, the smalltooth sawfish.
- Developed bilateral Brazil-U.S. shark research initiative.
- Collaborated on federal fishery management plans for U.S. east coast sharks.
- Conducted *Project Shark Awareness* workshops for teachers and science educators throughout Florida, discussing shark biology, fisheries and conservation.

Mammalogy

- Investigated host-specific parasites as markers of host evolutionary history.
- Continued research on co-speciation in primates and lice.
- Continued work on *BioCorder* project, a biodiversity inventory tracking system.
- Continued research on endangered Florida panthers, including the use of stable isotopes and Harris lines to assess their health and diet.
- Linked Florida Museum mammal database to MANIS, an international web portal for mammal collections.

Ornithology

- Investigated avian diversity and habitat relationships in the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- Studied prehistoric diversity of vertebrates on Guam.
- Conducted paleontological and zooarchaeological studies of Neotropical birds ranging from Mexico to Bolivia.
- Continued study of systematics, biogeography and zooarchaeology of birds, with special focus on Trinidad and Tobago, the Turks & Caicos and the Bahamas.
- Collaborated on the Northern Arawak Diaspora Project: Two Millennia of Pre-Columbian Landscape Alteration in Northeastern South America and the Caribbean.
- Undertook Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission-sponsored project to enhance biological knowledge of Florida's birdlife through specimen salvage at wildlife rehabilitation clinics.
- Andrew Kratter served as contributor to the 46th Supplement to the American Ornithologists Union Check-List of North American Birds.
- Jeremy Kirchman, Florida Museum graduate research assistant, received Ph.D. and was appointed Curator of Birds at the New York State Museum.



Teaching:

Courses

ANG 5162 Maya Archaeoastronomy and Ethnoastronomy, 3 credits ANG 6186 Maya Zooarchaeology, 3 credits ANG 6905 Individual Studies in Anthropology, 23 credits ANG 6915 Research Projects in Social, Cultural, and Applied Anthropology, 3 credits ANG 6945 Internship in Anthropology, 6 credits ANG 6971 Research for Master's Thesis, 9 credits ANG 7979 Advanced Research, 14 credits ANG 7980 Research for Doctoral Dissertation, 18 credits ANT 4905 Individual Research in Anthropology, 37 credits ANT 4907 Research Projects in Anthropology, 7 ANT 4125/ANG 5324 Field Methods in Archaeology, 6 credits ANT 4124/ANG 6905 Laboratory Methods, 3 credits ARE 6973 Individual Project in Lieu of Thesis, 6 credits ARH 6941 Supervised Internship, 3 credits ART 6973 Individual Project in Lieu of Thesis, 15 credits BOT 2710 Practical Plant Taxonomy, 3 credits BOT 5115 Paleobotany, 3 credits BOT 6735 Systematics Journal Club, 2 credits BOT 6905 Individual Studies in Botany, 1 credit BOT 6927 Advances in Botany, 3 credits BOT 6971 Research for Master's Thesis, 7 credits BOT 7979 Advanced Research, 17 credits BOT 7980 Research for Doctoral Dissertation, 16 credits EES 6405 Environmental Toxicology 3 credits ENY 4905 Problems in Entomology, 1 credit ENY 4905/6934 Biology of the Lepidoptera, 3 credits GLY 6971 Research for Master's Thesis, 2 credits PCB 6409 Seminar in Ecology, 1 credit PCB 6605 Principles of Systematic Biology, 4 PCB 7979 Advanced Research, 1 credit WIS 6971 Research for Master's Thesis, 5 credits ZOO 2203C Invertebrate Zoology, 4 credits ZOO 4472C Avian Biology, 4 credits ZOO 4905 Individual Studies in Zoology, 4 credit ZOO 6927/GLY 6932 Broader Impacts of Natural Science on Society, 2 credits ZOO 5115C/GLY 6932 Vertebrate Paleontology, 3 credits ZOO 5115C/GLY 6932 Vertebrate Paleontology: Fossil Record and the Evolution of Mammals, 3 credits ZOO 6905 Individual Studies in Zoology, 11 credits ZOO 6927 Methods of Phylogenetic Inference, 3 credits ZOO 6971 Research for Master's Thesis, 11 credits ZOO 7979 Advanced Research, 24 credits ZOO 7980 Research for Doctoral Dissertation, 19 credits

Graduate Committees Served: 126

Graduate Committees Chaired: 66

Independent Studies: 86

Grants:

Florida Museum faculty and staff received 28 new grants in 2005-06 totaling \$2.1 million from the following sponsors:

American Museum of Natural History **Evolving Earth Foundation** Florida Administration for Children & Families Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Service Florida Department of State Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Lee County National Science Foundation

Water Management Districts University of Florida Foundation University of Nevada U.S. Department of Agriculture U.S. Department of Commerce U.S. Department of the Interior

Research Locations:

Baker

Clay

Dade

Dixie

Lee

Levy

Polk

Florida Alachua Bradford Brevard Calhoun Charlotte Citrus Collier Columbia De Soto China Gilchrist Hamilton Hardee Ecuador Hillsborough France Germany Manatee Haiti Marion Honduras Monroe Indonesia Okaloosa Italy Pinellas Mexico Putnam St. Johns St. Lucie Peru Santa Rosa Sarasota Trinidad Sumter Suwannee Union Volusia

International Bahamas Bolivia

Antilles

Islands

Dominican Republic Guatemala Line Islands Netherlands Puerto Rico Turks & Caicos United Kingdom US Virgin Islands

Other States

Alabama Arkansas Georgia Hawaii Illinois Iowa Kansas Massachusetts Missouri Montana Nebraska Oregon South Carolina Tennessee Texas Wyoming

Japanese maple • Acer palmatum

McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity

The McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity acquired millions of butterfly and moth specimens last year, increasing the size of the collections housed at the Museum to an estimated eight million. The Museum acquired one of the largest private collections in the world from Germany, which included two million specimens and more than 40,000 Lepidoptera books and journals. McGuire Center faculty and staff spent many weeks packing, shipping and curating these specimens.



Curators, other staff and graduate students also traveled to the western and northeastern U.S., Central and South America, Asia and Europe to collect thousands of new specimens, conduct research and attend scientific meetings and conferences.

The McGuire Center hosted a four-day combined meeting in June of the international Lepidopterists' Society, the Association for Tropical Lepidoptera and the Southern Lepidopterists' Society, which drew more than 300 participants. Curator Jacqueline Miller and other McGuire staff organized presentations, field trips and workshops for the meeting.

In April, assistant curator Keith R. Willmott organized the Andean Butterfly Biodiversity Workshop, which brought nearly 20 of the world's leading neotropical lepidopterists to plan an intensive professional curatorial training program in conjunction with major museums throughout South America.

McGuire staff also helped construct the new Florida Wildflower and Butterfly Garden west of the Museum and re-plant the north slope butterfly gardens between the Florida Museum and the Harn Museum of Art.

Assistant curator Jaret Daniels continued to direct the Miami Blue butterfly captive propagation program and led numerous trips to South Florida to release caterpillars of this endangered species back into the wild.





Exhibits and Public Programs

The Florida Museum's multi-year effort to complete its permanent exhibitions concluded last year, giving rise to a year celebrating accomplishments and hosting and developing temporary and traveling exhibitions. More than 202,000 individuals visited the Florida Museum last year, and its outreach programs touched more than 172,000 people.

Awards

The Southeastern Museums Conference awarded its annual and prestigious peer-juried "Award of Excellence" to the *Butterfly Rainforest* and *Butterfly Gallery* exhibits. Other permanent Florida Museum exhibits to win this award in previous years include *South Florida People and Environments* and *Florida Fossils: Evolution of Life and Land*.



EXHIBITS & PUBLIC PROGRAMS



Temporary Exhibitions

The Museum's 6,000-square-foot changing gallery had an active year of temporary exhibitions.

- *Natural Curiosity: Artists Explore Florida* This Florida Museum of Natural History summer exhibition featured paintings and sculptures from regional artists that highlighted natural Florida environments.
- In the fall, the Museum hosted the Smithsonian traveling exhibition *In Search of Giant Squid*. Just as the show opened, international media announced the first documented discovery of a giant squid in its natural environment, sparking extra interest and attention.
- Also in the fall, the Florida Museum opened another exhibition produced in-house. Journal of Light: A Photographer's Search for the Soul of Florida showcases the stunning natural history photographs of famed Florida photographer John Moran. This exhibition closed in May and began a multi-year tour to other museums.
- Spring ushered in the exhibition *Glow: Living Lights*, which centered on the natural marvel of bioluminescence. This interactive and family-friendly show from ExhibitsQ delighted children and families with the magic of animals that generate their own light.
- As the year closed, the Florida Museum opened its
- third in-house exhibition for 2005-06 – *Quilting Natural Florida*. This juried exhibit showcased more than 70 quilts with Florida natural history themes created by artists from Florida and several other states.



In the Galleria, the Museum hosted a series of smaller temporary exhibitions, all created in-house:

- Staff photographers Jeff Gage and Tammy Johnson captured science in action in *The Katharine Ordway Preserve*, which showed visitors a glimpse of this 9,300-acre natural area used for natural history research and teaching.
- Curator Gustav Paulay's stunning underwater photographs brought invertebrates to life in *Arms*, *Legs*, and *Tentacles: Invertebrate Life on Coral Reefs*.
- *In the Garden* featured lovely watercolors of Florida gardens by local artist Peg Richardson.
- *The Everglades Series* followed, with oil paintings and drawings by well-known artist Jerry Cutler products of his time as Artist in Residence at Everglades National Park.



Other temporary exhibitions included the eighth-annual *Trashformations*, which highlights art made from recycled material by high school and college students. The Children's Natural History Gallery also hosted several exhibitions of Alachua County Schools student artwork related to the themes of the Museum's permanent and traveling exhibits.

Educational Programming

More than 34,000 visitors participated in an array of Florida Museum educational programs during 2005-06. These included curriculum-based tours for students, summer camps, outreach programs to schools and community centers, teacher and other adult workshops, weekday and weekend classes for children, and public events ranging from lectures to the annual Collectors Day.

Museum education programs emphasize natural history topics, are designed around the collection strengths and staff expertise and are developed in response to needs articulated by our various audiences. Underpinning these objectives are the central notions that the Museum's education initiatives should engage diverse audiences and promote understanding of the processes and findings of science, specifically natural history. The Museum's education programs bridge our scientific research, fieldwork and collections and the public's interest and concern for Florida's past and future natural environments and cultural heritage.





Public Programs

Nearly 19,000 adults and children participated in public programming at the Museum.

These activities included summer camps, adult workshops and classes, field trips, lectures, weekend and school holiday classes for kids and a preschool program for tots and parents. Adult classes ranged from Sunday afternoon lectures and one-day programs on *Edible Geography* to two-day workshops on Botanical Illustration. *Museum Nights* expanded to include special themed programming and the addition of *Science Movie Night*. The Museum added a new weekday program for preschoolers and their parents, *Wigglers & Walkers*, and a new weekend offering, *Let's Explore Science Series*.

The Museum's Public Programs also included annual and special events such as *Collectors Day*, *Celestial Celebrations*, *Earth Day* and *Family Days* at each exhibition opening. Attendance ranged from 500 to more than 3,000 visitors per event. During the summer, the Museum hosted a popular *Discovery Room* full of artifacts, materials and activities that encouraged family interaction and fun. The *Discovery Room* allowed Florida Museum Research and Collections staff to showcase some of the Museum's rarely seen specimens and talk with visitors about research and conservation efforts. The education department also received a \$16,000 gift from the Florida Museum Associates to help support the *Discovery Room* and *Discovery Carts*.

EXHIBITS & PUBLIC PROGRAMS



Volunteers

The Museum Volunteer Program also continues to grow, with nearly 300 volunteers contributing 42,400 hours during 2005–06.

Participation in the Junior Volunteer Program for middle- and high-schoolers doubled from 30 to 70 students. These JVs are trained to work as interpreters at the Discovery Room and at Discovery Carts stationed throughout the Museum, as well as classroom assistants during kids classes and summer camps. Volunteers also participate in enrichment programs offered throughout the year, including 31 in 2005-06. 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. Docent Leslie Klein received the 2006 Florida Museum James Pope Cheney Volunteer of the Year Award for her 37 years of hard work and dedication.

School Programs

More than 15,000 pre-K through 12th-grade students participated in education programs at the Museum or through Inquiry Box outreach presentations at their schools.

On-site offerings included docent-led tours of our permanent and temporary exhibition galleries, Home School courses such as Fossils: Clues from the Past and Outdoor Naturalist programs such as Ecosystem Expedition utilizing the Natural Area Teaching Lab south of the Museum. To accommodate the growing number of students attending field trips, the Museum added a Large Group Tour option to its guided programs. The offering was popular among teachers, with more than 3,100 visitors participating in Large Group Tours. This option allowed students to visit several of the permanent exhibits while interacting with docents at discovery stations throughout the Museum. Expansion of the Inquiry Box outreach program included the addition of two topics - Butterflies and Moths and Geology of Florida - as well as a revision of existing materials and activities. As in past years, the Florida Museum and the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art collaborated with Alachua County Schools on the annual Educators Open House, which features the educational resources of the UF Cultural Plaza museums and other community agencies.



Financial Assistance Programs

The Florida Museum strives to make its exhibits and programs accessible to all visitors, regardless of socioeconomic status.

Supported in-part by contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations, the Museum's assistance funds served more than 1,800 individuals. This includes assistance to attend summer camps and classes, and tickets to temporary exhibits and the *Butterfly Rainforest*.

Office of Museum Technology

The Florida Museum web site, which contains more than 20,000 pages, experienced record visitation during 2005-2006 with more than 14 million visits and more than 231,000 collection database queries. Highlights include:

- Creating a database and web-based user interface for specimens received on long-term loan from the National Park Service and making this information compatible with other Florida Museum collections databases.
- Converting the Florida Museum's Invertebrate Paleontology, Vertebrate Paleontology and Mammals collections databases into formats that allow worldwide access.
- Beginning the Lepidoptera collection database project.
- Processing 1,464 help desk requests from Museum employees.

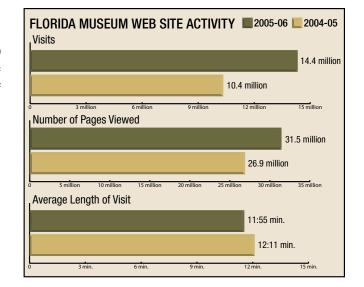


Marketing & Public Relations

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 and other equipment requests in Powell and McGuire Halls, and providing photography and other public relations services throughout the Museum.

Highlights include:

- Fulfilled 877 requests for information from journalists and other internal and external audiences.
- Planned and coordinated 51 media visits.
- Produced 103 press releases and media advisories and 104 advertisements in newspapers, magazines and other publications for various Museum activities.
- Received and tracked more than 175 media hits for the Museum, with a readership of more than 23 million.
- Coordinated and produced the Museum's four pages for 10 issues of *Natural History* magazine.
- Distributed Museum brochures at more than 475 locations on interstates 4, 10, 75 and 275 and U.S. 19 throughout central and north central Florida, and at all Florida Turnpike service plazas and Florida welcome centers.



Financial Info FY 2005-2006 Operations **Total Expenditures:** \$1.7 million \$18.1 million (9.4%)Exhibits & **Public Programs** \$4.8 million (26.5%)**Collections & Research** \$11.6 million (64.1%) Investments \$1.2 million **Total Revenue:** (6.6%)Earned Income \$18.1 million \$1.2 million (6.6%)\$4 million (22.1%)Grants & Contracts \$3.6 million State Allocation/UF (19.9%)\$8.1 million (44.8%)

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Center for Informal Science Education

The Florida Museum's Center for Informal Science Education garnered new funding and awards including:

- A gift from the Thomas H. Maren Foundation to create the *Thomas H. Maren Museum Education Endowment* and support the Center's educational outreach programs.
- More than \$400,000 in grants to expand the Marvelous Explorations through Science and Stories program, including one of eight Administration for Children and Families awards from nearly 700 applicants nationwide. Project partners include Childhood Development Services, Inc. of Marion County, Marion County Public Library System, Silver River Museum and Environmental Education Center and Marion County Public Schools. The Florida Museum Associates and Sonny's of Ocala funded additional books and resources for the MESS units used in Marion County Head Start classrooms. MESS is a multi-faceted program that includes a science-centered curriculum, teacher training and coaching, and family engagement. Using a clinical trials methodology, MESS was implemented in 14 Head Start classrooms in Marion County. The three-year implementation award for Marion County MESS will total more than \$1.1 million.
- Additional funding from the Maren Foundation to provide Head Start Family Science Programs at 18 sites in Alachua and Marion counties. The programs engage families in hands-on activities and provide each with two science books.
- A \$158,560 General Program Support grant from the Florida Department of State to fund exhibit and education initiatives.







The Center also developed and piloted the *Project Butterfly WINGS Project Guide, Leader and Helper Guide* and web site with 4-H youth and leaders in 33 Florida counties. *Project Butterfly WINGS: Winning Investigative Network for Great Science* is a field- and web-based citizen project that engages 4-H youth in grades 4-8 in the study of butterflies. *WINGS* is a collaborative project with UF's Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation and 4-H, Florida Cooperative Extension Service funded by a three-year National Science Foundation grant.

The Center, in collaboration with the McGuire Center and IFAS Extension, completed initial work on the *Florida Wildflowers and Butterflies* brochure, web site, exhibit and demonstration garden. This project is funded by the State of Florida, Florida Wildflower Advisory Council and Florida Wildflower Foundation, Inc.

Development

The Florida Museum of Natural History is fortunate to have a remarkable and engaged family of donors and friends who recognize the importance of private giving to the Museum's success. Donations account for nearly one quarter of the Museum's annual budget and are a key factor in the Museum's ability to fulfill its mission. Most importantly, private gifts will continue to provide the margin needed to create new programs or expand existing ones to meet current needs.

Endowments are critical for providing a reliable and permanent income stream to support the Museum's activities and are eligible for state matching. Several significant gifts were received, including a donation of \$500,000 to support shark research, which is important due to the rapid demise of worldwide shark populations. A \$400,000 gift from the Thomas H. Maren Foundation is designated for the Center for Informal Science Education's *Marvelous Explorations through Science and Stories* program, which encourages reading and science skills in young children enrolled in Head Start.

The Florida Museum continued its partnership with the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art and the Curtis M. Phillips Center for Performing Arts in presenting the third joint fundraiser, *Motown at the Cultural Plaza*, on January 21, 2006. Featuring the Funk Brothers, the studio musicians who worked with most Motown artists and created more No. 1 hits than the Beatles, Beach Boys, Elvis and Rolling Stones combined, the evening was a tremendous success and raised nearly \$100,000. The Florida Museum looks forward to future collaborations with our sister institutions and also to the return of our own Passport gala in 2007!

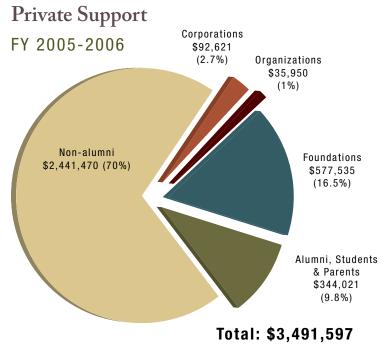
The Museum's Membership Program is thriving under the guidance of Leslie Campbell. With nearly 830 members, this group supports both research and public programs. Member previews for *In Search of Giant Squid*, *Glow: Living Lights* and *Quilting Natural Florida* were all well-attended. The Museum is seeking ways to make membership even more rewarding and plans to offer additional member benefits in the coming year.



As we look to the future, several priorities will guide the Museum. The basis for all of our activities lies in the collections, which are an international treasure. To ensure adequate funding for maintenance, curatorial activities and data base growth, the Museum is seeking collections endowments for each department. In addition, training students is one of the Museum's highest priorities. Funding to support their laboratory research and travel is sorely needed, as are funds to support international students.

The Museum also hopes to build an auditorium and education wing at Powell Hall. With all classes at maximum enrollment and our public lectures over capacity, the time is right to expand the facility and meet the community need for science and education programming.

The Florida Museum is excited by its progress and vision for future growth and expansion. By building upon the solid base already created by friends and donors, the Museum hopes to continue that support and reach others who care about the environment and diversity of life on earth, and who want to join us as we strive to understand and protect both.



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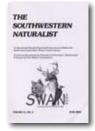
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