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*metamorphosis*

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Annual Report  
July 2004 - June 2005

*the* S A M N O B L E  
O K L A H O M A M U S E U M  
*of* N A T U R A L H I S T O R Y  
THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

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## MISSION STATEMENT

The Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History at the University of Oklahoma inspires minds to understand the natural and cultural world through collection-based discovery, interpretation and education.

We do this by:

Collecting and maintaining specimens, cultural objects and associated data, including linguistic and ethnographic, for current and future research and exhibits

Conducting and disseminating research to increase knowledge

Teaching university students to develop critical thinking skills

Educating the public through programs and exhibitions to increase scientific literacy

Conducting K-12 school programs to enrich classroom experiences

Adopted: December 2003

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## Letter from the Director

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Ellen Censky, Museum Director

Noted philanthropist John W. Gardner once stated that “like people and plants, organizations have a life cycle. They have a green and supple youth, a time of flourishing and strengths, and a gnarled old age.” Like many organizations, the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History survived its youth, endured growing pains and now has come into its own as a flourishing organization, building on its strengths. To ensure that we continue to flourish and to direct our growth, the staff went through a process of strategic planning and produced an eight-year plan to move us forward.

The plan outlines five areas (Public Programs, Research and Collections, Visitor/Community Focus, Institutional Capacity and Financial Stability) with 17 objectives ranging from creating exhibits and programming that provide an engaging experience for visitors,

to ensuring the integrity of the collections and strengthening the research culture of the museum, to building upon our positive and productive relationship with the community, to providing an atmosphere of respect and collaboration among staff, to ensuring that we are able to withstand any financial perturbations that come down the road.

During the past year we have accomplished several of our objectives. Those include but are not limited to the following initiatives. We committed to bringing large-scale traveling exhibits on natural and cultural topics to the museum to attract a wide audience. The first of these was **Hunters of the Sky**, a fascinating exhibit on birds of prey that proved to be popular among young and old. Our education department was busy providing teachers with hands-on science training and tools to develop curriculum for their classrooms. They also have been assessing current programs and developing new programs. We introduced several new events for members and visitors, including *Meet Me at the Mammoth*, *What on Earth! Object ID Day*, and *Member's Night: Behind the Scenes*. Our collections continue to grow through donations from individuals and as a result of field work and research conducted by our scientists. They have been active in many parts of the United States and abroad. Their discoveries are too numerous to discuss here, but you can read about some in the pages that follow.

As you read through this annual report, I hope that you will be favorably impressed with all that we have accomplished and the changes that are taking place. John Muir stated, “as soon as you start to change one part of nature, you realize it’s connected to everything else.” As we change, so do you and vice versa. Your involvement in the museum helps to provide direction to our change and new visions for our future.

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## exhibits

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A good beginning makes a good ending.  
—English Proverb

The museum's exhibits are the public face of the museum and are central to the museum's core mission of interpretation of the natural world and education of the public regarding natural history. The exhibits team carries out their vital part of this mission through maintenance of existing permanent galleries, expert installation of special exhibitions, and development and creation of both temporary and permanent exhibits from museum collections.

FY 2005  
SPECIAL EXHIBITS:

**Structures of Nature: Photographs  
by Andreas Feininger**  
(July 31, 2004 – Jan. 17, 2005)

**Cheyenne Visions**  
(Aug. 28 – Nov. 28, 2004)

**With Patience and Goodwill:  
The Art of the Arapaho**  
(Aug. 28 – Nov. 28, 2004)

**No Ordinary Land: Encounters in a  
Changing Environment**  
(Dec. 9, 2004 – April 3, 2005)

**Eye of the Artist: A Selection of  
Paintings by George M. Sutton**  
(Dec. 9, 2004 – Jan. 30, 2005)

**Hunters of the Sky**  
(Feb. 19 – May 30, 2005)

**Wine, Water and Olive Oil:  
Vessels from the  
Mark Allen Everett Collection**  
(opened April 19, 2005)

**Art and the Animal**  
(opened June 21, 2005)



The special exhibition **Hunters of the Sky** featured dozens of birds of prey, including a display focusing on peregrine falcons in modern cities.

Native American relationship to eagles and other raptors. At 6,000 square feet, this was the largest special exhibition the museum ever has mounted, filling two temporary exhibits galleries.

**Hunters of the Sky** was a big success, increasing museum attendance by 16 percent during the same period the previous year.

Three special exhibits that had opened in the previous year closed and were disassembled by exhibit staff. Those included **New Territory: Women Behind the Camera in Oklahoma Before 1907** (closed Aug. 19, 2004); **Visions for the Next Millennium: Photographs by Clyde Butcher** (closed Aug. 16, 2004); and **Amazonian Diversity: Through the Eyes of Reptiles and Amphibians** (closed Dec. 1, 2004).

## SPECIAL EXHIBITS

In addition to maintaining the museum's four permanent exhibit galleries in good working order, the exhibits team mounted eight special exhibits. The largest of these, **Hunters of the Sky**, was the museum's first venture into bringing large-scale traveling exhibits to the museum's audience. **Hunters of the Sky** (Feb. 19 through May 30, 2005) was an interactive exhibit that gave visitors insight into the lives of all kinds of birds of prey. The exhibit also looked at the role birds of prey have played in human culture through a sampling of their use as symbols in art, literature and religions from around the world, with particular emphasis on the

**Hunters of the Sky** would not have been possible without the support of The Noble Corp., The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Noble Energy, Inc., and BancFirst. We also were fortunate to have Lamar Outdoor Advertising, KWTB Channel 9 and *The Oklahoman* as media sponsors.

## TRAVELING EXHIBITS

Exhibit staff disassembled the *Allosaurus* skeleton at the entrance to the Ancient Life Gallery to clear the temporary exhibits area for **Hunters of the Sky**. The skeleton was transported to the Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library in Oklahoma City and reassembled in the new library's beautiful atrium. The complete cast remained on display at the library from December through May, serving as a popular ambassador for the museum to the thousands of library visitors.



Young Grayson Coldwell gets an up-close look at the museum's *Allosaurus* skeleton as it is being assembled in the atrium of the Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library in Oklahoma City.

The traveling exhibit program, featuring portable exhibits that are available for rental, continues to be active. In the 2005 fiscal year, four exhibits: **Puzzles, Paleontologists, and Prehistoric**



**Native American Games** is one of the museum's popular traveling exhibitions available to schools, libraries and other venues around the state.

**Life; Native American Games; The World of the Red-tail Hawk; and Earth's Living Wealth**, were provided to 10 venues across the state, including schools and other museums.

## PERMANENT EXHIBITS

Big things are in the works for the future of the museum's permanent exhibits. This year, exhibit staff and members of other museum departments worked with Chase Studio, Inc. to develop concept drawings and floor plans for two new permanent galleries, the introductory gallery and an introduction to the Ancient Life Gallery. These exhibits will go into construction as funds become available.



Chase Studio, Inc.'s rendering of a new introductory gallery, which is in final planning stages for the museum's first floor.

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## education

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The displacement of a little sand can change occasionally  
the course of a deep river.

—M. Gonzalez Prada

The museum's education department is engaged in designing and executing programs for a range of audiences to increase overall scientific literacy in the state and to encourage appreciation and discovery of the natural world. The bulk of these programs are for school groups, with more than 23,000 children visiting the museum as part of their school field trip program.

During the 2004-2005 school year, the education department conducted 367 educational programs for 8,495 elementary through high school students in the museum. Programming also was provided for more than 120 elementary and middle-school teachers.



## KIDS' PROGRAMS

The museum's summer programs for children continue to be popular, expanding in FY 2005 to 17 classes for children ages 5 through 14 during a nine-week span in June, July and August. Some popular favorites such as *Wild About Water* and *Jurassic Explorer* returned, and new classes were added, including *Native American Games* and *Survival Arts* for ages 9 to 11 and a herpetology class for older children.



Students in the summer *Wild about Water* class waded into a pond in search of fish, crawdads and other specimens.

Each year, Girl Scout badge programs are offered by the museum through the Sooner Girl Scout Council. These half-day programs allow each Scout to complete all the requirements necessary to receive a badge in the topic at hand. In FY 2005, 159 Scouts participated in these programs, which included the *Yarn and Fabric*, *Rocks Rock*, *Your Outdoor Surroundings*, and *Science Discovery* badges as well as a *Plant Life* interest project program.

## ADULT AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

Adult programming in FY 2005 was offered through a film series, field

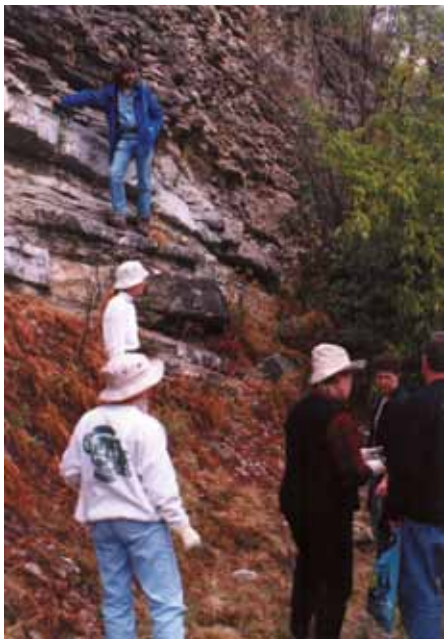


Cadette Girl Scouts built their own mini-museum dioramas as a part of the *Museum Discovery* badge workshop offered by the education department.

trips and hands-on workshops. This programming included the return of *American Museum of Natural History's Margaret Mead Traveling Film and Video Festival*, made possible in part by a Norman Arts Council grant, funded by the Norman Hotel/Motel Tax.

Adult workshops in FY 2005 included two fall sessions of the popular *Preserving Your Family Treasures* class led by the museum's new conservator, Victoria Book; *Invertebrate Fossil Field Trip*, led by Invertebrate Paleontology Curator Steve Westrop; and a class in *Dutch Oven Cooking* taught on the museum grounds. Landscape designer Steve Hill conducted a workshop in creating a wildlife habitat; artist Debby Kaspari conducted a workshop in field sketching, complete with a field trip to a restricted area inside the Wichita Wildlife Refuge; and botanist Wayne Elisens conducted a wildflower biology workshop.

Family programs, for adults and children ages 8 and up, included an eagle-watching field trip to Lake Eufaula State Park and a *Family Fossil Dig* field trip conducted by Steve Westrop.



Curator of Invertebrate Paleontology  
Steve Westrop guides participants in their search  
for invertebrate fossils.

## TEACHER WORKSHOPS

### Science Institutes

In June 2005, the education department partnered with the Norman Public Schools to provide an intensive two-week professional development program for 36 elementary school teachers. The program was made possible by a \$200,000 grant provided through the Oklahoma State Board of Education to promote mathematics and science partnerships across the state. The museum served as the hub of the program, pairing teachers with museum curators and other scientists at the University of Oklahoma to experience hands-on work in ongoing research projects. Teachers then came together in museum classrooms for science pedagogy classes conducted by the OU Science Education Center to assist them in developing inquiry-based science curricula for their

classrooms. The program was based on a model developed by the museum for a 2004 Institute for Museum and Library Services grant to provide similar programs for Oklahoma middle school teachers. In both programs, the teachers who participated in the summer will return several months later to take part in a follow-up workshop.

### H.E.L.P. Workshops

The museum continues to offer life-sciences continuing education workshops for teachers as an outgrowth of workshops members of the department attended at the Bronx Zoo in 2004. The workshops, called "Using H.E.L.P. To Teach Science in the Classrooms," are based on the Habitat Ecology Learning Program developed by the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Bronx Zoo, which integrates science and ecology with math, reading and social studies. Forty fourth- through sixth-grade teachers participated in the program in fall 2004.



Teachers participating in a H.E.L.P. workshop  
on grasslands conduct a field survey of grass species  
on the museum's south grounds.

## ONGOING AND INFORMAL PROGRAMS

*Discovery Sundays*, the education department's drop-in program for children, has been extremely successful,

expanding to include a Saturday program in the summer of 2005. Each Saturday and Sunday at 3 p.m., an informal presentation is offered by museum staff in the Discovery Room. Programs deal with natural history themes and range from live animal presentations of insects or reptiles to fossil discovery, Native American history or examination of specimens from museum collections. Audiences range from ages 3 to adults, and the programs always are well received and well attended.



Student Education assistant Jennifer Kirkpatrick helps a young Discovery Room visitor with a craft project as part of the museum's *Discovery Sunday* series.



Peter Tirrell, the associate director, demonstrates modern falconry techniques with his red-tailed hawk.

*Museum Family Days* are a very popular way of providing informal education opportunities to the visiting public, and this year's big exhibit, **Hunters of the Sky**, provided ample opportunities. Two *Family Days* held in February and March in conjunction with the exhibit were attended by more than 1,500 people. These included presentations of live hawks by Associate Director Peter Tirrell, a live American bald eagle presentation by the Sutton Avian Research Center, presentations by Native American storytellers and dancers and craft activities for children.

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## visitor services

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Nothing is permanent but change.

—Heraclitus

One major tenet of the SNOMNH's mission is to offer a wide array of activities, events and programs for the public designed to inspire minds to understand the natural and cultural world. FY 2005 strengthened the museum's interaction with the community through the continuation of many popular museum events and the introduction of a new favorite.

## MEET ME AT THE MAMMOTH

"Jurassic Jazz" was the theme of the evening at the museum's *Meet Me at the Mammoth* series. Held on the third Thursday of each month, *Meet Me at the Mammoth* made the museum's galleries available during special evening hours, featured gourmet coffees and desserts and allowed natural history hipsters to enjoy live jazz and dancing in the museum's 5,000-square-foot Great Hall. The series ran from July through Oct. 2005.



Jeanne and Gary Tesch of Norman cut a rug at *Meet Me at the Mammoth*.

## HOLIDAY HAPPENING

On Dec. 8, 2004, the museum offered its fifth annual *Holiday Happening*, a festive evening of holiday music and activities. This annual event has become a community tradition and is among the most well-attended events that the SNOMNH offers each year. In addition to holiday-themed activities, *Holiday Happening* provides free museum access to a wide and diverse audience and helps to attract new and



Even the bronze mammoth in the museum Pleistocene Plaza gets into the holiday spirit for the annual *Holiday Happening* event.

non-traditional museum visitors. At this event, Oklahomans of all ages explore the museum's exhibits and galleries without regular admission fees, enjoy live musical acts, have photos taken with Santa, enter to win a variety of door prizes, and enjoy special "one-night-only" discounts in Excavations, the museum store. Children and young adults also can participate in holiday- and science-themed activities that allow them to explore natural history in an interactive, fun environment. More than 1,000 individuals attended this celebration for the community in 2004.

## DINO EGG HUNT

A bright spring afternoon and hidden prizes brought more than 975 children and families to the museum for the 2005 *Dino Egg Hunt*. Held on March 23, 2005, this interactive event transformed the front lawn of the museum into a special place for children to hunt for prize-filled eggs, take part in activities and meet the Easter Bunny and SNOMNH's own



“Slash” the Dinosaur. Co-sponsored by the JC Penney Leadership Program in the Price College of Business, this year marked the third successful year of egg-hunting fun.

## OKLAHOMA NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH LANGUAGE FAIR

As one of the most important programs of the museum’s department of Native American Languages, the *Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair* helps to keep native languages alive by motivating students to speak, write and take pride in many of Oklahoma’s

highly endangered languages. By encouraging students to participate in public speaking, writing and art, the fair provides a culturally appropriate way to exhibit language learning and receive supportive feedback from tribal elders. Held on April 4, 2005, the third annual fair was the most successful to date, with 621 attendees ages 3 to 18 representing 24 tribes and speaking 18 native languages. This represents an increase in participation of more than 300 percent since the fair began two years ago.

### 2005 OKLAHOMA NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH LANGUAGE FAIR SPONSORS

#### Fair Directors:

Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Oklahoma

#### Fair Contributors:

Oklahoma State Department  
of Education – Department  
of World Languages

Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma  
University Silkscreen

#### Fair Supporters:

Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma  
Albertson’s

Braum’s Ice Cream and Dairy Stores  
Campus Corner Market

Cherokee Nation Industries  
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes  
of Oklahoma

Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma  
Citizen Potawatomi Nation

Comanche Nation  
Delaware Nation

OU Department of Anthropology  
OU Department of  
Native American Studies  
Wichita and Affiliated Tribes



Participants in the *Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair* compete in the performance category.

## WHAT ON EARTH!

More than 350 people brought objects ranging from bones to bugs to be identified at the museum’s first annual *What On Earth! Object I.D. Day*. This new, free public event offered visitors an opportunity to bring in their natural history objects to be identified by earth, life and social sciences experts from the museum, the Oklahoma Biological Survey, the OU College of Geosciences, the OU Department of Anthropology, the Robert Bebb Herbarium and the

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. More than 100 objects were identified and de-mystified in this fun day of hands-on learning, sponsored by Republic Bank and Trust of Norman. In addition to making identifications, experts helped attendees discover the origin of objects, answered general questions and provided resources for additional information and learning. Visitors also were able to view unique and unusual specimens from the museum's collections. Some of the most notable items brought in to "stump the curators" included a whale vertebra that measured more than 18 inches across, a handful of Greek coins dating back more than 2,000 years and a feathered headdress from southern Mexico or Central America.

### TEEN VOLUNTEERS

In summer 2005, the SNOMNH held the fourth year of its successful Teen Volunteer Training Program. This interactive program allows young adults from around the state to expand their knowledge of Oklahoma's natural history and trains them to effectively share this knowledge with museum visitors. Made possible by the Robert S.

and Eloise C. Bowers Foundation, the 2005 Teen Volunteer Program provided 20 teens with a unique opportunity to spend their summer vacations learning valuable job skills; gaining experience with teaching and public speaking; interacting with scientists and museum professionals; and growing in self-esteem, self-confidence, knowledge and pride. This year's teens came from five different cities and towns in Oklahoma, and were 13 to 15 years of age. The program opened on June 6, 2005 and continued for six weeks of training and instruction, which included 25 hours of direct public interaction in the museum's galleries.



The 2005 Teen Volunteers pose in front of the museum's bison. Teens in the program came from Cheyenne, Lexington, Moore, Norman and Oklahoma City.

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## research and collections

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It is curious to note the old sea-margins of human thought.  
Each subsiding century reveals some new mystery;  
we build where monsters used to hide themselves.

—Longfellow

The museum's research and collections departments are the beating heart of the museum. Driven by 12 curators in 10 collections departments, the museum's research programs make an active and vital contribution to the furthering of scientific inquiry in the life, earth and social sciences at locations around the globe. On the following pages are just a few highlights from the year.



## ARCHAEOLOGY

In summer of 2004, the museum acquired a remarkable archaeological find from eastern Oklahoma: the skull of a young bison, dated at around 5,000 years old, with a stone spear point buried in the bone. The find provides the first conclusive evidence that people of Oklahoma's ancient Calf Creek culture were hunting bison. The skull and point are now on permanent display in the museum's Hall of the People of Oklahoma, and continue to be a source of media attention. In summer 2005, the skull, along with Curator Don Wyckoff, was featured in an episode of the PBS series "History Detectives."



This skull of a young bison features an embedded stone spear point made by the people of the Calf Creek culture who lived in Oklahoma 5,000 years ago.

## ETHNOLOGY

While the nationwide search for a new curator of ethnology is under way, the museum continues to receive regular donations of ethnographic objects, which are being cataloged into the collection by the collection manager. These include three Mayan textiles, a watercolor by George M. Sutton, six Spanish-American Santos carvings from New Mexico, a Native American ceramic piece by Maria Martinez, a Cheyenne eagle-feather headdress and objects from Indonesia. The Native American art collection also received

an important sculpture by Oklahoma-born artist and OU alumnus Robert H. Annesley (Cherokee). The bronze sculpture, titled "Tso-Batso 'To The Rocks,'" depicts a famous attack on a Kiowa village by raiding Osage.



"Tso-Batso 'To The Rocks.'" Bronze sculpture by Robert H. Annesley (Cherokee), 1978.

## NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES

Curator Mary Linn received a three-year, \$300,000 grant from the National Science Foundation's division of Behavioral Sciences to develop a grammar guide and dictionary of Euchee language. The Euchee are a tribe located in eastern Oklahoma. Though they are not a federally recognized tribe, they have managed to preserve their own distinct language, despite the fact that there currently are only a handful of native Euchee speakers remaining. Linn meets weekly with several of the tribe's elders in Sapulpa, where they work together to elicit and document Euchee words on a range of topics.



A flip chart from one of Native American Languages Curator Mary Linn's language sessions with Euchee tribal elders shows the Euchee words at left and their meaning at right.

## HERPETOLOGY

The museum's herpetology curators, Laurie Vitt and Janalee Caldwell, spent the fall of 2004 in Brazil conducting field work. Three weeks were spent in a transitional forest in Cachimbo in the state of Pará, and the remainder of the time was spent in Jalapão in the state of Tocantins. Both of these sites are part of the extensive savanna-like habitat of Brazil's central high plains called the Cerrado, which is rapidly disappearing as habitats are destroyed to produce large farms. The area is considered the world's most biologically rich savanna habitat.



Herpetology Curator Laurie Vitt wades into an Amazonian swamp to view a nest of newborn anacondas.

## ICHTHYOLOGY

Curator Edie Marsh-Matthews is working in conjunction with Oklahoma State University to produce a Digital Atlas of Oklahoma Fishes, scheduled to be available online by summer 2006. The atlas will provide information on distribution of all fish species in Oklahoma, based on specimens housed at the SNOMNH and the OSU Vertebrate Research Collections. The online database will allow users to search by several criteria, including species, location, date of collection and collector. The project is funded by grants from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.



Ichthyology Curator Edie Marsh-Matthews at work in her laboratory near the museum.

## MAMMALOLOGY

Curators Janet Braun and Michael Mares, along with students and staff of the department of mammalogy, continue to examine the systematics and biogeography of Argentine mammals and to discover new genera and species with the support of grants from the National Science Foundation and the University of Oklahoma.

A strong collaborative relationship has developed with Oklahoma State University, which has resulted in training and mentoring of graduate and undergraduate students, and in the completion of five projects using molecular and morphological data from the specimens collected from this research.



A hoary bat, *Lasiurus cinereus*, collected in Catamarca Province, Argentina.

## ORNITHOLOGY

Curator Gary Schnell and his graduate student have been conducting research to answer a broad question about how breeding birds perceive their environment and the importance of scale in determining the abundance of individual species. In effect, they are investigating how big a suitable habitat patch needs to be for a species to become abundant. Using data on flycatchers, buntings and related species from breeding bird surveys in a five-state region, coupled with information on types of land cover along bird survey routes, they have studied how correlations of species abundances with landscape features change with the size of the available area.



Ornithology graduate student Sarah P. Brennan conducting field work in Oklahoma's Black Mesa area.

## INVERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY

Curator Steve Westrop is now two years into a three-year National Science Foundation grant to study mass extinctions of trilobites that occurred 500,000 years ago. With his graduate students, Westrop collected trilobite fossils and associated rock from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Utah and southern Idaho in FY 2005. He studies details of the rock to learn more about the environmental conditions at the time of the extinctions, with a goal of determining whether these conditions were factors in the events.



A scanning electron microscope image of the head of a trilobite named *Irvingella*.

## PALEOBOTANY

Curator Rick Lupia and his graduate student conducted field work in the Bighorn Basin of Wyoming where they collected sediment samples. Lupia will conduct studies on the ancient pollen and spores found in the samples and also will study the paleomagnetism of the samples – the permanent magnetic “signature” in the samples left by the orientation of the earth’s magnetic field at the time they were formed. The team also collected new specimens of leaf compressions from the Late Jurassic and Early Cretaceous periods.



Ginkgo-type plant fossil from a new locality in northern Wyoming. Scale bar is 10 millimeters long.

## VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY

Vertebrate Paleontology Curator Rich Cifelli has been working for many years to try to develop a record of all terrestrial life in North America during the last of the Age of Dinosaurs. Dramatic changes occurred between the Late Jurassic–150 million years

ago— and the Late Cretaceous, which ended with the extinction of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. Cifelli’s field work in 2005 focused on filling in information about a 30-million-year interval within the Early Cretaceous— from about 140 to 110 million years ago— about which very little is known. Cifelli traveled to the Black Hills of South Dakota to investigate rocks in the Lakota Formation, one of only a few rock formations of the right age in North America that have yielded vertebrate fossils. The team collected and identified as many fossils as possible to begin building a complete picture of the fauna of the times. Notable among the discoveries are the first mammals to be known from this time period anywhere in North America, including a presumed relative of the living marsupials and placentals.



Vertebrate Paleontology Curator Rich Cifelli with his team collecting fossils in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

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## Development

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Each new season grows from the leftovers from the past.  
This is the essence of change and change is the basic law.

—Hal Borland

FY 2005 was a productive year for the museum's development office. From introducing new events for museum supporters to creating a new staff position, the museum's development efforts continue to connect individuals, foundations and corporations with the SNOMNH's important educational mission in the state.



## MEMBER'S NIGHT

Held on Oct. 26, 2004, the first annual *Member's Night: Behind the Scenes* allowed museum members to glimpse the inner workings of the museum's laboratories, collection areas and other facilities. The event provided an opportunity for members to meet curators and staff, tour collections areas not normally accessible to the public, view thousands of objects never before displayed and watch demonstrations of museum research techniques. Almost 170 members attended the event, which also included interactive activities for all ages, live music and demonstrations in the museum galleries.



Gray McCutchen, a young museum member from Edmond, gets a close-up look at the fossilized skeleton of *Tenontosaurus* in the vertebrate paleontology lab during *Member's Night: Behind the Scenes* last fall.

## MEMBER OPENINGS

Special exhibit openings in FY 2005 gave museum members the opportunity to gain a special "sneak preview" of exhibitions before they became available to the public. For the museum's first large-scale, traveling "blockbuster" exhibit, **Hunters of the Sky**, more than 500 individuals attended the exclusive exhibit preview on Friday, Feb. 18 and more than

900 individuals visited the museum on the exhibit's official opening on Saturday, Feb. 19. This represents the largest opening at the SNOMNH since the opening of the new facility in 2000. Members also were invited to the opening for a special exhibit titled **Wine, Water and Olive Oil: Vessels from the Mark Allen Everett Collection** on April 18, 2005.

## OU STAFF / FACULTY MEMBERSHIP

In acknowledgement of the special relationship that the museum shares with the University of Oklahoma, the SNOMNH created a new membership category for OU faculty and staff. This new category provides standard membership benefits for university employees at a discounted rate. A membership drive was conducted in fall 2004, resulting in almost 100 new members.

## NEW POSITION

As the museum's exhibits, programs and events continue to grow and expand, so does the need for corporate and foundation support to help underwrite the cost of these activities. To continue to offer the very best educational programming and special exhibitions possible, the museum created a new development position in fall 2004. The museum's new Corporate and Foundations Officer began in December 2004 and was charged with finding, developing and maintaining relationships with corporate and foundation funding sources. In addition, this position will oversee the development of a new Annual Sponsorship program for businesses and corporations.



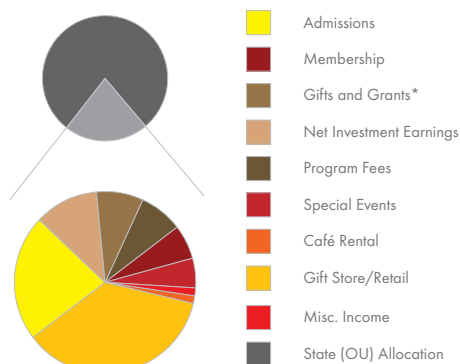
# financial information

## FISCAL YEAR 2005 (JULY 1, 2004 - JUNE 30, 2005) Revenue Support and Expenses for General Operations

### REVENUE

Admissions	\$195,290
Membership	\$66,946
Gifts and Grants *	\$100,674
Net Investment Earnings	\$53,410
Program Fees	\$73,737
Special Events	\$46,285
Café Rental	\$11,000
Gift Store/Retail	\$316,444
Misc. Income	\$13,092
State (OU) Allocation	\$3,485,004
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$4,361,882</b>

\* only grants for general operations, does not include research grants



### EXPENSES

Research/Collections	\$1,326,586
Education	\$231,468
Exhibits	\$412,609
Visitor Services	\$205,228
Facilities	\$774,007
IT/Computing	\$148,980
PR/Marketing	\$171,100
Development	\$107,677
Gift Store/Retail	\$362,718
Administration/Finance	\$497,702
Encumbered - Permanent Exhibits/ Special Projects	\$123,807
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$4,361,882</b>



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## publications and grants received

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### PAPERS PUBLISHED

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