



*A Year Of*  
**ADVENTURE**

*Annual Report*  
*July 2005 – June 2006*

*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

# MISSION Statement

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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.

## *Board of* VISITORS

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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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*Curious? See the inside back cover.*

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

**ad-ven-ture**, *n.* an exciting or extraordinary event or series of events.

When I think of this past year, the word *adventure* springs to mind. The museum has been host to so many exciting events in FY2006, it is hard to know where to begin. But the words “Sue Rocks!” give us a clear picture. These were the remarks written in the comment book by a visitor who came to see the exhibit **A *T. rex* Named Sue**. Those two words do a superb job of describing the impact of the exhibit for the museum. The exhibit, made possible through funding from the Noble Corporation and the Inasmuch Foundation, played a major role in attracting new visitors, drawing almost 97,000 people during its 4-month run. 43% of those visitors indicated that this was their first visit to the museum, and 80% of them stated that they were likely to visit again. Visitors came from 167 communities within Oklahoma, 44 other states and 21 other countries. Memberships doubled during the same period as the year before, and the museum store was hard pressed to keep its shelves stocked. Indeed, Sue rocks!

The museum’s Board of Visitors decided to take advantage of the arrival of this great exhibit by hosting their first fundraising gala to coincide with the opening of Sue. *Paleo-Palooza* attracted 180 people to enjoy an evening of paleontological fun, along with carnivorous and herbivorous treats.

With so much focus on Sue this past year, one might think that the museum did nothing else. That is the farthest thing from the truth. During the past year, the museum opened several other exhibitions, including our own **Explore Evolution** and **OK Rocks!** In addition, museum staff began working with the design firm Chase Studios, Inc. on design documents for an expanded Hall of Ancient Life.

Education staff also expanded their offerings during the past year. Two new family programs were introduced as well as increased summer and *Spike’s Club* programming. In addition, extra programming was offered in the Discovery Room through the summer. Visitor Services staff oversaw some of the old favorites—*Object I.D. Day*, *Dino Egg Hunt*, *Library Day*, *Museum Birthday Party* and *Holiday Happening*, plus they added new programming including *Creature Features*.

The scientific staff continue to grow the collections and expand our knowledge about the natural and cultural world through their field work and research. I hope that you will take the time to read through this report to get a small idea of the big things that are taking place at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History.

It’s your museum and adventure awaits you.





# EXHIBITS

*The past year was a very active year for the exhibits department.*

THE MUSEUM HOSTED SIX SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS, OPENED TWO SEMI-PERMANENT EXHIBITS  
AND WAS DEEPLY IMMERSSED IN DESIGN DEVELOPMENT FOR A PERMANENT GALLERY.

# Special Exhibits

In May, the museum opened the blockbuster exhibit **A *T. rex* Named Sue** and by the end of the fiscal year it had exceeded our expectations with a total attendance of almost 97,000 visitors. The centerpiece of the traveling exhibition was a completely articulated replica of Sue's skeleton—the largest, most complete skeleton of a *T. rex* ever discovered. Additional components of the exhibit included a number of interactive displays that allowed visitors to get a sense of how a *T. rex* moved, fed, scented



*Museum visitors enjoyed viewing the full-scale cast skeleton of **A *T. rex* Named Sue** in the museum's Great Hall.*

prey and used its famously diminutive forelimbs. The exhibit included a full-scale, eye-level replica of Sue's skull, with touchable models of Sue's enormous teeth. Two videos examined how popular culture images of *T. rex* have changed over time and provided insight into how scientists have used CT images of Sue's skull to learn more



*This graceful Greek amphora dating to approximately 350 b.c.e. was one of 40 pieces displayed in the special exhibition **Wine Water and Olive Oil: Vessels from the Mark Allen Everett Collection.***

about what was inside a *T. rex* head. The exhibit was created by The Field Museum, Chicago and made possible through the generosity of McDonald's Corporation. Locally, the exhibit was sponsored by the Noble Corporation and the Inasmuch Foundation.

Other special exhibitions this year included two from the museum's own collections and three rentals. The exhibit **Wine, Water and Olive Oil: Vessels from the Mark Allen Everett Collection** featured the extraordinary collection of 43 Greek and Etruscan pots donated by the late Dr. Everett. **Selections from the Fred and Enid Brown Collection of Native American Art** featured 35 pieces of

artwork donated to the museum by the late Fred and Enid Brown. The other special exhibits included **Art and the Animal**, an exhibition of artwork by animal artists from across the country; **Burgess Shale: Evolution's Big Bang**, an exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution that examined the bizarre prehistoric creatures of the 300 million-year-old Burgess Shale area in Canada; and **Hats and Headdresses: Adornment of the Head from Around the World**, an exhibit featuring 100 hats from 60 countries around the world.

HIV virus) to the largest (the whale). It features the research of seven scientists who are making important discoveries in the field of evolutionary biology. This exhibit was created with funding from the National Science Foundation (awarded to the University of Nebraska) and in partnership with five other museums, including the SNOMNH.

*Total Attendance*  
**164,482**

## *Semi-Permanent* **EXHIBITS**

In FY2006, the museum opened two exhibits that will be on display until the area they occupy is turned into permanent gallery space. **Explore Evolution** opened in September and explores how evolution works from the smallest organism (the

**OK Rocks!** opened in December and features 75 geological specimens from across the state including a phenomenal collection of barite roses or "rose rocks." The exhibition is an entertaining and educational journey into the common and uncommon world of Oklahoma's geology.



*Gypsum crystals and barite roses are two types of Oklahoma crystals displayed in the exhibition **OK Rocks!***

## **PERMANENT** *EXHIBITS*

During the last year, the museum continued to make progress toward completing the first-floor permanent exhibits. A task force has been working closely with Chase Studios, Inc. on design development for an expanded Ancient Life Gallery. The portion of the gallery under development will span the time from the first appearance of life on Earth to the great extinction at the end of the Permian Period, an interval of more than 45 billion years. We hope to open this gallery in the spring of 2008.



# EDUCATION

*The museum's education department provides programming for*  
AUDIENCES RANGING IN AGE FROM 18 MONTHS TO ADULT. THESE PROGRAMS HELP FURTHER  
THE MUSEUM'S MISSION OF INCREASING OVERALL SCIENTIFIC LITERACY IN THE STATE AND  
INSPIRING UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF THE NATURAL WORLD. THE EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT EMPHASIZES FUN, INQUIRY-BASED, HANDS-ON LEARNING FOR ALL AGES AND  
STRIVES TO PROVIDE STIMULATING WORKSHOPS, FIELD TRIPS, AND LECTURE AND FILM  
SERIES FOR ADULTS THAT CANNOT BE EXPERIENCED ANYWHERE ELSE.



# KIDS' *programs*

The summer programs expanded to include 20 classes for children ranging in age from 3 to 14. *Little Explorers*, a new program this year, offered an opportunity for children ages 3 and 4 to experience the hands-on fun of museum classes



*Young participants in one of the museum's popular summer classes seek insects on the museum's back grounds.*

with a parent or other caregiver. A single-evening class called *A Night with Bats* filled so quickly that it was offered twice. This year, a special summer class was offered for students ages 12 to 15 titled *Exploring Evolution in Creatures Small and Large*. The workshop was

developed in conjunction with the exhibition **Explore Evolution** and provided a unique opportunity for students to work with scientists, visit research laboratories on the OU campus and learn about evolutionary biology.

*Spike's Club*, now in its fourth year, was expanded to two age groups: first- through second-graders and third- through fifth-graders. Each group met once a week for five weeks to investigate a variety of natural history topics. In conjunction with this year's themes—*Jaws and Claws* and *Treasure Hunters*—students visited the bug room, explored the vertebrate paleontology collection and made paw print socks, among other projects.

Ongoing programs for children were offered in the Discovery Room on weekends throughout the year. *Discovery Saturdays* and *Discovery Sundays*, now in their third year, are half-hour programs for elementary-age children in the Discovery Room. *Toddler Time*, a program introduced in 2004 as *Twos on Tuesday*, offered special programming for children ages 18 months to 3 years with a caregiver on alternate Saturday mornings and continued to grow in popularity. For the summer of 2006, the education department added a special program called *Discovery Time*, which offered educational programming every weekday. All Discovery Room programs were free with museum admission.

Girl Scout badge programs are offered each year through the Sooner Girl Scout Council. This past year's two- to four-hour programs provided scouts with opportunities to earn badges such as *Dinö*, *Museum Discovery*, *Yarn and Fabric*, *Rocks Rock* and *Plant Life*.

# School PROGRAMMING

School groups remain a primary audience for the museum, and the education department continues to offer a wide range of programs for school children. This year, the Inasmuch Foundation, a sponsor of the exhibition *A T. rex Named Sue*, granted an additional \$10,000 to provide museum admission and transportation for 1,600 4<sup>th</sup>-, 5<sup>th</sup>- and 6<sup>th</sup>- graders from 26 selected Oklahoma City public school sites. These schools, many located in low-income neighborhoods, could not have afforded to bring their students without this grant. In addition, the museum prepared a special half-hour

auditorium program for these students that provided a history of the discovery of the world's largest *T. rex* and facts about life in the late Cretaceous. The museum held special hours on Mondays in order to accommodate all the groups that visited before the end of the school year.

Total Education  
Participation  
99,800

In addition to programs for children, the museum provided professional development workshops on wetlands, grasslands and science inquiry for elementary and middle-school teachers during the 2005-2006 school year.



*A young Spike's Club member makes "slime" during the FY2006 session Slither and Slime.*

# Family PROGRAMS

Two new family programs were introduced in FY2006, both with a broad appeal, educational content and an extended duration. *Spring Break Escape* was a week-long program of drop-in activities, demonstrations and presentations offered free with museum admission March 11 through 19. This program was sponsored by Sonic, America's Drive-In.

*Dino Daze* was held June 10 and 11, during the run of *A T. rex Named Sue*. The event offered a variety of

dinosaur-themed activities, ranging from scavenger hunts to demonstrations of fossil preparation to games of “Jurassic Jeopardy.” There also was a demonstration of the reconstruction of a *T. rex* skull using clay over a miniature cast skull. The museum’s exhibits department created a giant game of “Dinosaur Excavation,” based on the classic “Operation” game, in which visitors attempted to remove dinosaur bones from a simulated “dig” without setting off the electronic buzzers.



*Museum volunteer Bill Dengler demonstrates screenwashing techniques to visitors at Dino Daze.*

Outside, children were invited to try their feet at making dinosaur tracks in a large sand pit, and volunteers from the vertebrate paleontology department demonstrated the preparation of fossils and answered questions. The Norman Post Office offered a special postal cancellation commemorating the Sue exhibit and post office staff members hand-cancelled mail in the museum lobby through the morning of the event.

A regular family favorite is the annual *Family Fossil Field Trip*, for children age 8 or older with an adult. The program—led by Steve Westrop, curator of invertebrate paleontology—offered a day-long field trip to an Oklahoma site rich in marine invertebrate fossils.

## Adult programs

Each year, the museum offers one or more lecture series focused on a specific theme or topic. During the fall of 2005, the theme was evolution, and the series featured some well-respected experts in evolutionary biology. Speakers included Ed Theriot, a specialist on diatoms; Desmond Collins, Burgess Shale expert; and Ola Fincke, OU professor of zoology. The spring lecture series focused on *Tales From the Field*, and featured scientists from the museum and other OU departments speaking about the trials and triumphs of field research.

Two special guest lecturers made appearances at the museum. Eugenia Scott, executive director of the National Center for Science Education, spoke in September on *Evolution vs. Creationism* to an audience of more than 300 visitors. In the spring, the museum partnered with the Sutton Avian Research Center to provide a free public presentation by National Geographic photographer Annie Griffiths Belt, winner of the Center’s annual Sutton Professional Award.



# VISITOR SERVICES

*The visitor services department is committed to providing each*  
VISITOR WITH AN ENLIGHTENING, INFORMATIVE AND FUN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE AT THE  
MUSEUM. THROUGH A RANGE OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES, THE DEPARTMENT ENSURES THAT  
THE MUSEUM'S MISSION HAS A DIRECT, PERSONAL IMPACT ON THE PEOPLE WE SERVE.

# OKLAHOMA Native American YOUTH LANGUAGE FAIR

The 2006 *Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair* was held March 23 and 24. This year represents the fourth consecutive year that the Fair has been held in support of native



*Students compete in the performance division of the museum's 2006 Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair.*

language preservation, and the event continued to experience an increase in participation. A total of 841 students, teachers, tribal elders and parents attended the Fair in 2006—an increase of more than 400% since the Fair began.

Students ages 5 to 17 provided 249 presentations in the Fair's six categories of participation. The poster art competition had the largest number of entries, with 114 students entering

their individual art creations based on this year's theme of "Speak in Beauty." The spoken language categories had the second highest participation, with 93 total entries. The students who participated came from 47 language classes from public schools, home schools, community classes and tribal language programs. The participants at the 2006 Fair spoke 24 distinct languages, including Apache, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Comanche, Kiowa, Pawnee, Zuni and more. In addition to the student participants, the Fair also involved 55 tribal members and elders who served as volunteers, judges, emcees and stagehands.

## *Fair Director*

The AMB Foundation

## *Fair Contributors*

The Boeing Company

Choctaw Nation

Language Department

Dollar General Community  
Grants Program

The Oklahoma Arts Council

## *Fair Supporters*

Cherokee Nation Industries

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes  
of Oklahoma

Chickasaw Nation

Osage Nation Language Program

Wichita and Affiliated Tribes

University of Oklahoma  
Department of Anthropology

University of Oklahoma  
Department of  
Native American Studies

# ONAYLF SPONSORS



## WHAT ON EARTH! OBJECT I.D. DAY

Following the successful debut of the program in 2005, the second annual *What on Earth! Object I.D. Day* was held on April 23, 2006. Similar to the popular television series “Antiques Roadshow” but with a natural history twist, the event invited members of the general public to bring in mystery objects for identification by experts in the earth, life and social sciences. More than 200 people brought in objects of all shapes and sizes to be identified by museum curators, staff from the University of Oklahoma College of Geosciences and Department of Botany, Department of Anthropology, the Robert Bebb Herbarium, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and the local chapter of the National Audubon



Victoria Book (left), museum conservator, discusses conservation of a Persian saddlecloth with its owner at the 2006 Object I.D. Day.

Society. New in 2006 was a special area where interested visitors could talk to the museum conservator and learn to care for their family heirlooms and best preserve their items of interest. *Object I.D. Day* was made possible by the generous support of OU Physicians.

## CREATURE features

*Creature Features: Natural History and the B Film* debuted during FY2006, in collaboration with the OU Independent Film Project. Designed to appeal to young adults and “B-film” aficionados, *Creature Features* screened two of the most entertaining and unusual B films containing natural history themes: “Wasp Woman” and “Curucu: Beast of the Amazon.” Each film was shown in its entirety and was followed by an informational discussion of the science behind the spectacle led by a University of Oklahoma scientist. More than 130 people attended the two screenings, which were offered free of charge to the public.

## Holiday HAPPENING

The mood was festive as almost 650 people came to the museum for the sixth annual *Holiday Happening* on December 8, 2005. *Holiday Happening* provides activities that allow children, families and adults of all ages to explore natural history in a fun holiday environment.

## DINO EGG HUNT

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Easter eggs containing special prizes were scattered across the north lawn of the museum, while anxious children lined up waiting for the starting signal. Within moments, more than 900 children and parents had combed the lawn, eagerly picking up eggs and enjoying the beautiful spring day. Held on April 12, 2006, the *Dino Egg Hunt* gave area families an opportunity to explore museum exhibits, hunt for eggs, take part in activities, meet the Easter Bunny and play with the museum's own "Slash" the dinosaur. Co-sponsored by the JC Penney Leadership Program in the Price College of Business, the *Dino Egg Hunt* continued to draw a large crowd of families and children for the fourth successful year.

## Museum Birthday PARTY

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Each February, the museum honors its founding by offering a day of free admission for the public. The museum's 107th birthday extravaganza was held on February 25, 2006, and more than 1,675 people were on hand for the celebration, which included a 6 foot birthday cake. This special day of free admission was made possible by the generous support of OU Physicians.

## VOLUNTEERS

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The volunteer office and the education department conducted five special training sessions for volunteers

interested in working in the special exhibition, **A *Trex* Named Sue**. Nine new volunteers came on board to help, and many volunteers worked extra shifts in order to serve in both their regular capacity and in the special exhibit. Additional volunteers helped with the assembly and dismantling of Sue, and with preparing items for use in education classes and demonstrations.

For the fifth consecutive year, the museum selected outstanding local teens to spend their summer participating in the *Teen Volunteer Program*. Twenty-one teens were selected to learn more about the work of the museum and expand their knowledge of Oklahoma's history and ecology. In addition, the teens had an opportunity to work with visitors in the special exhibition **A *Trex* Named Sue** that was on display for the duration of the program.

## Hurricane Relief

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The museum strives to be an integral part of the local community and to support the needs of the broader community. In the aftermath of both Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the museum sought to be of aid to the survivors and those uprooted by these terrible events. Museum staff collected food and other non-perishable items to be sent to those in need and provided the American Red Cross with meeting space and free admission tickets for use by those displaced into Oklahoma by the storms. In addition, the museum provided free admission on the weekend of September 24–25 in order to make the museum accessible to any and all people affected by the storms.



# RESEARCH & COLLECTIONS

*A staff of 12 curators—along with their full-time*

COLLECTION MANAGERS AND A HOST OF STUDENTS AND VOLUNTEERS—WORK YEAR ROUND FURTHERING THE MUSEUM'S MISSION OF COLLECTING AND MAINTAINING SPECIMENS AND CONDUCTING RESEARCH IN TEN SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS. LISTED HERE ARE FY2006 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ONGOING SCIENTIFIC WORK BEING PRODUCED BY EACH DEPARTMENT.





*A stone biface found by Dr. J. Willis Stovall in 1949 near El Reno, Okla.*

## ARCHAEOLOGY

Curator Dr. Don Wyckoff has been working closely with Dr. Brian Carter in the department of plant and soil sciences at Oklahoma State University to conduct a thorough study of a site on the Powell Farm in Canadian County, Oklahoma. Dr. J. Willis Stovall, the museum's first director, collected an assortment of ice age fossils from the site in 1949. Mr. Frank Waller, who was a boy at the time of the 1949 dig and spent his days carrying tools and water for the site crew, presented Dr. Wyckoff with a stone spear point that he says Stovall found at the site and gave to him. The ancient pond deposits from the site date at 20,500 years old; if the point Stovall found came from the pond deposits, then it could be evidence of humans in the state during this time—at least 5,000 years earlier than previously believed. If it came from later soil layers, the point still indicates human activity and could lead to further finds. In addition, the Powell Farm site is the eastern-most ice age location discovered in Oklahoma.

A study of the soil layers and geology of the site—as well as a study of any fossils it may yield—will help to provide clues to the climate and landscape of Oklahoma in the last ice age. Wyckoff plans to return to the site in June 2007 to do a thorough excavation of some areas with vertebrate paleontology associate curator Dr. Nick Czaplewski and volunteers from the Oklahoma Anthropological Society.

## NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES

While curator Dr. Mary Linn continued to move forward on the development of the Euchee language dictionary project, she and her staff also were working to produce a public access interface for the Native American Languages collection database. The new interface enables searching and printing of records of all materials in



*Dr. Mary Linn examines a set of recordings recently donated to the museum's Native American languages department.*

the NAL collections while protecting non-public information. The collection contains sound and video recordings and print materials documenting language events in over 60 native North American languages, all of which are available for public review in the museum. The database allows the museum to be a full partner in the Open Language Archive Community, an international partnership of institutions and individuals who are creating a worldwide virtual library of language resources.

## *Herpetology*

During the past year, the museum's herpetology curators, Dr. Laurie J. Vitt and Dr. Janalee P. Caldwell, along with graduate student Don Shepherd and several Brazilian colleagues, spent most of the fall on



*Dr. Laurie Vitt and Dr. Janalee Caldwell, curators of herpetology, conduct field work in the Amazon.*

an extended field expedition in the Amazon and Cerrado of Brazil. The team traveled from the Cantão region in the east to the Amazon forest along the Cristalino River in the west, collecting specimens and conducting research from field camps along the way. The expedition was part of a National Science Foundation-funded research program to document the diversity of reptiles and amphibians in Brazil.

In the spring, Vitt and Caldwell were on sabbatical; during this time, they worked in Florida and Costa Rica. In May, they received the first installment of a \$171,159 grant from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation for a three-year study to survey and inventory amphibians and reptiles in Wildlife Management Areas in Oklahoma. They and their graduate students began this project at Packsaddle Wildlife Management Area in Ellis County, Oklahoma.

## *Ichthyology*

Curator Dr. Edie Marsh-Matthews continued to work on a long-term research project that focuses on matrotrophy in mosquitofishes. Matrotrophy is the nourishment of embryos in live-bearing fish through resources of the mother between fertilization and birth. Recent studies suggest that food resources available to the mother, as well as maternal size may be important in determining amounts of nutrients transferred to developing embryos.

Marsh-Matthews and Dr. Bill Matthews, OU Department of Zoology, began investigating the loss of species



*A pregnant female red shiner, one of the subjects of ongoing research by curator of ichthyology Dr. Edie Marsh-Matthews.*

from creeks that are tributaries to Lake Texoma. Red shiners, once the most common species in these creeks, have declined drastically or disappeared in the reservoir tributaries, but remain the dominant species in creeks that drain directly into the unimpounded Red River and Washita rivers.

Work on the Digital Atlas of Oklahoma Fishes, funded through the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife, also continued and is nearing completion.

## MAMMALOLOGY

Curator Dr. Michael Mares has concluded more than 30 years of field research in Argentina. He and associate curator Dr. Janet Braun have begun work on a manuscript for a book and DVD on the mammals of that country. This comprehensive multi-volume work will include a complete overview of the history of mammalogy in Argentina and evolution of the country's mammal fauna. It will include extensive maps and photographs of

habitats, illustrations, photos and complete profiles for every species as well as a complete listing of all specimens of Argentine mammals in collections around the world. Braun and Mares have conducted literature reviews and traveled to museums and collections in the United States and abroad, examining and photographing all specimens of Argentine mammals.



*The skull of a night monkey (Aotus) is among the thousands of specimens being examined by mammalogy curators for a forthcoming book on Argentine mammals.*

The work will continue through the next year and the manuscript will be submitted to Harvard University Press for publication. When it is published, this work will be the most comprehensive work on mammals available for any country in South America.

## ORNITHOLOGY

The museum's ornithology department took final steps toward becoming one of 35 collections

to provide data for ORNIS, the Ornithological Information System. ORNIS is a nationwide data network funded through the National Science Foundation in 2004. The network provides access to database information on more than 4 million bird specimens in collections as diverse as the American Museum of Natural History in New



*Amanda Person, collection manager for the department of ornithology, works on the museum's ornithology collection database.*

York and the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. The creators of the network have written software that allows for automatic updating of geographical information for every specimen, and programs that will automatically compare information between collections to check for possible errors.

## *Paleobotany*

The paleobotany department received a significant collection of Paleozoic specimens from Emporia State University in Kansas. The collection was assembled by Dr. Gilbert Leisman, who was a professor



*These unassuming coal balls recently acquired by the paleobotany collection may produce many new specimens of ancient pollens and spores.*

at the university from 1955 until 1989. It included some 60 crates of “coal balls”—large lumps of coal mixed with calcium carbonate. Paleobotanists learned that they could peel very thin layers from the surface of these balls to discover fossilized pollen, spores, leaves and seeds of plants that grew in the Paleozoic coal swamps more than 300 million years ago. Now considered one of the fathers of paleobotany, Leisman discovered dozens of new species. His collection includes more than 40 type specimens—the individual specimen from which a new species is described. Margaret Landis, collection manager for the division of paleobotany, will spend the next several months cataloguing and storing the many coal balls, peels and microscope slides associated with this collection.

## *Invertebrate PALEONTOLOGY*

Curator Steve Westrop continued his National Science Foundation-funded research on the mass extinction of North American



trilobites in the Cambrian period. In FY2006, the work took him to sites in Nevada, Texas and Utah to conduct field research. The Invertebrate Paleontology department also completed necessary conversions of the collections database that make it accessible through PaleoPortal, an NSF-funded Web site that provides a searchable database of fossils in collections around the world.



*Dr. Steve Westrop, curator of invertebrate paleontology, displays a trilobite specimen from the museum's collection.*

## *Vertebrate Paleontology*

In the summer of 2005, the vertebrate paleontology team made several trips to Texas to collect parts of the skull, vertebrae, ribs and limb bones of a large pliosaur—a marine reptile from the Cretaceous period. When fully prepared, it will be the most complete pliosaur specimen in the museum's

collection. Field crews also traveled to sites in Montana, Nebraska and Oklahoma to collect microvertebrates, bringing back between 4 and 5 tons of “matrix”—a mixture of rock and tiny fossils the scientists will wash and pick through searching for the tiny teeth of early mammals and reptiles. Associate curator Dr. Nick Czaplewski traveled to Sonora, Mexico to collect Pleistocene vertebrates.

Collections manager Jeff Person has been working with curator Dr. Rich Cifelli to develop a full account of the vertebrate paleontology collection. A great increase in the number of specimens in the collection, coupled with a greater accessibility of the collection has fueled an enormous increase in collection utilization, with many new publications based on museum specimens. As a result, the numbers of type and figured specimens in the collection has approximately tripled since 1994. The new “catalog,” which will be submitted to the Oklahoma Geological Survey as a monograph, will include background on the history of the museum and a historical perspective on the building of the vertebrate paleontology collection.



*The long jawbone of a Cretaceous pliosaur begins to emerge from its rocky matrix in the museum's vertebrate paleontology laboratory.*



# DEVELOPMENT

*The development department works to create and strengthen*

RELATIONSHIPS WITH MUSEUM MEMBERS, DONORS AND BENEFACTORS.

THESE RELATIONSHIPS ARE THE HEART OF THE MUSEUM'S SUPPORT BASE, MAKING  
MANY PROGRAMS, EXHIBITS AND EVENTS POSSIBLE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

# MEMBERS *openings*

The museum held three receptions for special exhibitions during FY2006, as well as two events for our valued membership circles.

On Friday, August 26, 2005, more than 140 museum members came to the museum to “Explore Evolution” when the SNOMNH debuted an exhibit of the same name. On January 20, 2006, 110 museum members enjoyed an exclusive reception for both **Hats & Headdresses: Adornment of the Head from Around the World** and **OK Rocks!** In addition to viewing the two special exhibitions, members were given the opportunity to visit with Dr. David London, Norman R. Gelpman Professor of Geology and Geophysics and Stubbeman-Drace Presidential Professor at the University of Oklahoma, who guest-curated **OK Rocks!** In anticipation of the large grand-opening crowds for **A T. rex Named Sue**, members also were given two opportunities to view the exhibit before and after regular museum hours on the exhibit’s opening day. More than 270 members took advantage of a chance to beat the crowds to see the largest and most complete *Tyrannosaurus rex* ever discovered.

The museum also provided two unique opportunities for higher-level members who belong to either the Curators’ Circle or Director’s Circle. Curators’ Circle members were invited to a reception on September 20, 2005 to meet and mingle with museum curators. Members of the Director’s Circle also were treated to one of four

private dinners at the home of museum director Dr. Ellen J. Censky.

## Members NIGHT 2005

Museum members were given an exclusive sneak peek at the work of museum scientists at the second annual *Members Night: Behind the Scenes*. Held on October 25, 2005, the event gave museum members a chance to tour collections, visit laboratories and explore the working areas of the museum. Members had access to thousands of never-before-displayed objects and viewed demonstrations of how specimens are prepared for scientific study and public exhibition. New to *Members Night* this year was a passport given to children of all ages. As children moved throughout the museum, they gathered stickers in each presentation area to paste into their passport. Those with stickers



*A museum member examines snake specimens in the herpetology collection during Members Night: Behind the Scenes.*

from each area received a special gift from Excavations, the museum store, at the end of the evening. In addition to the behind-the-scenes exploration, members also enjoyed an exclusive preview of **Selections from the Fred and Enid Brown Collection of Native American Art** in the museum's Brown Gallery.

## *Annual Sponsorship* **PROGRAM**

The museum introduced an Annual Sponsorship program in January 2006, offering a new opportunity for corporations and

“

Republic Bank & Trust is proud to be a Charter Sponsor of the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History.

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*Marketing Director,*  
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We appreciate how very fortunate Norman is to have a facility like the SNOMNH—one that brings Oklahoma and world culture to our community in a way that is truly meaningful. Through its programs and exhibits, the SNOMNH continually inspires creative thinking and learning about the state and world that we live in.

”

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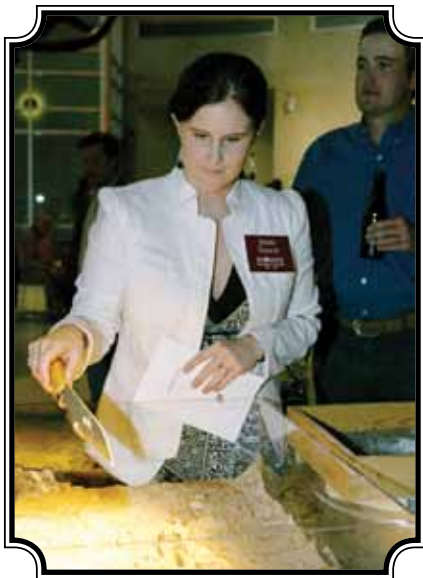
organizations to partner with the museum for a variety of programs and events. Through the generous contributions of annual sponsors, the museum is able to provide unique, educational programs that allow Oklahomans to discover, explore and learn about the world around them.

The museum was pleased to welcome five corporations as Charter Sponsors in 2006. These sponsors helped establish the museum's new program and provided valuable support for many projects. The SNOMNH extends sincere appreciation to each of our charter sponsors for the generous support.

## *Paleo-* **PALOOZA**

Not every fundraising gala can boast a celebrity guest that is 42 feet long and 85 million-years-old. But guests at *Paleo-Palooza* were given an exclusive sneak peek at the breathtaking cast skeleton that was the centerpiece of **A T. rex Named Sue** on Friday, May 5, 2006. Nearly 200 museum supporters





*Board of Visitors member Jessie Nance digs for buried treasure at Paleo-Palooza, the museum's first fundraiser.*

enjoyed an evening of paleontological adventure, exploration and fun at the museum's first annual fundraising event.

The museum's Great Hall was filled with the smooth Jurassic jazz of the Sallee Jazz Quintet while guests enjoyed herbivorous and carnivorous treats courtesy of Legend's Restaurant. A fossil bed turned party goes into field explorers, as they searched for one of six black pearls hidden in the Paleo-Treasure Dig. The event also featured a silent auction, with ten unique auction items. The festivities continued after hours in the Field Camp Cantina, where the museum's Red Bud Café was transformed to resemble a field camp complete with camping supplies courtesy of Backwoods and real paleontological field gear. Proceeds from the event will benefit the ongoing schedule of exhibits, programs and events offered by the museum in the next year.

## Board of VISITORS

Members of the museum's Board of Visitors serve as community ambassadors, assist with raising money, provide assistance as professional consultants and ensure that the museum's programs, exhibits and facilities effectively serve the communities in which they belong. The SNOMNH was pleased to welcome five new members to the Board in April 2006. The new members are Craig Abbott, a physician in Oklahoma City; Teresa Meinders Burkett, an attorney-at-law from Tulsa; Rod Davis, a retired CPA from Norman; Lou C. Kerr, President of the Kerr Foundation in Oklahoma City; and Lucy Smith, Superintendent of McAlester Public Schools in McAlester.

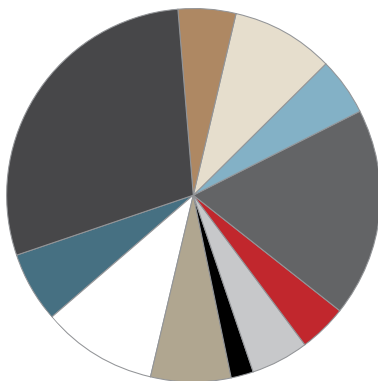
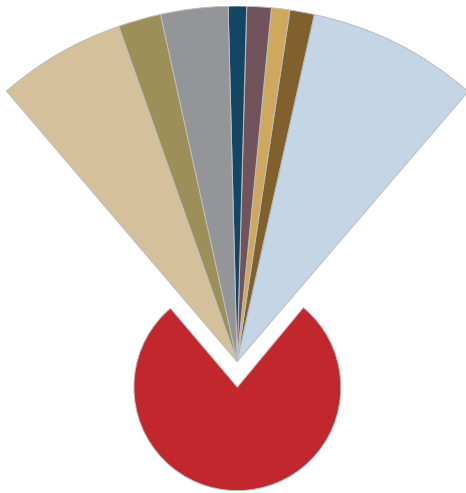













*New members of the museum's Board of Visitors. From left: Lou C. Kerr, Teresa Meinders Burkett, Lucy Smith, Craig Abbott and Rod Davis.*

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## *Fiscal Year 2006 (July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006)* REVENUE AND EXPENSES FOR GENERAL OPERATIONS

SNOMNH finances are not audited separately from the University of Oklahoma



	Research/Collections 29%
	Education 5%
	Exhibits 9%
	Visitor Services 5%
	Facilities 18%
	IT/Computing 4%
	PR/Marketing 5%
	Development 2%
	Gift Store/Retail 7%
	Administration/Finance 10%
	Encumbered for Projects 6%

# Fiscal Year 2006 (July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006) SNOMNH Financial Summary

	OPERATING	RESTRICTED SPECIAL PROJECTS	INCOME DISTRIBUTION (OU FOUNDATION FUNDS)	ENDOWMENT	ALL FUNDS FY 06
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Donations/Individuals	\$22,701	\$275,628		\$178,626	\$476,955
Donations/Corp&Foundation	\$32,346	\$50,000			\$82,346
Memberships	\$78,066		\$146,064		\$78,066
Income Distribution					\$146,064
Admission	\$259,276	\$6,722			\$265,998
Program Fees	\$67,516	\$76,700			\$144,216
Rental Fees (café, BP, facility)	\$73,346	\$ (60,071)			\$13,275
Store Revenue	\$388,107	\$45,598			\$433,705
State (OU) Allocation	\$3,593,347	\$239,000			\$3,832,347
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$4,514,705</b>	<b>\$633,577</b>	<b>\$146,064</b>	<b>\$178,626</b>	<b>\$5,472,972</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Salaries Plus Fringe	\$3,081,083				\$3,081,083
Supplies	\$234,053				\$234,053
Catering	\$12,524				\$12,524
Printing	\$46,037				\$46,037
Equipment	\$17,362				\$17,362
Travel/Conferences	\$40,320				\$40,320
Telecom	\$40,242				\$40,242
Postage	\$14,490				\$14,490
Computing	\$84,684				\$84,684
Facility Maintenance	\$65,040				\$65,040
Contracts	\$334,569				\$334,569
Org Memberships	\$6,296				\$6,296
Promotional expenses	\$147,889				\$147,889
Sales Tax	\$13,294				\$13,294
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,137,883</b>				<b>\$4,137,883</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$376,822</b>	<b>\$633,577</b>	<b>\$146,064</b>	<b>\$178,626</b>	<b>\$1,335,089</b>
<b>Net Assets, beginning of year</b>		<b>\$817,295</b>	<b>\$56,093</b>	<b>\$1,955,071</b>	<b>\$2,828,459</b>
<b>Net Assets, end of year</b>		<b>\$1,450,872</b>	<b>\$202,157</b>	<b>\$2,133,697</b>	<b>\$4,163,548</b>

# PUBLICATIONS & GRANTS RECEIVED

## Papers PUBLISHED

- Adrain, J.M. and **S.R. WESTROP**. 2005. Sunwaptan (Late Cambrian) ptychaspid trilobites from the Notch Peak Formation, western Utah. *Geological Magazine*, 142, 377-398.
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- Burse, C. R., S. R. Goldberg, and **L. J. VITT**. 2006. New species of *Oswaldocruzia* (Nematoda: Molineidae) in *Ameiva festiva* (Squamata: Teiidae) from Nicaragua. *Journal of Parasitology* 92:350-352.
- CALDWELL, J. P.** 2005. A new Amazonian species of Cryptophyllobates (Anura: Dendrobatidae). *Herpetologica* 61 :449-461.
- CALDWELL, J. P.** and M. C. de Araújo. 2005. Amphibian faunas of two eastern Amazonian rainforest sites in Pará, Brazil. Occasional Papers of the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History.
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- Cooper, W. E., Jr., **L. J. VITT, J. P. CALDWELL**, and S. F. Fox. 2005. Relationships among foraging variables, phylogeny, and foraging modes, with new data for nine North American lizard species. *Hepetologica* 61:250-259.
- CZAPLEWSKI, N. J.** 2005. A review of the pre-Pleistocene fossil record of bats (Chiroptera) in South America. II Congreso Latino-Americano de Paleontología de Vertebrados, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brasil, 10-12 August. Eds. A. W. A. Kellner, D. D. R. Henriques, and T. Rodrigues, Museum Nacional, UFRJ. *Boletim de Resumos*: 87-88.
- CZAPLEWSKI, N. J.**, A. Rincón, and G. S. Morgan. 2005. Bat remains (Mammalia: Chiroptera) from Inciarte Tar Pit, Sierra de Perijá. *Caribbean Journal of Science* 41(4):768-781
- Hulbert, R. C., Jr., **N. J. CZAPLEWSKI**, and S. D. Webb. 2005. New records of *Pseudhipparion simpsoni* (Mammalia, Equidae) from the late Hemphillian of Oklahoma and Florida. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* 25(3):737-740.
- MARES, M. A.** 2006. The moral obligations incumbent upon institutions, administrators and directors in maintaining and caring for museum collections. Pp. 79-98. In *Museum Philosophy* (H. H. Genoways, ed.). AltaMira Press.
- Matthews, W. J. and **E. MARSH-MATTHEWS**. 2006. Temporal changes in replicated experimental stream fish assemblages: predictable or not? *Freshwater Biology* doi:10.1111/j.1365-2427.2006.01598.x (Published online).
- Mead, J. I., **N. J. CZAPLEWSKI**, and L. D. Agenbroad. 2005. Rancholabrean (late Pleistocene) mammals and localities of Arizona. Pp. 139-180 in R. D. McCord (ed.) *Vertebrate Paleontology of Arizona*. Mesa Southwest Museum Bulletin no. 11.
- Morgan, G. S. and **N. J. CZAPLEWSKI**. 2005. Neotropical bats from the Oligocene and Miocene of Florida, and the origins of the Latin American chiropteran fauna. II Congreso Latino-Americano de Paleontología de Vertebrados, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brasil, 10-12 August. Eds. A. W. A. Kellner, D. D. R. Henriques, and T. Rodrigues, Museum Nacional, UFRJ. *Boletim de Resumos*: 183-184.
- Nydam, R. L. and **R. L. CIFELLI**. 2005. New data on the dentition of the scincomorph lizard *Polyglyphanodon sternbergi*. *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica* 50: 73-78.
- Page, L. M., H.L. Bart, R. Beaman, L. Bohs, L.T. Deck, V.A. Funk, D. Lipscomb, **M.A. MARES**, L.A. Prather, J. Stevenson, O.D. Wheeler, J.B. Woolley, and D.W. Stevenson. 2005. LINNE: Legacy Infrastructure Network for Natural Environments. Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign, IL
- Roberts, J. P. and **G. D. SCHNELL**. 2006. Comparison of survey methods for wintering grassland birds. *Journal of Field Ornithology* 77:46-60.
- Sánchez-Hernández, C., M. L. Romero-Almaraz, and **G. D. SCHNELL**. New species of *Sturnira* (Chiroptera: Phyllostomidae) from northern South America. *Journal of Mammalogy* 86:866-872.

- Shepard, D. B. and **J. P. CALDWELL**. 2005. From foam to free-living: Ecology of larval *Leptodactylus labyrinthicus*. *Copeia* 2005:803-811.
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- Spiegel, A.N., M. Evans, **W.K. GRAM**, and J. Diamond. 2006. Museum visitors' understanding of evolution. *Museums & Social Issues* 1:69-86.
- Tejedor, M. F., **N. J. CZAPLEWSKI**, F. J. Goin, and E. Aragón. 2005. The oldest record of South American bats. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* 25(4):990-993.
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- VITT, L.J.** and E. R. Pianka. 2006. The scaly ones. *Natural History* July/August: 28-35.
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- WYCKOFF, D. G.** 2005. Review of *Survival by Hunting: Prehistoric Human Predators and Animal Prey* by G.C. Frison. *The Quarterly Review of Biology* 80(4):510-511
- WYCKOFF, D.G.** 2005. Recent Lithic Technological Studies on the Southern Plains and Adjacent Regions, Part I: Identifying and Sourcing Raw Materials. *Lithic Technology* 30(2):89-105.
- WYCKOFF, D.G.** 2005. A Site (34PU101) near Holly Creek: Clues to Early Holocene Occupations in the Ouachita Mountains. *Oklahoma Archeology* 53(4):2940.
- WYCKOFF, D.G.** and W. Ross. 2006. Three Early Holocene Bifaces from the Arkoma Basin. *Oklahoma Archeology, Journal of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society*, 54(2):38-49.

## *New Grants and* **CONTRACT AWARDS**

### **BOOK, V.**

- Federal Save America's Treasures; \$100,000.

### **BRAUN, J. and M. REVELEZ**

- Department of Wildlife Conservation, \$69,198.

### **CALDWELL, J.P.**

- University of Oklahoma Research Council, \$6,000.

### **GRAM, W.**

- Missouri Department of Conservation, \$16,000.

### **LINN, M.**

- National Science Foundation, \$105,792.

### **MARES, M.A. and J.K. BRAUN**

- REU supplement: National Science Foundation, \$6,000.

### **MARSH-MATTHEWS, E.**

- Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, \$10,000.
- Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. \$49,583.



### **SCHNELL, G.D.**

- Blue Canyon Windpower II LLC, Houston, Texas. \$178,157.

### **SCHNELL, G.D. and A.E. HIOTT.**

- URS Corporation, Little Rock, Arkansas. \$22,500.
- Crystal Creek Environmental Solutions, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. \$2,250.
- Weyerhaeuser Corp. \$28,452
- Reagan Smith Energy Solutions, Inc, Oklahoma City. \$3,000.
- Able Consulting, Owasso, Oklahoma. \$7,600.
- FTN Associates, Little Rock, Arkansas. \$34,118.

### **SCHNELL, G.D. and D.A. WIGGINS.**

- Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, \$31,854.

### **VITT, L.J. and J.P. CALDWELL.**

- Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. \$91,114.

### **WESTROP, S. and R. LUPIA.**

- National Science Foundation, \$229,575.

### **WYCKOFF, D.**

- The Dempsey Divide Research Foundation, \$6,359.

(List does not include more than \$1 million in multi-year grants/contracts received in previous years.)

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 Mitzi Aldrich  
 Siarrah Allen  
 Cindy Almon  
 Crystal Archer  
 Michael Armor  
 Joe Baalke  
 Leah Badalich  
 Henry Badra  
 Karen Baessler  
 Charles Baker  
 Paula Baker  
 Aubree Bararo  
 Mervin Barnes  
 Donald Batchelor  
 Thomas Bernstein  
 Charlotte Bert  
 Gail Blissitt  
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 Betty Braun  
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 Anita Marie Brosius  
 Kaysi Brumit  
 Betty Callaghan  
 John Campbell, Sr.  
 Meg Carr  
 June Carter  
 Meghan Cassidy  
 Niki (Nancy) Chapin  
 Rhota Jean Chapman  
 Rachel Chavez  
 Tomas Chavez  
 Cole Cisternino  
 Jamison Clair  
 Liz Clark  
 Jean Cochrane  
 Nancy Coleman  
 Ron Coleman  
 Carl Collier  
 Lenore Collier  
 Tim Colston  
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 Jayne Crumpley

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 Pat Garrison  
 Mike Gentry  
 Ann Geurkink  
 Regis Goad  
 Ksenia Goode  
 Delfar Grant  
 Marjorie Greer  
 Melessa Gregg



*Museum volunteers Ralph Venk (left)  
 and Carl Collier demonstrate to  
 young visitors how fossils are  
 removed from their field jackets.*

Bette English  
 Dennis Erfourth  
 Cathy Fagan  
 Irene Felkner  
 Kelly File  
 Stacy Fitzgerald  
 Betty Flora  
 Carolyn Folmsbee  
 Glenn Folmsbee  
 Rainy Fox-Ford  
 Aimee Franklin  
 Don Frensley

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 Richard Gunn  
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*There is no end to the adventures  
we can have if only we seek  
them with our eyes open.*


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JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

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