

Letter from the Director 2008 was a year of great accomplishments and great changes for the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History. On Aug. 30, director Ellen Censky left Oklahoma for the Milwaukee Public Museum. We miss Ellen and wish her well working in her hometown museum. On Aug. 31, I was named museum director. Some of you will remember that I was director for 20 years, stepping down in 2003 to return to teaching and mammal research. I am honored to be working with our outstanding staff and supporters to continue to move the museum forward.

The collections have grown significantly this year through active collecting by curators and collections staff, as well as through donations. The museum is a leading facility for preservation and study of the millions of objects that belong to all of you.

This year saw several special exhibitions, such as The Science of SuperCroc!
Featuring Nigersaurus and Masterworks of Native American Art: Selections from the Fred and Enid Brown Collection, that were very popular with the public. We were also proud to open one of the finest exhibits anywhere with the new Paleozoic Gallery, a superb introduction to the most ancient life of Oklahoma. Presently we are working to develop a new Orientation Gallery that we hope to open next spring. I feel confident that the new gallery will engender pride in all Oklahomans as they learn about the vast

collections and complex operations of their natural history museum.

I hope you enjoy this year's Annual Report, which is a calendar emphasizing time and change and the daily importance of your museum in our community. By any measure, we have completed a year of significant accomplishments.

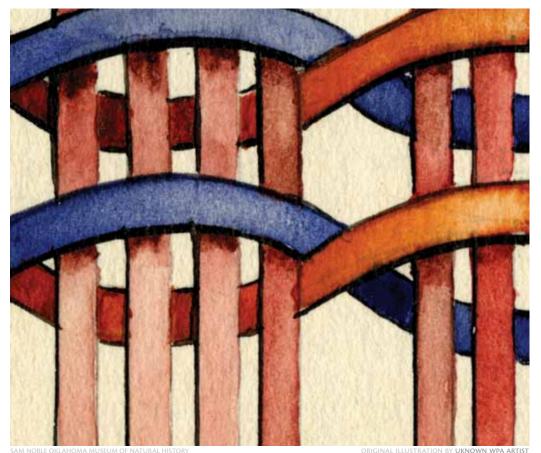
Our curators are publishing cutting-edge research papers and have contributed significantly to the development of outstanding new exhibits. *ExplorOlogy* continues to excite children and teachers across Oklahoma with educational programs.

We have also presented a wide array of exhibits, lectures and other programs that have reached tens of thousands of people of all ages about the fascinating world of natural and cultural history. The Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair has stimulated

Native American children and adults to preserve their languages and gather at the museum to proudly display their cultural history through language.

The position of director remains a challenging one, particularly with the difficult economic situation that we face nationwide. Over its 109 years, the museum has faced enormous challenges, from fire and storm to wars and the Great Depression. I have no doubt we will face many more such dangers on our journey through time, but I am certain that with your support we will remain one of the leading university museums in the world.

Michael A. Mares, Ph.D.



A close-up of a drawing made by a WPA worker of details on a piece of textile recovered from the Spiro Mounds.

January 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Archaeology Collection staff finished cataloging more than 15,000 artifacts collected by Works Progress Administration workers in the 1940s from a Caddoan ceremonial site in McCurtain County. This is part of an ongoing effort to catalog the museum's extensive WPA collections. At least three possibly human-produced flint flakes were recovered from a 20,000-year-old pond deposit in Canadian County excavated in June 2007. A gift from Arnold Coldiron of Cleveland, Ohio, will provide for obtaining radiocarbon dates on the different deposits.



Eastern redbud trees outside the museum create a winter tableau. The redbud is Oklahoma's official state tree, named for its deep red-purple buds and blossoms.



A shallow stream provides an afternoon of excitement for a group of Summer Explorers.

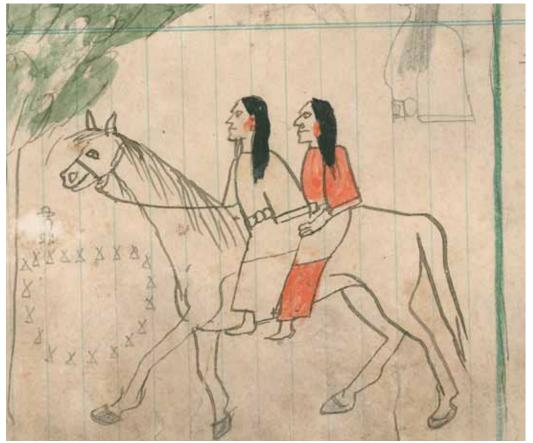
February 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Education The museum launched a new ExplorOlogy program, *Oklahoma Science*Adventure, July 6 through 12. This program, funded by the Whitten-Newman Foundation, provided a week of hands-on scientific field experiences to 12 middle school students selected from more than 130 applicants statewide. Students worked with museum curators in life sciences and paleontology, "doing science" both in the field and laboratory. ExplorOlogy also included the *Summer Explorers* program that featured 27 summer classes for children ages 4 through 14.



Two Summer Explorers do a twilight search for wildlife at a local pond during a Nature at Night workshop.



SAM NOBLE OKLAHOMA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

ORIGINAL DRAWING BY SILVER HORN

March 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

Ethnology Conservation of the Silver Horn Kiowa calendar was completed in preparation for a book about the work by Smithsonian ethnologist Candace Greene. The entire calendar will be on display in a special exhibition scheduled for May 1 through Aug. 23, 2009. Curator Dan Swan continued his research on the expressive culture of the Navajo Peyote Religion with an extended field season in the western district of the Navajo Nation, including acquisition of several objects for the museum's collection.

An illustration from the calendar drawings of Kiowa artist and calendar keeper Silver Horn.



The blue Oklahoma sky framed by the architecture of the museum's front walkway.



The new Paleozoic Gallery features a fleshed-out model of Diasparactus zenos, a 300-million-year-old plant eater.

April 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

Exhibits The museum's Centennial exhibition, **Collecting Oklahoma**, received a 2008 Redbud Award—the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation's highest honor—in the Centennial Projects category. The special exhibitions schedule for FY2008 included **Native American Masterworks: Selections from the Fred and Enid Brown Collection** and **The Science of SuperCroc! Featuring Nigersaurus**. On May 31, the museum also opened the new permanent exhibits in the Paleozoic Gallery, a 3,400-square-foot gallery in the Hall of Ancient Life.



The bronze Columbian mammoth and family of Paleoindians create a scene from prehistoric times in the Pleistocene Plaza.

PHOTO BY CATHRYN ROWE



SAM NOBLE OKLAHOMA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTOR

PHOTO BY CATHRYN ROWE

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May 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
²⁴ ⁄ ₃₁	25	26	27	28	29	30

Genomic Resources The collection, established in 2006, is a repository (archive) of biological tissue samples—a "library" of biodiversity. This rapidly growing collection holds more than 6,000 samples of mammals, amphibians, reptiles and birds for use in current and future research.

Drawers filled with tissue samples frozen at -80°C comprise the genomic resources collection.



The water garden in front of the museum is adorned with a number of native Oklahoma plants, including this water lily.

PHOTO BY CATHRYN ROWE



The Collared Lizard (Crotaphytus collaris), also known as the Mountain Boomer, is Oklahoma's state reptile.

June 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

Herpetology Curators Laurie Vitt and Janalee Caldwell and their graduate students have been involved in surveys of amphibians and reptiles in the Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) of Oklahoma during the past three years. Their surveys have not only determined the composition and relative abundance of all species on the WMAs, but have also discovered many significant range extensions for some species. Vitt and Caldwell also have published a number of articles pursuant to their respective ongoing research into the reptiles and amphibians of central Brazil.



The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (Tyrannus forficatus) is the state bird of Oklahoma. It is the only flycatcher with a forked "scissor" tail.



July 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

Ichthyology Edith Marsh-Matthews, ichthyology curator, has completed a re-survey of darter populations in northeast Oklahoma that were previously surveyed in the 1950s. In her lab at the OU Aquatic Research Facility, she has been conducting experimental investigations of effects of drought on stream fishes, as well as studies of mother-to-embryo transfer of nutrients in mosquitofish.

A specimen tray holds Banded Sculpin (Cottus carolinae) as they are sorted to go into the collection.



The brilliant Indian paintbrush is partially parasitic because its roots invade those of other plants and absorb some of their nutrients.



Fish Springs Range, Utah is one of the field sites where curator Steve Westrop collected trilobite fossils this year.

August 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	²⁴ ⁄ ₃₁	25	26	27	28	29

Invertebrate Paleontology Curator

Steve Westrop, with collection manager
Roger Burkhalter and graduate student Lydia
Jorgenson, conducted Natuinak Science
Foundation-funded field research on trilobites
in central Texas, Nevada and Utah, returning
with fossiliferous rocks for further study. The
team also worked on computerization of
the Invertebrate Paleontology collection
records under the auspices of another NSF
grant. Westrop, with Paleobotany curator
Rick Lupia, serves as co-editor of the Journal
of Paleontology, a publication of the



This type of Tibetan ornament was worn by upper-class women. It is made of brass and set with semi-precious stones. Date unknown.



Specimens of Eligmodontia bolsonensis collected in Catamarca Province, Argentina.

September 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

Mammalogy A nearly two-decade-long survey and inventory project of the mammals of Argentina funded by numerous grants from the National Science Foundation and National Geographic Society was completed. Curators Michael A. Mares and Janet Braun are now concentrating on the preparation of a book and CD/DVD that will provide a complete overview of the more than 400 species documented for the country. Two species new to science were described—a small mouse (Eligmodontia bolsonensis) and a tapeworm (Mathevotaenia sanmartini).



Outdoor lighting is kept to a minimum to avoid attracting insects to the museum and to avoid interfering with the natural cycles of wildlife on its grounds.



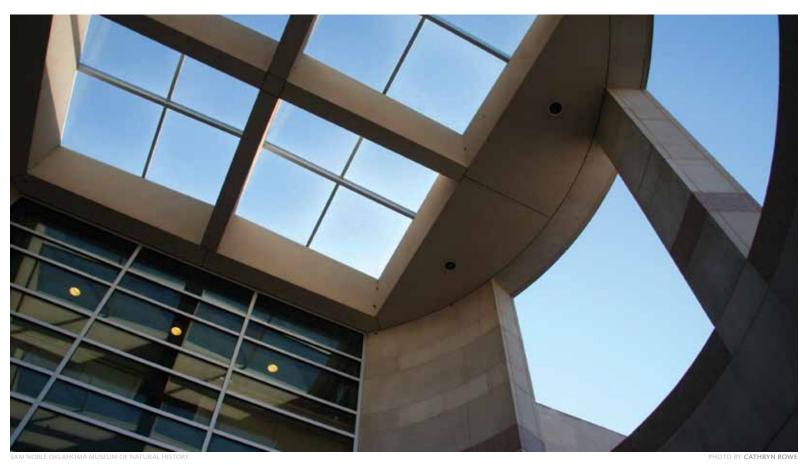
October 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Native American Languages

Curator Mary Linn received a three-year National Science Foundation/National Endowment for the Humanities Documenting Endangered Languages Grant that will fund a computer server for storage of audio and video files. The grant also funds workshops in language documentation, archiving and description for Native communities. Graduate research assistant Olivia Sammons began working with the Sauk Language Department in Stroud, Okla. as part of her research into how new words are created and used in

Oklahoma is home to 43 Native languages and dialects. Of these, 19 have no remaining fluent speakers.



A view through the open roof of the north rotunda. The circular shape of the rotunda is sacred to many Native people, and within it are marked the four cardinal directions.



November 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

Ornithology Graduate students with the department continued an ongoing assessment of bird and bat casualties at a large wind farm in southwestern Oklahoma, as well as an ongoing raptor study in the Oklahoma panhandle. Curator Gary Schnell continued work on the ecology and distributions of Colima, Mexico, mammals, publishing two papers on the subject, as well as a paper on overwintering in the American burying beetle, an endangered species Schnell and his students have been studying for many years.

A drawer full of Painted Buntings (Passerina ciris) from Oklahoma in the museum's ornithology collection.



Steam rises from the museum's cooling towers into the winter air. This unit helps regulate the temperature and humidity in the museum's collections.



SAM NOBLE OKLAHOMA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTOR

PHOTO BY MARGARET LANDIS

December 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

Paleobotany and Micropaleontology

This department spent much of the year involved in preparation for and installation of the exhibits in the new Paleozoic Gallery, which opened in May 2008. Curator Rick Lupia conducted fieldwork in Permian and Cretaceous areas in Oklahoma collecting macrofossils and petrified wood. The museum's Mineral & Rock collection were merged with the Paleobotany department and relocated to its collection area. Computerization of the collection's catalog continues, as provided for in an NSF grant in collaboration with the invertebrate paleontology department.

A fossil imprint of a 275-million-year-old Callipterid leaf from Noble County, Okla.



The Centennial Prairie, to the south of the museum, provides an urban habitat for many species including, bluebirds, and even the occasional coyote.



Geologist Paul Lindberg (left) and preparator Kyle Davies inspect a 2-million-year-old camel trackway in Arizona.

January 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
²⁴ ⁄ ₃₁	25	26	27	28	29	30

Vertebrate Paleontology Curators Richard Cifelli and Nick Czaplewski contributed to exhibits in the new Paleozoic Gallery, and worked with developers on exhibits for the Orientation Gallery, set to open in spring 2009. Both curators were active in teaching the first Oklahoma Science Adventure, a field program for middle school students, funded by the Whitten-Newman Foundation. Cifelli and crews did field work collecting Mesozoic vertebrates in Utah, and Czaplewski and preparator Kyle Davies conducted fieldwork on Pliocene tracks and Pleistocene cave fossils in Arizona.

Programs and Events The museum hosted events throughout the year that allowed members and the general public to take part in museum-related activities, programs and educational gatherings.

Public Programs On Dec. 6, the museum hosted its annual *Holiday Happening*, sponsored by Arvest Bank. Nearly 700 people celebrated the season with jolly performances from the Cimarron Circuit Opera Company and stories from Jah Ruba.

On Feb. 24, 770 inquiring minds attended What on Earth! Science Exploration and Object I.D. Day, sponsored by OU Physicians. Attendees were encouraged to bring their strange and unidentified natural history objects for our curators and collection managers to help identify and inform the proud owners how to care for them.

On the gorgeous afternoon of March 12, nearly 1,450 children, families and onlookers searched for eggs on the museum's north lawn during *Eggstravaganza!* This annual program, in its sixth successful year, was co-sponsored by the JC Penney Leadership Program in the Michael F. Price College of Business.

Local libraries teamed up with the SNOMNH to offer free admission on June 21 for *Library Day*. Over 2,250 guests enjoyed the

museum and many took time to fill out library card applications during the event.

Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair On March 31 and April 1, the museum held the sixth annual Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair. This signature event, held in support of Native language preservation, celebrates different Native cultures and promotes the relevancy of Native languages to today's youth. The 2008 fair welcomed more than 1050 attendees. a 75 percent increase from 2007, including representatives from Nebraska, Arizona, Alabama, Florida and Louisiana, More than 700 students from 71 different schools. community groups and tribal language programs spoke, wrote, presented and performed in 25 Native languages—the largest number of languages in the history of the fair.

The 2008 fair was sponsored generously by the Boeing Company, Chickasaw Nation and the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association,



PHOTO BY KRYSTEN MARSHALI

Members of the Zuni Club from Riverside Indian School compete in the 2008 Language Fair.

and also supported by the Cheyenne Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, the Osage Nation Language Program, the Choctaw Nation and the Oklahoma Bar Association, Indian Law Section.

Members' Events More than 150 museum members and special guests celebrated the opening of the special exhibition, Masterworks of Native American Art: Selections from the Fred and Enid Brown Gallery on Feb. 14. Excitement was apparent for the opening reception of two exhibits, the Paleozoic Gallery and The Science of SuperCroc! Featuring Nigersaurus, on May 30. Nearly 400 guests and members were present to see the first permanent gallery to open at the SNOMNH since 2005, and to be among the first in the world to see Nigersaurus at a public museum space.

The museum also provided two unique opportunities for higher-level members who belonged to either the Curators' Circle or Director's Circle. A reception for the Curators' and Director's Circle members to meet and mingle with museum curators was held on

March 4. Museum director Ellen Censky hosted three dinners for Director's Circle members in her home.

Members Night Members were treated to an exclusive look behind the scenes at Members Night on Oct. 23. This popular evening event hosted nearly 285 guests who explored the museum's collections and laboratories. Museum curators, collection managers, graduate students and other staff were on hand to answer questions and give presentations.

Muse-a-Palooza The SNOMNH hosted its third annual museum fundraising event to rave reviews on April 5. Attendees were treated to a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to view a major museum gallery under construction. Donors were able to "Experience the Change" first-hand and meet with designers from Chase Studios and museum curators and staff. Over 170 guests enjoyed fine food and wine from Legend's Restaurant and danced the evening away to acoustic heartland music from nationally acclaimed

and Oklahoma native band, Horseshoe Road.

The event was generously sponsored by the Bell Law Firm, Arvest Bank, Capital West Securities, Crowe & Dunlevy, First American Bank, Republic Bank & Trust, Vanguard Business Consultations, BancFirst, Oklahoma Natural Gas, Legend's Restaurant, University Printing Services and an anonymous donor.

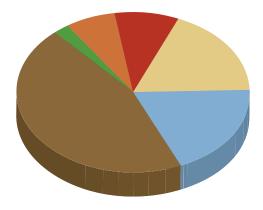


PHOTO BY KRYSTEN MARSHAL

Guests enjoy live music, food, a unique auction and fun at the construction-themed Muse-a-Palooza 2008.

Annual Budget Total revenue and expenses for FY2008 (July 2007–June 2008).







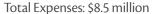
Grants and Contracts \$665,000 = 7%

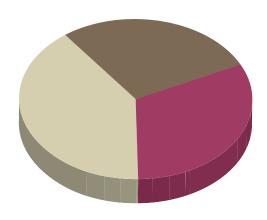
Earned Income \$765,000 = 9%

Special Project Support \$1.5 million = 18%

Gifts \$1.6 million = 19%

State Allocation \$3.8 million = 45%







Exhibits and Public Programs \$2.72 million = 32%

Operations \$3.4 million = 40%

Volunteers **Bob Killins** Nancy Coleman Ann Geurkink Robert Klopfenstein Kathryn Albert Carl Collier Francine Gissv Sherry Gragg Marian Klumpp Mitzi Aldrich Lenore Collier Kevin Anderson Adrienne Cooper Delfar Grant Tearle Kring Michael Armor Helen Copp Marjorie Greer Michael Krzywda Russ Griffeth Ken Kugler Ioe Baalke Allison Cotner Jayne Crumpley **Eileen Grubbs** Andrew Baer Michael Laing Kate Baker **Patty Cummings** Iason Guiddy Iudv Lane Paula Baker Peggy Dailey Tom Gunning Hank Larsen Mervin Barnes Brady Hacker Lawrence Larsen DeAnna Dalke Donald Batchelor Sandra Dalke Mary Hacker Frank Lawrence Kristin Bayans Kevin Daugherty **Emily Hall** Mary LeBlanc Thomas Bernstein Matthew Hall Conner Davev Penny Lee Charlotte Bert Paul Dawson Sarah Hamby Luther Leith Rumela Bose Sandy Dengler Marilyn Hammond Josephine Leslie Ran Li Iane Bowerman Ruth DeSilver Susan Hardin Tim Dowd Sandy Hasty-Pratte Carolyn Lilly **Jerry Brady** Chuck Lilly Betty Braun Mary Lou Drywater Leah Hays Carolyn Breeden Lori Englett Robert Healy Marcus Long Betty Callaghan Lisa Henry Robert Long Bette English Donna Longhorn Michael Callaghan Dennis Erfourth Simon Hertzke Liam Holzer Hilary Lowery Ann Callahan Cathy Fagan Sierra Cameron Connie Falleaf Karen Hooten Tom Lucas Irene Felkner Miranda Hornsby Sue Madison John Campbell, Sr. Meg Carr Chelsi Hudgins Alxander Mann Betty Flora Joel Chadney Carolyn Folmsbee Samuel Martin Brian Husted Jonathan Chang Glenn Folmsbee Carol Iman Bill May Julie May Rhota Jean Chapman John Fryberger Pat Inman Melinda Fuson Johnnye Jenner Carmen Chilson Newell A. McCarty Jacob Johnson Aline McDaniel Sara Chilson Matthew Galloway Cole Cisternino Teresa Galoob leff Johnson Larry McHughes Marie Johnson Carmelita Garrison Marie McWherter **Jamison Clair** Haleigh Cline Ian Meadows Pat Garrison Sally Mae Johnston Mike Gentry Sana Khan Iean Cochrane Marilyn Meier

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