

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

2009 ANNUAL REPORT





Featuring 1,500 specimens, the Spectrum of Life in the Hall of Biodiversity captures the awe-inspiring variety of living things on Earth.

“I was probably about five or six years old the first time I set foot in this museum, and from that day forward, it owned my heart.”

| BENSON Y. OF NEW YORK, NY, ON YELP.COM |





The *Barosaurus* that greets visitors in the Theodore Roosevelt Rotunda is the world's tallest freestanding mount of a dinosaur.



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REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT

The landmark 77th Street façade returned to view after extensive renovation and the addition of the Arthur Ross Plaza.

The fiscal year that ran from July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009, was a uniquely challenging one for New York City, the nation, the world, and, of course, the American Museum of Natural History. It was a period of extreme volatility and contraction in the securities markets, which affected several key sources of operating revenue, including the Museum's endowment, funding from public sources such as the City of New York, and charitable giving. While this was a difficult period for the Museum in financial terms, it was also a year of historic achievements.

Continued institutional progress included important milestones for the new Russell Gilder Graduate School, the pioneering Urban Advantage educational consortia in programmatic advancements, and Museum attendance remains exceptionally high. Perhaps most notably, even in the face of external conditions and the generosity of Museum donors and the leadership of our Board of Trustees, we successfully concluded, one year early, its \$850 million fundraising campaign.

Due to all these factors as well as several early and prudent budget actions taken when the markets began to decline, followed by close subsequent monitoring, the Museum closed the fiscal year with a balanced budget and embarked on the 2010 fiscal year in a stable

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The Museum's major exhibition *Climate Change: The Threat to Life and A New Energy Future* ran from October 18, 2008, through August 16, 2009.

financial position. Indeed, over the summer of 2009, the ratings agencies Standard & Poor's and Moody's affirmed the Museum's already-strong ratings of AA and Aa3, respectively, an important external vote of confidence in the Museum's financial position.

All of this points to an ever stronger platform to extend the Museum's central mission in science, education, and exhibition in the years ahead. We are pleased here to report on the activities of the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2009.

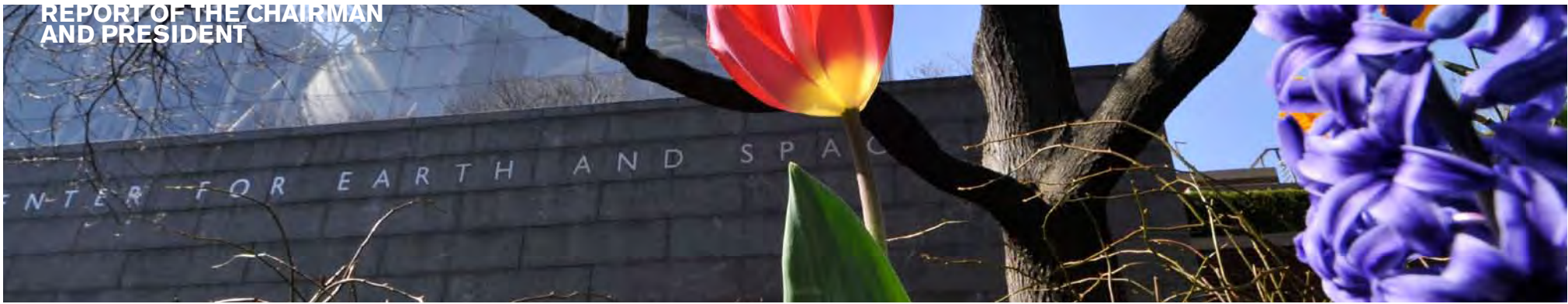
Initiatives like the Gilder Graduate School and Urban Advantage are manifestations of the Museum continuing to pioneer a more central role for museums in the 21st century. This role calls upon us to leverage Museum resources and expertise to meet the needs and demands of society—whether that means pressing the boundaries of scientific research and discovery, addressing the crisis in science education, or serving the general public by demystifying the complex science-based issues of our times.

One growing element of this leadership is collaboration, in spirit and in practice, across all areas of the Museum's work—both internal collaboration and that with external colleagues and institutions. We see this, for example, in large-scale multinational research projects that our scientists are increasingly participating in and often leading. Using technology, they connect with colleagues and institutions across the country and around the world, working together to tackle the big questions and complex challenges in science. We see

collaboration as well in the partnerships that enable the dissemination of our exhibits, Space Shows, and Science Bulletins to audiences around the world. During fiscal year 2009 alone, 23 Museum exhibitions and five Space Shows were presented in 20 countries. We see it in educational partnerships with schools that bring resources and excitement into the classroom. And we see it in the Internet is tearing down barriers, allowing us to at once widen our audience and our relationship with it.

In perhaps the most visible manifestation of the Museum's pioneering 2008, the Richard Gilder Graduate School at the American Museum—the first American museum-based Ph.D.-granting program—welcomed its first class of students, five bright and promising young scientists, into the Museum's established doctoral program in comparative biology. In January, the Gilder Graduate School held its inaugural convocation and bestowed honorary degrees on two extraordinary individuals: Rita Colwell, renowned biologist and former head of the National Science Foundation, received the Doctor of Science degree; and Richard Gilder, Museum Trustee, benefactor, and Gilder Graduate School namesake, received the Doctor of Humane Letters degree. Both were honored with tributes saluting their extraordinary personal and professional achievements, and both spoke movingly about the future of biology, the Museum, and the promise and potential inherent in the graduate school and its students.

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The Museum began the early stages of a multi-year project to upgrade hardware, lighting, and content in the Rose Center for Earth and Space.

Also of note in science, the Ambrose Monell Collection for Molecular and Microbial Research, the frozen tissue collection of the Sackler Institute for Comparative Genomics, entered into a historic agreement with the National Park Service to store the DNA of threatened and endangered U.S. species at the Museum for research purposes and posterity. And this year, the Museum welcomed three superb new curators: Paige West and Alex de Voogt in Anthropology and Estefanía Rodríguez in Invertebrate Zoology.

The Museum also made strides in pioneering K–12 education, most notably through the Urban Advantage collaboration, which this year served more than 24,500 students and 257 teachers in fully one-third of all New York City public schools that have an 8th grade. This model consortium—which includes eight science-based cultural institutions throughout the five boroughs, led by the Museum, together with the New York City Department of Education—integrates the partner institutions’ resources into the schools in a formal, structured way. Plans to scale the program up for national impact were advanced with the Museum hosting representatives from a number of U.S. cities to consult with them about local iterations of Urban Advantage. The expansion of Urban Advantage, both locally and around the country, points to the Museum’s increasing leadership role not only in science education locally in New York City but in catalyzing change on a national scale.

It was a strong year in exhibitions as well, with offerings that were topical, popular, and built upon the Museum’s scientific research. Climate Change: The Threat to Life and A New Energy Future was on view from October 18, 2008, to August 16, 2009, and Extreme Mammals: The Biggest, Smallest, and Most Amazing Mammals of All Time ran from May 23, 2009, to January 3, 2010. During the summer of 2009, the Museum also launched, in partnership with NASA, the spectacular new Hayden Planetarium Space

Show—its fourth since the Rose Center opened in 2000—Journey to the Stars, with Whoopi Goldberg narrating.

Despite the challenging economy, these strong offerings drew crowds to the Museum, most notably international visitors. In 2009, fully 40% of the Museum’s audience comprised visitors from outside the United States, the highest proportion in the Museum’s history.

And perhaps the most visible project of 2009 was the completion of the Science-long historic restoration of the Museum’s iconic 77th Street Romanesque Revival-style façade. Our thanks go to the City of New York for its tremendous support of the restoration of a unique city icon, and to the late Arthur Ross, Museum Trustee, for making the new Arthur Ross Plaza possible.

The 77th Street façade restoration, the Richard Gilder Graduate School, the robust schedule of exhibitions, Space Shows, and public and educational programs, so many other undertakings that flourished this year were key elements of the Museum’s \$850 million campaign, launched in 2000. Central to the campaign’s objective of building the Museum’s endowment to strengthen the Museum’s financial foundation for the future and to fuel its ability to fulfill its mission at the forefront of science and education. Notably, the campaign raised \$245 million for the Museum’s endowment, helping combat the “perfect storm” of economic factors that affected everyone during this period.

The campaign’s success, and the realization of its goals, those reported on in this report as well as those of prior years, would not have been possible without the partnership of many generous and enlightened donors and partners, including Trustees, individuals, foundations, corporations, and government institutions.

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The major exhibition *Extreme Mammals: The Biggest, Smallest, and Most Amazing Mammals of All Time* opened on May 23, 2009.

Our profound thanks go to the Trustees of the Museum, who endorsed the campaign and its strategic goals enthusiastically. The Trustees, as a group, contributed an astonishing one-third of the campaign's total, in addition to inspiring countless others to participate. Many of the major campaign gifts received in earlier years have been reported in prior Annual Reports; we are pleased here to acknowledge major gifts made in fiscal year 2009.

Several leadership gifts from Trustees were instrumental to the early conclusion of the campaign as well as to the continued vitality of all of our programs, to our ongoing and increasing achievements in science and education, and to strengthening our endowment. Recognizing the importance of the Museum's new Richard Gilder Graduate School and its efforts to train the next generation of scientists, Trustee Norma Hess, through the Hess Foundation, Inc., added to her previous support for this endeavor by making a new \$2 million commitment to provide additional fellowships for Ph.D. candidates. Also supporting Gilder Graduate School fellowships and helping the Museum to attract the best possible

students was Trustee Sibyl R. Golden and the Golden Family Foundation. Trustee Emerita Anne Sidamon-Eristoff and the Golden Family Foundation made a \$1 million unrestricted contribution, which was paid to the Museum's operating budget. To advance the Museum's groundbreaking research in biology, through the Gerstner Family Foundation, made a \$1 million contribution to support the Gerstner Scholars Program, which will encourage and support the individual scientists.

A number of individual donors also contributed leadership gifts to the campaign during this fiscal year. They include David Rockefeller, who made a magnificent \$2 million commitment to support the Museum's Southwestern Research Station in Portal, Arizona. Situated in a unique area rich in biodiversity, this research and training facility was originally purchased by the Museum over 50 years ago through Mr. Rockefeller's generosity.

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The renovated 77th Street façade features a new exterior lighting scheme.

Continuing a long tradition of corporate support for an array of education and cultural initiatives at the Museum, Metlife Foundation made a \$1 million commitment to the fall 2009 exhibition *Traveling the Silk Road: Ancient Pathway to the Modern World*. And the Carnegie Corporation of New York made a grant of \$1 million to design and begin to test new models of partnership between the Museum and the New York City Department of Education to improve both teaching and student achievement in science for middle school students.

The Museum also receives support from the City of New York, the State of New York, and a wide variety of federal sources. The City of New York has been an extraordinary and long-standing partner in our efforts to serve the city and its people. We thank the Mayor of New York Michael Bloomberg, the City Council and Speaker Christine Quinn, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and Commissioner Kate Levin, Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education Joel Klein, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation Adrian Benepe, and New York City Comptroller William C. Thompson, Jr., for sharing our vision and supporting our mission of science and education, and helping to ensure that the Museum is an effective, engaging, and safe destination for our millions of visitors.

We would be remiss in this report in not expressing special and heartfelt thanks to the Museum’s talented and hardworking staff for always rising to the moment, no matter what the challenge, whether that means managing budget reductions or caring for our growing audience. We thank our colleagues for all their contributions both to the day-to-day workings of this great Museum, and to its future.

And finally, we thank you, our visitors from near and far—those on-site, online, and visiting our exhibitions in your local communities. We thank you for your unquenchable curiosity, for your hunger for discovery, for trusting the Museum to shed light on the issues that touch all our lives—in short, for sharing our fascination and passion for the world and universe.

As we reflect on the challenges of the year 2009 and the conclusion of the campaign with all its signature programs and institutional advances, a quotation from Theodore Roosevelt comes to mind. During a tour of the United States Exhibition, his role in creating the National Park Service, he said, “We are not building ours for a day. It is to last through the ages.”

This principle is equally true for the American Museum of Natural History. Since its founding in 1869, was a touchstone of our recently concluded Report of the Year, guides us through volatile and still-challenging times, invigorates us as we look to the years ahead, and fuels a central and leadership role for the Museum in society.

On behalf of all of us at the Museum, we thank you for your interest and partnership, and hope you will continue with us on this wonderful and deeply rewarding journey.

Lewis W. Bernard
Chairman

Ellen V. Futter
President

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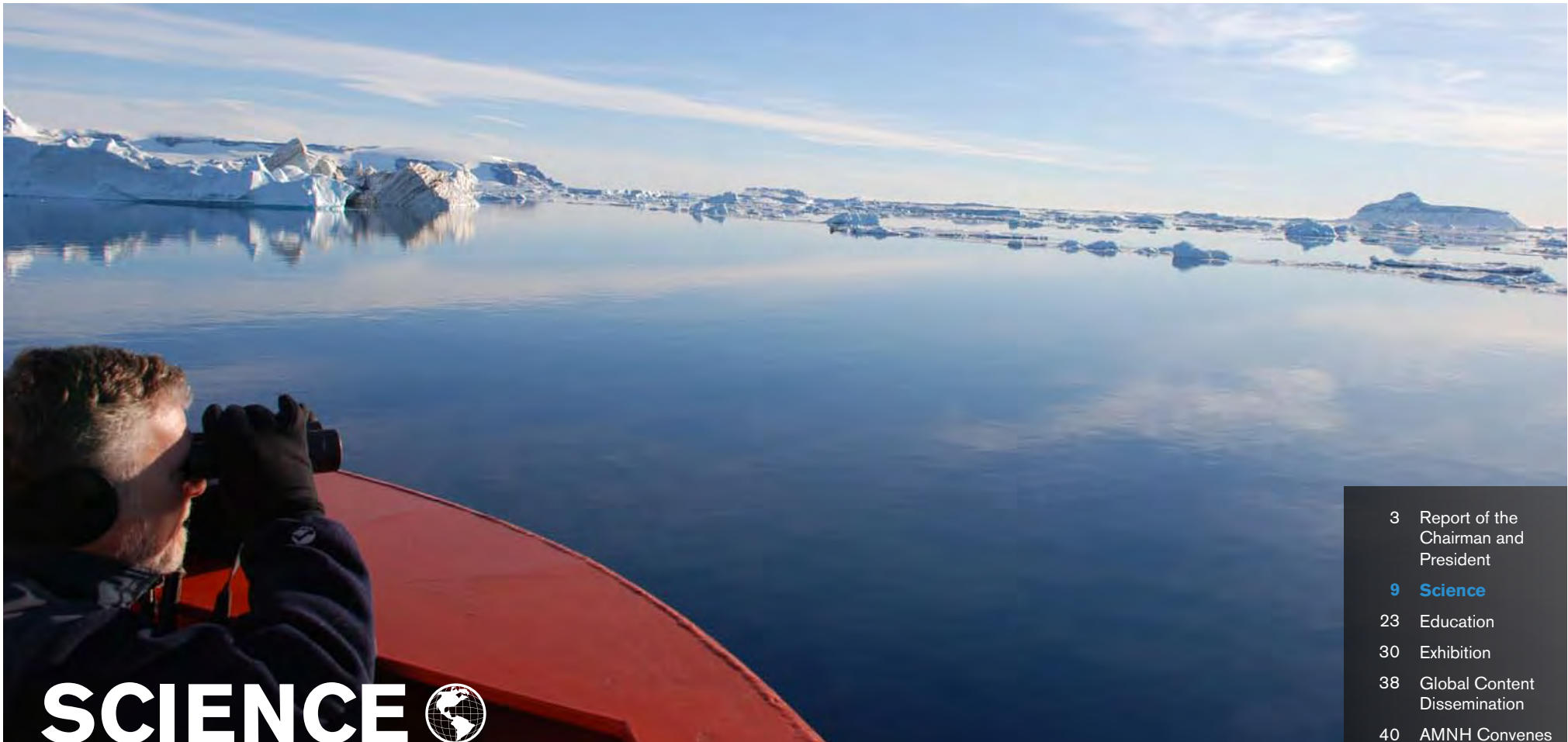


Urban Advantage, a model science education program that connects New York City public schools, teachers, and students with the excitement of scientific discovery, served more than 24,500 students in 147 schools in fiscal 2009.

“The expansion of Urban Advantage, both locally and around the country, points to the Museum’s increasing leadership role not only in science education locally in New York City but in catalyzing change on a national scale.”

| ELLEN V. FUTTER, MUSEUM PRESIDENT |





SCIENCE

Museum scientists carried out research on every continent in fiscal 2009. Curator Ross MacPhee, above, continued fieldwork in Antarctica.

As a leading research institution—and the only U.S. museum to award the Ph.D. degree—the Museum is home to more than 200 scientists who work across the broad disciplines of anthropology, biology, paleontology, and earth and planetary sciences; a world-class collection of more than 32 million specimens and artifacts; and the Richard Gilder Graduate School, which helps train the next generation of scientists.

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Richard Gilder Graduate School Dean John Flynn, Museum Chairman Lewis Bernard, Museum President Ellen V. Futter, and Provost of Science Michael Novacek presented honorary degrees to Museum Trustee Richard Gilder and Rita R. Colwell (seated) at the January 2009 convocation; the Gilder Graduate School began academic operations on September 2, 2008.



In fiscal 2009, Museum scientists pursued research within five core divisions of [Anthropology](#), [Invertebrate Zoology](#), [Paleontology](#), [Physical Sciences](#), and [Vertebrate Zoology](#), including work under the auspices of the [Sackler Institute for Comparative Genomics](#) and the [Center for Biodiversity and Conservation](#). The Museum's scholarly work was also supported by its superb [research library](#), [Microscopy and Imaging Facility](#), scientific laboratories, and collections. While conducting fieldwork all over the world, the scientific staff continued to build the Museum's extraordinary collections and to produce original research, reported in more than [300 publications](#).

In addition, the scientific staff welcomed the inaugural class of Ph.D. students in comparative biology to the [Richard Gilder Graduate School](#) and helped curate major exhibitions. Notable achievements are described below.

THE RICHARD GILDER GRADUATE SCHOOL

September 2, 2008, marked the launch of a historic initiative in education, with the first day of academic operations for the [Richard Gilder Graduate School](#) and the first day of classes for the five students in the new comparative biology Ph.D. program.

Members of the inaugural class represent a wide array of disciplines and backgrounds. They are: Zachary Baldwin (speciation, meso- and bathypelagic fish family Platytroutidae),

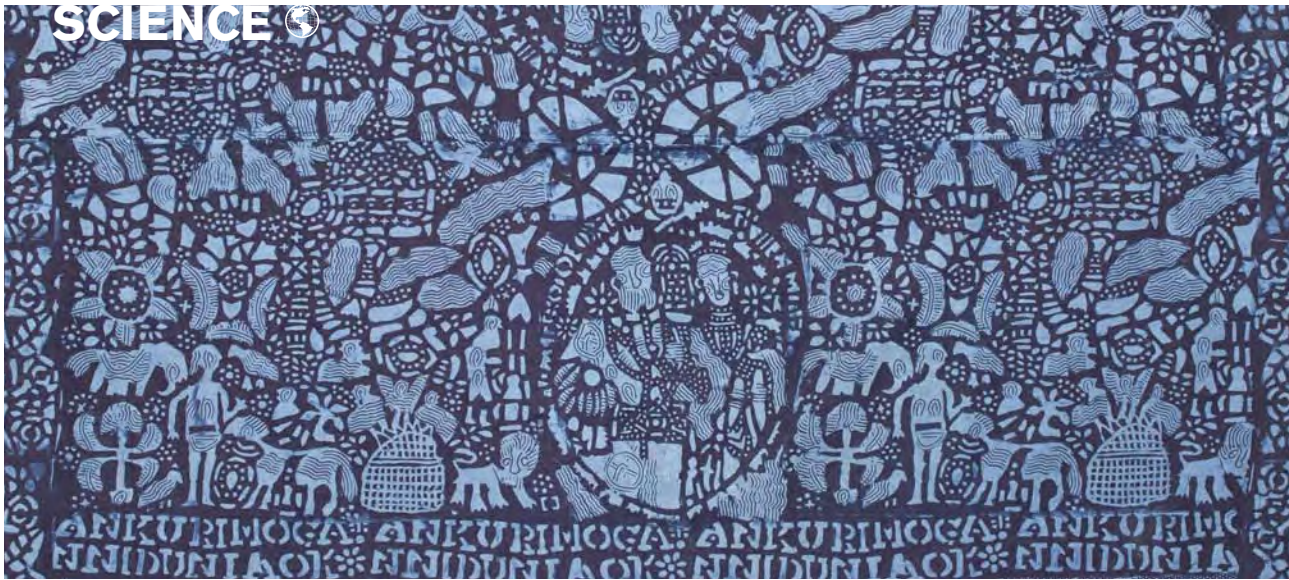
Antonia Florio (speciation processes, Madagascar chameleons), Bryan Falk (comparative parasitology, *Anolis* lizards), Sebastian Kvist (comparative biology, Clitellata [marine polychaete "worms"]), and Shaena Montanari (paleohistology, vertebrate teeth and bone, and paleoenvironments). In December 2008, the [Gilder Graduate School](#) began the admissions process for enrolling its second cohort of students from a talented applicant pool.

In January 2009, the [Gilder Graduate School](#) celebrated its first convocation. With President Ellen V. Futter and the Board of Trustees presiding, the [Gilder Graduate School](#) awarded honorary Ph.D. degrees to two distinguished recipients: Museum Chairman and former head of the U.S. National Science Foundation Rita R. Colwell and noted philanthropist and business leader Richard Gilder, for whom the graduate school is named.

During the second semester, which began January 20, 2009, Shaena Montanari was awarded a prestigious three-year Graduate Research Fellowship and Bryan Falk received an honorable mention from the National Science Foundation. Sebastian Kvist was awarded a significant independent research grant, funded by Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden, to apply innovative genomic methods to study symbiotic bacteria in leeches. Over the summer, students participated in field courses, a distinctive aspect of the Museum's program.

In the spring, the [Gilder Graduate School](#) was evaluated by a peer-review team of academic and administrative professionals from across the country and received a very positive report in June 2009. In November 2009, the [State Board of Regents](#) awarded the [Gilder Graduate School](#) full accreditation for the school's formation.

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A dyed cotton fabric from Nigeria is one of thousands of textiles in the Division of Anthropology collection.

More than
10,500

textiles from Africa, Europe, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and the Americas are part of the Division of Anthropology ethnographic collection.

DIVISION OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Curators continued to pursue a diverse range of research projects in the anthropological subdisciplines of archaeology, ethnology, and physical anthropology. The division also welcomed two new curators: **Dr. Alex de Voogt**, a linguistic anthropologist focused on the ethnology of Africa and the Indian Ocean, and **Dr. Paige West**, an ecological anthropologist who specializes in the ethnology of Melanesia.

Curator Robert L. Carneiro finished his book *The Evolution of the Human Mind: From Supernaturalism to Naturalism—An Anthropological Perspective*, forthcoming in spring 2010. He continued research on the cultivation of manioc, also known as yucca or cassava, and traveled to Puerto Rico to observe manioc farming.

Division Chair Laurel Kendall worked with the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology to develop the exhibition *Living in the Sacraments: Catholic Culture in Vietnam*, which introduced the Vietnamese public to the lives of Vietnamese Catholics; it opened in Hanoi in December 2008. Dr. Kendall also completed her book *Shamans, Nostalgias, and the IMF: South Korean Popular Religion in Motion*, which was published in November 2009.

Curator Charles Spencer collaborated with AMNH Research Associates Jason Sherman and Andrew Balkansky of Southern Illinois University in a study of Late and Terminal Formative Period developments in the Valley of Oaxaca, Mexico. Together with Research

Associate Elsa Redmond, Dr. Spencer has launched a new field project in Oaxaca, Mexico, on the ceremonial precinct at the El Palenque site at San Martín Tilcajete. **9 Science**

Curator Ian Tattersall continued his investigations into hominid diversity within the *Homo erectus* group, diversity and relationships within the Neanderthal clade, and the origin of *Homo sapiens* as a morphological entity. In 2009, he presented Darwinian themes at events in the U.S. and Europe commemorating the 100th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth. **23 Education**

Curator David Hurst Thomas directed more than four months of archeological excavation in Nevada and on St. Catherines Island, Georgia, oversaw six M.A. projects, and received a grant to fund continuing fieldwork on St. Catherines Island. **30 Exhibition on**

Curator Peter Whiteley was awarded an NSF grant with **Curator Robert Whiteley** as co-primary investigator for work on the Crow-Omaha kinship systems. The project promises significant innovation in social-system phylogenetic analysis to carry out a global comparison of kinship systems. Dr. Whiteley's second major project focuses on Hopi ethnogeography. The project, with AMNH Research Associate T. J. Ferguson, is a collaboration with the University of Arizona and the Hopi Tribe's Office of Cultural Preservation. **38 Global Content**
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Curator Jerome Rozen was one of the instructors for the 2008 Bee Course, a nine-day workshop at the Southwestern Research Station.

DIVISION OF INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

In the course of field collection and research, curators in the [Division of Invertebrate Zoology](#) mounted expeditions to every continent except Antarctica in fiscal 2009—and Antarctic fieldwork is planned for next year by the new curator, [Dr. Estefanía Rodríguez](#), whose research focuses on polar sea anemones.

The division maintains diverse dry, fluid, slide, and cryogenic collections of more than 23 million specimens, a number that grows by 50,000 each year. Research and collections are especially notable in spiders (the Museum is home to the world's largest collection), true bugs, and scorpions, with multi-investigator NSF-funded projects to identify and analyze evolutionary trees of these large and important components of Earth's biodiversity.

[Division Chair Ward Wheeler](#) published several papers on the mathematical properties of phylogenetic analysis. The software package POY4, developed with graduate student Andres Varon, was downloaded more than 2,000 times in fiscal 2009.

[Curator James Carpenter](#) carried out fieldwork in Australia, Malaysia, and Puerto Rico. Highlights included the rediscovery of a pollen wasp previously known only from the type specimen in Australia.

[Curator Rob DeSalle](#)'s work is described in detail in the Sackler Institute for Comparative Genomics section; see page 19.

[Curator David Grimaldi](#) conducted fieldwork in India, collecting amber as part of his research into insect evolution. With Curator Lee Herman, Dr. Grimaldi conducted a Niarchos expedition to New Caledonia and Fiji, where they discovered many rare and new species of flies and beetles.

[Curator Lee Herman](#) studied and wrote a revision of the generic classification of the paederine subtribe Procirrina and is finishing a revision of the New World species of the procirrine genus *Oedichirus*.

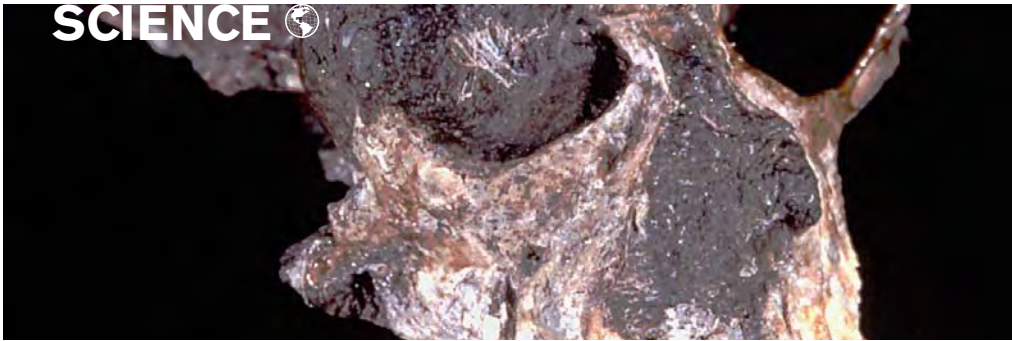
[Associate Curator Lorenzo Prendini](#) concentrated on managing three field expeditions to the Lesser and Greater Antilles, Australia, Ecuador, Honduras, Kenya, Mexico, Peru, South Africa, and five U.S. states resulted in the collection of more than 11,000 specimens and tissue samples, increasing Museum holdings of scorpions, minor arachnid orders, and myriapods.

[Associate Curator Susan Perkins](#)'s projects are described in detail in the Sackler Institute for Comparative Genomics section; see page 19.

[Peter J. Solomon Family Curator Norman Platnick](#) and Scientific Assistant Norman Platnick completed studies of three groups of goblin spiders, part of the NSF-sponsored Biodiversity Inventory project on the family Oonopidae led by the Museum: one on the New World members of the genus *Opopaea*, arguing that it is an Old World genus represented in America only by introduced species; the second describing a new genus, *Escaphiella*, for a group of 36 species; and the third concerning the genus *Heteroonops* as a circum-Caribbean group.

[Curator Jerome Rozen](#)'s field trip to Turkey in early summer resulted in a manuscript co-authored with colleagues from Iran, Switzerland, Turkey, and the U.S. on the biology and floral preferences of the rare *Osmia* (*Ozbekosmia*) *avosetta* Valdebenito, a World solitary bee that lines its brood chambers with brightly colored mud pellets harvested by females from surrounding flowering plants.

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Left to right: The skull of *Chilecebus*, which was first described by Curator John Flynn and collaborators in 1995, is the oldest New World primate skull; Curator John Maisey co-authored a report on a 300-million-year-old fossilized brain, the oldest known, in March 2009.

George T. Willett **Curator Randall Schuh** documented diversity in several groups of poorly known Heteroptera. With John T. Polhemus, he revised the South American shore-bug genus *Pseudosaldula*; he also revised a group of nine plant-bug species from western North America. There is now a second edition of his successful textbook *Biological Systematics: Principles and Applications* (Cornell University Press), co-authored with Museum research associate Andrew van Zandt Brower.

Curator Mark Siddall's research on leeches and other annelid worms continued under an NSF-funded Revisionary Systematics Grant and was featured on "NOVA." Major expeditions were undertaken to Mexico, Uruguay, and Rwanda, leading to the discovery of new species and to publications that revised the understanding of these animals' evolutionary relationships. In collaboration with Dr. Perkins, Dr. Siddall received new NSF funding to continue the Research Experiences for Undergraduates program, which celebrated its 20th year at the Museum.

DIVISION OF PALEONTOLOGY

The division worked closely with the Exhibition Department to produce the major temporary exhibition *Extreme Mammals: The Biggest, Smallest, and Most Amazing Mammals of All Time*, curated by John Flynn with Jin Meng. In addition, curators, staff, and students helped upgrade label copy and kiosk interactives in the Fossil Halls.

The American Museum of Natural History/Mongolian Academy of Sciences expedition completed its 20th year in August 2009, led by Senior Vice President and Provost of Science Michael Novacek and Division Chair Mark Norell.

Curator Niles Eldredge continued his research on Charles Darwin's impact on modern evolutionary theory, including a study of intellectual connections between Giambattista Brocchi, Darwin, and the Edinburgh scientific community in the 1800s.

Curator-in-Charge for Fossil Invertebrates Neil Landman continued the field program to collect ammonites and document important localities in northern New Jersey, including rock formations that date from the end of the Cretaceous period to the beginning of the Tertiary, when non-avian dinosaurs and many other species disappeared in a mass extinction event.

Curator-in-Charge for Fossil Fish John Maisey completed projects on early and primitive sharks using synchrotron imaging, a noninvasive tool, to peer inside their skulls.

Curator-in-Charge for Fossil Mammals Jin Meng published 10 peer-reviewed papers about several important groups of mammals, including new findings on primates that have intercontinental geographic significance, and participated in fieldwork in Mongolia and China that generated important data on fossil mammals, stratigraphy, and ancient environments of central Asia.

In addition to serving as dean of the Richard Gilder Graduate School, **Frank Currie**, **John Flynn** published several articles describing his work on South American mammal fossils. These included the popular article "Splendid Isolation" on South American mammal evolution for *Natural History* and a paper on brain size that presents the first statistical evidence for independent shifts in brain sizes during carnivorans' evolution, predicting the widely accepted "social brain hypothesis." The NSF-supported rehousing of the Museum's fossil mammal collection continues under Dr. Flynn's and Dr. Norell's leadership.

Senior Vice President and Provost of Science Michael Novacek continued his fieldwork in Mongolia and his work as a lead investigator on the extensive, NSF-funded Tree of Life project that also involves several other Museum curators and research associates.

Division Chair Mark Norell resumed his role as chair of the division and continued fieldwork in Mongolia and China. He served as lead curator on the major temporary exhibition *The Silk Road: Ancient Pathway to the Modern World*, which opened in November 2009.

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Curator-in-Charge for Fossil Mammals Jin Meng conducted fieldwork in Mongolia and China's Junggar Basin.

More than 100

scientific papers have been published as a result of the American Museum of Natural History/Mongolian Academy of Sciences expedition, which completed its 20th year in 2009.

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An instrument designed by Associate Curator Ben Oppenheimer and installed at the Palomar 200-inch telescope is the key to the world's most sensitive survey for planets orbiting nearby stars.

DIVISION OF PHYSICAL SCIENCES

In collaboration with the Education Department, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and leading scientists from the United States and abroad, the division helped create the new Space Show *Journey to the Stars*, which premiered on July 4, 2009, in the Hayden Planetarium at the Frederick Phineas and Sandra Priest Rose Center for Earth and Space.

ASTROPHYSICS

Theoretical work under **Division Chair Mordecai-Mark Mac Low** focused on star formation in the early universe, galactic winds, and protoplanetary disks. He and collaborators studied what abundance of heavy elements in the early universe is required for star formation to produce a distribution of stellar masses similar to those observed today and demonstrated that a widely accepted value appears incorrect.

Astronomers have been frustrated for centuries in their attempts to map the stellar populations of the Milky Way. **Curator Michael Shara** reported a major advance by publishing an infrared imaging survey of our home galaxy designed to locate all of the 10,000 massive-star pre-supernovae predicted to exist in the Milky Way. These data will yield a detailed map of where the most massive stars are forming and dying.

Associate Curator Ben Oppenheimer's research group in search of planets orbiting

nearby stars deployed a new instrument built in his lab in the Rose Center. This instrument, installed at the Palomar 200-inch telescope, is the key to the world's most sensitive survey for faint objects orbiting nearby stars, which will continue through 2013.

EARTH AND PLANETARY SCIENCES

Associate Curator Denton Ebel and colleagues studied critical meteorite collection, leading to publications about the origin of the first planetary bodies, the timing of their formation, and the differentiation of the first planetary bodies. Dr. Ebel and **Frederick P. Rose Director of the Hayden Planetarium** co-authored a new Seminars on Science online course for teachers.

Curator George Harlow and colleagues published their new understanding of the plate tectonic history of Guatemala based on analyses of jade-bearing rocks. He began creating a library of mineral and rock standards and their infrared transmission spectra, a NASA-funded project that will allow astronomers and planetary scientists to calibrate observations of interstellar dust, planetary ejecta, and the results from the Deep Impact mission to comet Tempel 1.

Curator Edmond Mathez published work showing that minuscule amounts of early grain boundaries and microfractures affect rock electrical properties, and that carbon film deposition in microfracture arrays may explain precursory and coseismic geoelectric phenomena in earthquakes. Mathez's book *Climate Change: The Science of Global*

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Associate Curator Christopher Raxworthy co-authored a report on a chameleon that spends most of its life in an egg; Curator Melanie Stiassny's expedition to the Democratic Republic of Congo resulted in data that provide a template for investigating the evolution of distinct species of fishes.

and our *Energy Future* (Columbia University Press) was published in March 2009. He was also one of seven scientists to accompany Crown Princes Frederik of Denmark and Haakon of Norway and Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden on an expedition to Greenland to investigate the effects of climate change.

Curator James Webster collected important new research samples recording the catastrophic AD 180 Taupo eruption on New Zealand and sampled ore mineral-bearing granites from Tasmania. Dr. Webster was awarded an NSF research grant to study how magmas erupt and crystallize.

DIVISION OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

The Division of Vertebrate Zoology continued a major initiative to develop a computer database for its collections, a web-accessible system that now contains more than 2.4 million records and is used for day-to-day operations in the Ichthyology, Ornithology, Mammalogy, and Herpetology departments. The division also finished its extensive collaboration with the Image Permanence Institute on the Institute of Museum and Library Services-funded Web-Based Environmental Risk Analysis Project (WebERA), a system for analyzing environmental risk and ranking collection storage quality.

HERPETOLOGY

Curator and Associate Dean of Science for Collections Darrel Frost continued work on his online catalog of world amphibians and systematic studies of amphibian phylogenetics.

Associate Curator and Associate Dean of Science for Education and Exhibition Christopher Raxworthy conducted fieldwork in Madagascar with students from the

University of Antananarivo that yielded the discovery of important new species and populations of chameleons, leaf-tailed geckos, and other reptiles. Dr. Raxworthy also visited Cuba to explore a collaborative research program and to conduct field site reconnaissance.

ICHTHYOLOGY

Curator-in-Charge Scott Schaefer continued his work on astrolepid catfishes and historical biogeography of Andean fishes, completing a study of an enigmatic fish from Lake Tota, Columbia.

Associate Curator John Sparks and colleagues continued fieldwork in Madagascar, Australia to research gobioid cavefishes, which has led to the discovery of a new species. Dr. Sparks continued his work on an NSF-funded study of the evolution and diversification of hearing in Malagasy and South Asian cichlids with Gilder Graduate School Ph.D. student Zachary Baldwin and Dr. Chris Braun of Hunter/CUNY, as well as an NSF grant to investigate the evolution and diversification of luminescent signaling systems in marine fishes.

Herbert R. and Evelyn Axelrod Research Curator Melanie Stiassny led an expedition to the Bas Congo Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo in the summer of 2009. Included National Climactic Data Center geographer Ned Gardiner and U.S. hydrologist John Shelton and resulted in data that provide a physical template for investigating the evolution of distinct species of fishes. The expedition was featured in a Geographic Television special that aired in February 2009.

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Data collected by the CBC team at Palmyra Atoll will fill important gaps in knowledge about sea turtles and their habitat use.

40

Sea turtles were captured and released by CBC scientists, who collected tissue samples and examined, measured, and tagged the animals on an expedition to the Palmyra Atoll National Wildlife Refuge.

ORNITHOLOGY

Associate Curator George Barrowclough's lab group completed a study of the conservation genetics of the Mexican Spotted Owl, which used DNA sequences to confirm a large, continuous population of this threatened species along the Mogollon Rim in central Arizona.

Lamont Curator and Curator-in-Charge Joel Cracraft continued his studies on reconstructing the Tree of Life of perching birds. His research group published two papers on the phylogeny of South American suboscine birds, which encompasses nearly 90 percent of all genera and provides a framework for future studies. He also discussed the impact of high-end computing on evolutionary biology at a symposium for U.S. policymakers at the National Academy of Sciences.

MAMMALOLOGY

Division Chair Nancy Simmons continued work on a large collaborative NSF project, The Mammal Tree of Life, as well as on evolutionary relationships of Old World fruit bats. Other ongoing projects include work on the oldest-known fossil bats, *Onychonycteris* and *Icaronycteris*.

Curator Ross MacPhee continued his NSF-supported investigations on Paleogene mammals in West Antarctica's Seymour Island in early 2009. He and colleagues completed a manuscript on redating the opening of the Drake Passage and papers on the genetics and population biology of musk ox and mammoth using ancient DNA methodology.

Curator Robert Voss published a monographic generic-level revision of the New World marsupial family Didelphidae, worked on several species-level revisionary projects at the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History in November 2008, and led an expedition to the island of Tobago in February 2009 to collect specimens of marsupial populations.

CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

The Center for Biodiversity and Conservation (CBC) continued to bear on conservation activities around the world, in addition to organizing the CBC Milstein Science Center "Exploring the Dynamic Relationship Between Health and the Environment."

In August 2008, **CBC Director Eleanor Sterling** led a team of seven researchers (including four CBC staff members) on an expedition to Palmyra Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, a remote ring of islands and marine habitats in the Pacific Ocean. Their study of sea turtles provides data that will fill important gaps in knowledge about these animals and their habitat use. Long-term coral reef monitoring on Palmyra was carried out by CBC scientists **Brumbaugh** and **Katherine Holmes**. In late 2008, a larger area that includes the Palmyra Atoll received extensive protection under an executive order naming it a "National Monument," the culmination of a campaign that was supported by CBC members.

CBC Associate Director Felicity Arengo's collaborative research with colleagues in the Grupo de Conservación Flamencos Altandinos (CCFA) on Andean flamingos

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Curator James Webster collected rock samples on White Island, New Zealand.

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More than
100,000
rock, mineral, and meteorite
samples constitute the Department
of Earth and Planetary Sciences.



The new Education Building of the Southwestern Research Station near Portal, Arizona, was completed in fiscal 2009.

wetlands in lowland Argentina play an important role for flamingos. Their research proved important in the designation of the Laguna de Melincué site in the Santa Fe Province of Argentina and the Lagunas Altoandinas y Puneñas sites in Catamarca as Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance in 2008 and 2009, respectively.

New molecular research conducted by **CBC Biodiversity Scientist for Pacific Programs Chris Filardi** and colleagues shows that birds within the family Zosteropidae form new species at a faster rate than any other known bird. The research was published in January 2009 in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Construction was completed on the new Education Building of the **Southwestern Research Station (SWRS)**, with the support and commitment of Emily Fisher and John Alexander. The building incorporates environmentally friendly materials and water conservation systems and enables the SWRS to offer more classes and workshops. It also fulfills CBC's commitment to reduce the station's environmental impact.

The **Biodiversity Informatics Facility (BIF)** won NASA grants for use of remotely sensed data and ecological models to assess species extinction risk under climate change and to model bird diversity. The third grant, "Building Capacity for Protected Area Management in a High Priority Landscape in Lao PDR and Vietnam," was awarded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and will be implemented together with CBC's Network of Conservation Educators and Practitioners (NCEP). NCEP also received renewed funding from the MacArthur Foundation through 2011 for work in Bolivia and Peru.

NCEP is also active in the **Solomon Islands**, where staff and collaborators will develop case studies of customary land tenure and community management. NCEP staff members continue to develop online resources for conservation. The second issue of *Lessons in Conservation* was released in June 2009; new curriculum modules are available from the **NCEP website**.

THE SACKLER INSTITUTE FOR COMPARATIVE GENOMICS

Nearly 70 Museum scientific staff conduct genomic research under the auspices of the **Sackler Institute**, which also plays an important role in the Museum's efforts to train a new generation of scientists through the **Richard Gilder Graduate School**.

In fiscal 2009, **Curator Rob DeSalle's** research group continued to conduct a wide range of collaborative genomics projects including a genome-level analysis of plant species in a funded project that includes a website that allows users to access an extensive database of plant genes, query the database, and classify new genes. He also conducted a National Institutes of Health-funded human papillomavirus research project, in collaboration with Albert Einstein College of Medicine, to establish a web-based diagnostic tool for new HPV and animal PV genomes. He also accomplished the first full sequencing, assembly, and annotation of a genome of a living organism completed at the Museum, of *Aspergillus* in the mouths of humans and important in biofilm production.

Curator Ward Wheeler's team reported publication of the first EST-based analysis of animal life, based on over 150 genes; a study of New Caledonian roaches of the relative effectiveness of multiple sequence alignment heuristics. The group also released POY4, conducted ongoing studies of Heteroptera, and carried out analysis of the behavior of some Bayesian techniques in systematics.

Highlights from **Associate Curator Susan Perkins's** group include the publication, with collaborators Kirk Deitsch, Tom Templeton, and Sandeep Kishore of Cornell University, of a paper describing a highly unusual RNA polymerase enzyme in *Mycobacterium*. Perkins also completed a phylogenetic study of the mitochondrial DNA of *Leishmania* parasites that covered five different genera, showing for the first time a link between

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Monell Cryo Lab Collections Manager Julie Feinstein demonstrates how tissue samples are stored.

5,000

tissue samples were added to the Monell Collection cryo facility in fiscal 2009, including blood samples from Madagascan lemurs, African crocodiles, and Indonesian corals.

the virulent human parasite *Plasmodium falciparum* and species of malaria that infect rodents. In collaboration with scientists at Murdoch University in Australia, Perkins submitted a paper reporting a malaria parasite in loggerhead sea turtles, the first such report for a marine animal.

Associate Curator Christopher Raxworthy's lab continues to focus on molecular systematics in two reptile groups: chameleons and geckos from the Indian Ocean region.

Curators Joel Cracraft and George Barrowclough's group has been working with the support of a NSF grant on the Tree of Life project for birds, creating a phylogenetic foundation for all birds by sequencing nuclear DNA genes for as many living genera as possible.

Other research groups, including those of **Curator Mark Siddall, Associate Curator Lorenzo Prendini, Curator John Flynn, and Curator John Sparks** continued a variety of projects.

In addition to administering this interdepartmental scientific program, **Director George Amato** conducted research in conservation genetics of endangered species. In April 2009, Dr. Amato co-organized the CBC Milstein Science Symposium, "Exploring the Dynamic Relationship Between Health and the Environment."

Research highlights in his **Conservation Genetics** Program include the largest detailed genetic analysis of a large carnivore, conducted with Panthera Corporation, which included genotyping nearly 2,000 jaguar fecal samples from Central and South America.

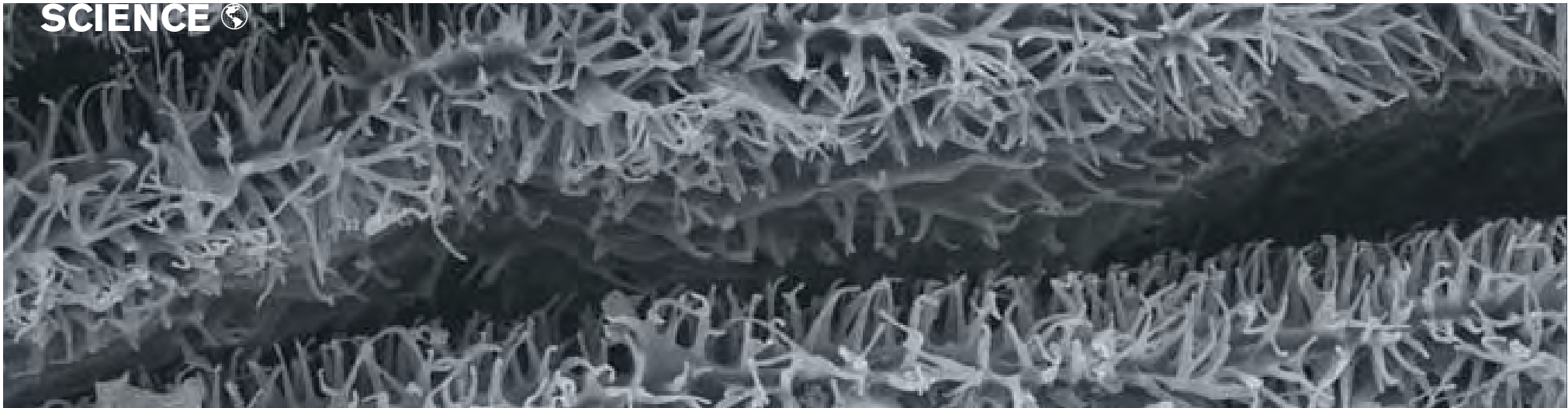
The DNA Barcoding Initiative for Conservation (DBIC), funded by the Alfred P. Sloan and Richard Lounsbery Foundations, had a number of major accomplishments including the implementation of DNA barcoding as a tool in monitoring wildlife trade, and a long-term monitoring study of the caviar trade.

Two important equipment additions significantly enhanced the Museum's genomics research facilities. An NSF major instrumentation grant was awarded for the Education of a Transgenomic Wave DHPLC machine, which rapidly screens for single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs). A significant new gift was received to purchase a new Global Content Dissemination automated DNA sequencer for the Cullman Molecular Laboratory.

THE AMBROSE MONELL COLLECTION FOR MOLECULAR AND MICROBIAL RESEARCH

The **Monell Collection** currently houses 54,264 samples of tissue and DNA, 5,000 of which were added in fiscal year 2009. Recent additions include blood samples from Madagascan lemurs, African crocodiles, small mammals from Peru, bees from Egypt, and Indonesian corals; bird samples transferred from the legacy collection in the Museum's Ornithology Department; over 2,000 bird specimens, including songbirds from Nepal, hawk owls from Rhode Island, and birds from the Bolivian Amazon, Argentina, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Mexico, and Mongolia; and a donation of 6,000 butterflies from Costa Rica.

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Associate Curator Lorenzo Prendini and collaborators used microscopy technology to study the scorpion respiratory system.

Since 2001, loans of 7,205 samples have been made to scientists worldwide for genetic analysis. This year, 1,317 samples were loaned to scientists in the Museum, the United States, Mexico, France, Brazil, Canada, and South Africa.

The Monell Collection also prepared and supplied more than 4,800 collecting kits to researchers worldwide, which have brought in samples ranging from the destructive plum curculio weevil to endangered Indiana bats felled by an emergent disease called White-Nose Syndrome.

The Monell Collection also signed a historic memorandum of understanding with the National Park Service (NPS), creating a partnership that will aid research and recovery of imperiled species in national parks.

This work is possible through the generous support of the Mortimer D. Sackler Foundation, Lewis B. and Dorothy Cullman Foundation, Ambrose Monell Foundation, Panthera Corporation, and Korein Foundation. Additional support has come from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Richard Lounsbery Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and U.S. Department of Defense's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

LIBRARY SERVICES

One of the largest independent natural history libraries in the world, the Library of the American Museum of Natural History houses more than 500,000 printed items as well as an extensive collection of non-print materials. Increasing its presence and expanding

access to its resources online rank at the top of the Library's priorities. The successful launch of the Library's new [website](#) in June 2009—a month that registered a record 26,000 page views—provides a strong platform for these efforts. These include the [Report of the Chairman and President of the World Science Encyclopedia of Life effort](#). The goal of the BHL is to digitize all of the world's scientific literature; over 2,000 volumes from the Museum Library have been scanned.

The Library has also digitized and made available online all of the Museum's [Annual Reports](#) and the full runs of the Museum's [scientific publications](#). Additionally, the Library is opening the Digital Image Database based on the [Picturing the Museum](#) project as specialized websites highlighting the Jesup North Pacific Expedition Collection, which will act as prototypes for additional sites.

MICROSCOPY AND IMAGING FACILITY

The [Microscopy and Imaging Facility \(MIF\)](#) provides research staff with time and training on advanced imaging technology, including two scanning electron microscopes, a laser scanning confocal microscope, specimen preparation instrumentation, and a digital image processing suite. Scanning electron microscopy allows for high-resolution imaging and nondestructive analysis of museum collections. More than 100 research scientists and visiting scientists used the facility's resources in 2009. Major scientific projects include high-resolution imaging of interstellar dust samples and three-dimensional modeling of extant arthropod species. ●

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Museum Members, brothers Philip John and Peter James of New York City, explore the interactive displays in the Anne and Bernard Spitzer Hall of Human Origins.

“I will never, ever get tired of this museum. And now that my young children have become as enamored as I am, I look forward to rediscovering every possible corridor many times over!”

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EDUCATION

The Discovery Room offers visitors of all ages, and especially children ages 5 to 12, hands-on activities that illuminate science at the Museum.

Through its wide-ranging educational programs and resources, the Museum builds bridges from laboratory to classroom, advances science literacy for a broad audience, and promotes lifelong learning and discovery. In fiscal 2009, the robust array of educational programs continued to reveal the wonders of science and the natural world to a diverse audience.

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Science and Nature programs enhance young children's respect for nature and teach the building blocks of scientific inquiry.

Three interrelated divisions—the David S. and Ruth L. Gottesman Center for Science Teaching and Learning; the National Center for Science Literacy, Education, and Technology; and the Center for Lifelong Learning—offered a strategic range of educational programs, events, and materials for teaching and learning, designed to improve how science is taught in schools, illuminate the role of science in our lives, integrate scientists into the teaching of science, provide opportunities for young people to engage in authentic science, and enhance science literacy among the general public.

The Museum's educational initiatives are built upon the conviction that a solid foundation in science and the critical thinking skills that inquiry-based science engenders are key to American prosperity and leadership in the 21st century—preparing the next generation not only of scientists and innovators, but of informed citizens, prepared to work in the new information-based economy and to participate in the science-based and cultural debates of our time.

From **Urban Advantage**—a groundbreaking public-private partnership that brings the exceptional resources of New York City's science-based cultural institutions to improve science teaching and learning in the public schools—to **Seminars on Science**—online graduate-level courses for teachers—to **Global Weekends**—free family weekend programs that explore the living traditions of people from around the world—the Museum's educational programs create opportunities for learners of all ages to engage in scientific inquiry and



learn about science and culture. This year's report focuses on four signature education programs: the Science Generation Pipeline; the Young Naturalist Awards; the Moveable Museums; and *Journey to the Stars*, the Museum's newest Space Show.

SCIENCE GENERATION PIPELINE

A significant part of the Museum's educational mission is to foster in young children an interest in and engagement with science, whether they pursue science as a career or not. To do this, the Museum endeavors to provide a sustained exposure to the actual practice and excitement of science and discovery—revealing for children, as well as their teachers and families, the thrilling quest that science really is. The Science Generation Pipeline is a complete pre-K through graduate school continuum of out-of-school science learning opportunities, ranging from the Science and Nature Program, in which parents and children as young as two are exposed to and engage in science together, to the Science Research Mentoring Program, in which a highly diverse cohort of high school students are paired with scientist mentors to conduct authentic research in Museum laboratories and

The Pipeline programs strive to inspire the next generation of scientists, and we've seen marked success: over 90% of students in the Museum's mentoring programs have graduated from high school and matriculated into college in the past six years, and approximately one-third of those students have majored in STEM fields.

In fiscal 2009, the **Science Generation Pipeline** included several programs designed for toddlers through elementary school students designed to enhance their respect for nature and to teach the building blocks of scientific inquiry. These **Science and Nature** offerings included the **Core Family Program** and the **Outreach Program**.

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Left to right: A Lang Scholar studies comparative anatomy; Lang Scholars discuss primate behavior with Program Coordinator Bobby Habig.

Through weekly meetings with students and parents throughout the school year, the **Core Family Program** uses a science curriculum that integrates hands-on activities, encourages observation and inquiry, and connects science education to Museum halls, special exhibitions, and research. More than 660 students and parents and grandparents took part in the program in fiscal 2009, and need-based financial aid was provided.

The **Outreach Program** partners with Head Start sites, community centers, and public schools to provide classes and guided Museum visits to students with teachers, parents, and staff. It also offers workshops to help teachers integrate activities into their science classrooms; create collections of science books, materials, and equipment; and establish and care for resources such as terrariums, aquariums, including their live inhabitants. This program is available free of charge or at a reduced rate, and nearly 340 students, teachers, and parents participated in fiscal 2009.

Additionally, 540 students took part in **Adventures in Science**, which includes fee-based weeklong science camps, after-school astronomy and robotics workshops, and weekend sessions exploring the Museum's exhibitions for children in preschool through seventh grade.

For middle school students, pipeline programming focuses on providing a solid foundation for scientific learning and knowledge. The cornerstone of these offerings is the **Lang Science Program**, which offers exceptional sixth-grade students from under-served families, communities, and schools a seven-year-long opportunity to learn at the Museum. In fiscal 2009, a total of 88 students from New York City public schools were enrolled in the program.

Lang Program students participate in five-hour-long sessions for two Saturdays each month and for three weeks during the summer to learn about the scientific process and to work side-by-side with Museum scientists and educators in core research areas. Students participate in laboratory research and fieldwork as well as Museum special programming, exhibitions, events, and lectures. The majority of participants attend at no cost. They receive additional benefits such as Kaplan SAT preparation services, college preparation services from the Goddard-Riverside OPTIONS program, and trips to visit colleges.

High-school students take part in the **After-School Program**, a set of twice-weekly courses taught in six-week sessions during the school year. The After-School Program is designed to inspire and provide further study and careers in the sciences. Class topics include astronomy, biodiversity, genetics, and more. Students receive laboratory experience, trips, and explore Museum collections. In fiscal 2009, 655 students participated in the program, the majority from under-served schools.

For students in eleventh and twelfth grades, pipeline programs focus on exploring science careers through the **Science Research Mentoring Program** and the **Internship Program**.

The **Science Research Mentoring Program** offers a diverse group of students the opportunity to work on research in evolutionary or conservation biology, physical or cultural anthropology. Students attend one year of after-school programs taught by Museum scientists and educators to learn both the content and skills needed for

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The Saltz Internship Program, which serves about 50 students annually, trains high school juniors and seniors to educate visitors on scientific topics using specimens and artifacts.

different research areas; they are also matched with a Museum scientist mentor to work on a project. Participants receive a federally funded stipend as well as resources including free SAT courses, one-on-one college counseling, financial aid workshops, and college trips. Because this program attracts top science students, the Education Department is working to forge close ties with universities with strong science programs and eventually hopes to attract scholarships for these students.

Serving approximately 50 students annually, the **Saltz Internship Program** trains students who are interested in non-research science careers to interact with the public on scientific topics. Saltz interns staff the halls during the summer months, helping to educate camp groups and visitors using interactive stations stocked with artifacts, specimens, and other objects. Participants receive a small stipend.

YOUNG NATURALIST AWARDS PROGRAM

The **Young Naturalist Awards**—an inquiry-based, national research competition for students in seventh through 12th grades—is a natural extension of the Science Education Pipeline. The program, which celebrated its twelfth year in fiscal 2009, recognizes the accomplishments of students who have investigated topics in biology, Earth science, ecology, and astronomy.

Following Museum scientists' tradition of conducting fieldwork all over the United States and Canada are invited to conduct scientific fieldwork that include trips into the field to gather data. Student essays recounting their fieldwork, analysis, and conclusions are reviewed by a panel of environmental scientists, teachers, and Museum scientists and educators. Twelve students, two from each of the six

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During the 2009 fiscal year, the Moveable Museum visited 130 schools and participated in 86 community events, reaching more than 25,000 visitors.

recognized as winners, receive cash awards, and are invited to the Museum to meet with Museum scientists, take behind-the-scenes tours, and be honored at an awards ceremony. Winning essays are published on the Museum’s website. In fiscal 2009, the winners represented 11 states and Canada, and their investigations ranged from testing the level of trichloroethylene in a Florida field to a study of facial expressions among a group of Bronx Zoo western lowland gorillas. The Young Naturalist Awards are supported by Alcoa Foundation.

THE MOVEABLE MUSEUM

Since its inception in 1993, the Moveable Museum—a traveling educational outreach program that serves schools, libraries, and community organizations in New York City’s five boroughs—has brought Museum resources to more than 700 New York City schools. During the 2009 fiscal year, the program visited 130 schools and participated in 86 community events, reaching more than 25,000 people.

As an educational outreach component of the Museum’s David S. and Ruth L. Gottesman Center for Science Teaching and Learning, the Moveable Museum is designed to deliver learning experiences outside the Museum’s walls. The program includes a fleet of four converted recreational vehicles that convey three unique educational programs for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade: dinosaur paleontology, anthropology, and astronomy.

Aboard the Paleontology of Dinosaurs Moveable Museum, students in kindergarten through second grade can embark on a virtual trek across Mongolia’s Gobi Desert to search

for ancient fossils. Like Museum paleontologists, students use skeletal and environmental clues while learning about the advantages and limits of the fossil record. Ancient Fossils, New Discoveries Moveable Museum allows students in eighth grades to study the evolution of dinosaurs and possible causes of mass extinctions between dinosaurs and modern birds.

The Structures and Culture Moveable Museum is geared toward students in third through eighth grades to explore the traditional homes of three ethnic groups: the Maasai of Gabra of Kenya, the Mongols of Mongolia, and the Blackfeet of North America. Through anthropologists, students discover how everyday objects and architectural features can be used to study different cultures.

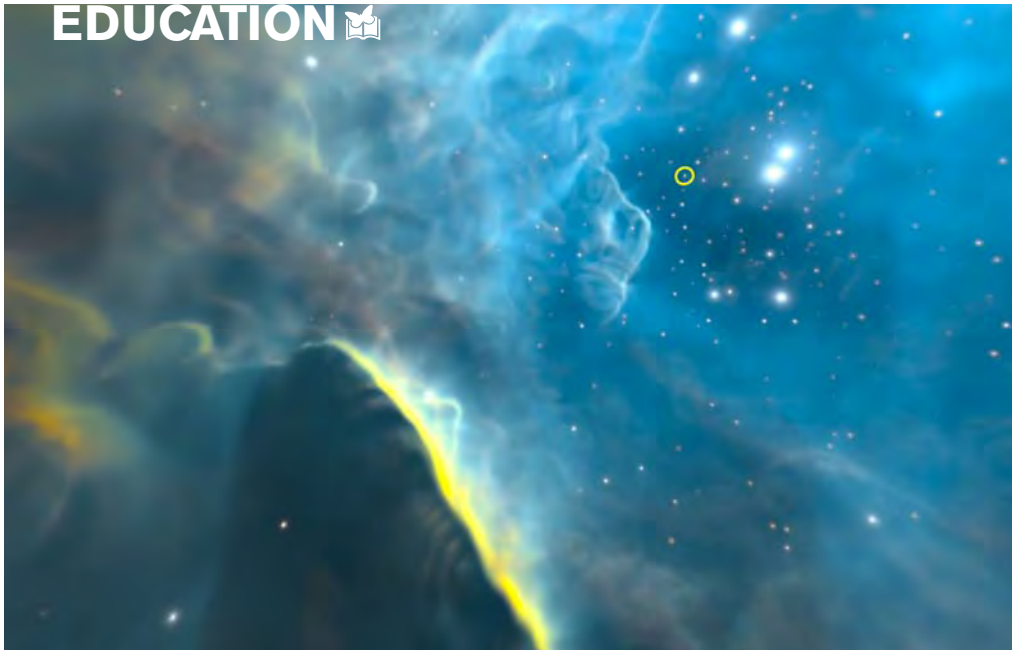
Students in sixth through twelfth grades use an assortment of telescopes and interactive exhibits aboard the Discovering the Universe Moveable Museum to investigate the concepts of light, gravity, and orbits; explore a hands-on laboratory; and learn about digital imaging and three-dimensional cosmic modeling.

The Moveable Museum program was initially established and supported by the City of New York, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and the New York City Council. In fiscal 2009, the program was generously supported by Bloomberg, the Charles Hayden Foundation, and the Citi Foundation with additional support from National Geographic.

More than
700

New York City schools have been visited by the Moveable Museum traveling educational outreach program since its inception in 1993.

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Left to right: The Sun was born in a cloud of gas and dust much like this one almost five billion years ago; In *Journey to the Stars*, viewers also see the Sun as a red giant five billion years in the future.

A DYNAMIC NEW SPACE SHOW

The spectacular new Space Show *Journey to the Stars*, narrated by Academy Award winner Whoopi Goldberg, premiered on July 4, 2009, in the Hayden Planetarium at the Frederick Phineas and Sandra Priest Rose Center for Earth and Space. Featuring extraordinary images from telescopes on the ground and in space as well as stunning, never-before-seen visualizations of physics-based simulations, *Journey to the Stars* explores stellar formation and traces the life cycle of stars, with particular focus on the Sun.

This impressive theater experience was created by the Museum’s astrophysicists and scientific visualization, education, and media production experts in collaboration with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and more than 40 leading scientists from the United States and abroad. The Space Show was curated by Curator Mordecai-Mark Mac Low, chair of the Department of Astrophysics, Division of Physical Sciences; and Associate Curator Ben R. Oppenheimer, Department of Astrophysics, Division of Physical Sciences. Rosamond Kinzler, director of the Education Department’s National Center for Science Literacy, Education, and Technology (NCSLET), served as the Space Show’s executive producer. From English, the Space Show has been translated into seven languages—Chinese, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish—for distribution and into five languages for visitors on-site.

To supplement the theater experience, NCSLET created a comprehensive educational guide to help teachers and students better understand the cutting-edge astrophysics explored in the show. A DVD version has also been produced as a teacher resource to maximize the educational impact of the show. The production of the new Space Show was a collaborative effort with a team of educational advisors and evaluators who rigorously assessed the educational efficacy of the program. ●

AWARDS

Learning Magazine’s Fifteenth Annual Teacher’s Choice Awards for the Seminars on Science course “The Solar System”

2009 Technology & Learning Award of Excellence for the NCSLET website redesign

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The Harris family of Louisville, Kentucky, check out the Kwakiutl mask display in the Hall of Northwest Coast Indians.

“A fantastic place to take the whole family, ...[and] a wonderful place to learn and get excited about science and [natural] history.”

| ANTHONY A. OF NEW YORK, NY., ON FACEBOOK.COM |





A model of *Indricotherium*, the largest mammal to ever walk the Earth, greeted visitors to the major exhibition *Extreme Mammals*.

Through permanent and special exhibitions, the Exhibition Department interprets the work of the Museum's scientists, highlights the Museum's collections, and makes the most compelling scientific and cultural issues of the day accessible to millions of visitors each year.

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Visitors to *Climate Change* had the opportunity to write and illustrate their thoughts and concerns, which were displayed on a 12-foot-long wall.

212,000

visitors pledged to reduce energy use at home in the “What Can We Do?” interactive in the *Climate Change* exhibition.

With its fiscal year 2009 exhibitions, the Museum continued its tradition of using creative approaches and the latest technology to interpret cutting-edge scientific and cultural subjects for the general public. The Exhibition Department develops exhibitions to engage and educate visitors of all ages, learning levels, and backgrounds. Drawing on a mix of new and traditional media, the Museum provides context for the public to explore a wide variety of topics, including some pressing issues, and experience learning in an interactive environment.

MAJOR TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Museum tackled one of the most complex and urgent issues of our time—global climate change—in the exhibition *Climate Change: The Threat to Life and A New Energy Future*, which ran from October 18, 2008, through August 16, 2009, in Gallery 3.

Using interactive stations, videos, and dioramas in nine thematic sections, the exhibition explained the science of climate change to visitors of all ages and explored its implications by presenting evidence of the effects of human activity; examining how global warming could stress human societies and damage ecosystems; and highlighting individual and governmental actions, including the pursuit of energy alternatives, that can reduce its impact.

In *Introduction: Burning Fossil Fuels Shaped Our World with a Cost We Didn't Understand—Until Now*, visitors encountered a 60-foot-long panoramic illustration of technological advances since the Industrial Revolution, from incandescent light bulbs to jet planes, along with a red LED line that illustrated the corresponding rise in carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere.

In *Climate Change Today: Greenhouse Gases Trap Heat; Higher Temperatures Mean a Warmer Earth*, a model of one metric ton of coal rose in a dramatic demonstration of human energy consumption, while an eight-minute video presentation described the greenhouse effect. *Making a Difference: There Are Many Ways to Save Energy and Consume Less—Starting Now* presented visitors with a lush wall of living plants on display in any museum, to encourage choices that “green the world,” while interactive stations demonstrated how relatively small individual changes can bring about significant CO₂ emissions savings. A running tally showed the impact of visitors' choices on a collective carbon footprint.

The exhibition continued by describing how four vital areas of the Earth were affected by global warming. *Atmosphere Is Warming: We're Starting to Feel the Heat* reminded visitors of the threat of extreme weather through images of hurricanes and the European heat wave of 2003; a 10-foot rain wall simulating heavy downpours; and an 18-inch translucent globe onto which relevant weather information from NOAA was projected. *Changing Ice: Ice Is Melting at the Poles, Impacts Will Be Global* dramatically illustrated the impact of rising sea levels via a model of a

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To highlight the dangers of warming oceans, *Climate Change* presented visitors with a large model of dead, white coral alongside a vibrant reef.

Manhattan. It also featured a large diorama of a polar bear foraging in a garbage dump, a reminder that bears will be forced to invade populated areas if their habitat dwindles. *Changing Ocean: The Ocean Regulates the Earth's Climate, So a Changing Ocean Means a Changing Climate* confronted visitors with a large model of dead, white coral alongside a vibrant reef to highlight the dangers of warming oceans. *Changing Land: Droughts, Fires, and Floods Will Cause Ecosystems and Societies to Suffer* let visitors examine the record of climate change by reading the rings on cross-sections of trees and explained the impact on ecosystems, with particular attention to endangered species.

To develop visitors' understanding of how the global warming crisis can be addressed, *Cleaning Up Our Energy Means a Safer Climate* presented vivid examples of alternative energy sources, including the glistening mirrors of a solar collector, metallic spheres in the cut-away core of a pebble-bed nuclear reactor, and a 15-foot segment of a wind turbine blade. This section also made clear that when it comes to alternative energy, a calibrated combination of approaches that takes into account geographical differences, cost, scale of impact, and pace of development is required. A nine-minute film featured leading experts offering insights on addressing climate change.

Before leaving the exhibition, visitors had the opportunity to view online blog posts, write and illustrate their thoughts and concerns, answer questions, and view others' responses, which were displayed on a 12-foot-long wall.

Climate Change was organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (www.amnh.org), in collaboration with the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture & Heritage, United Arab Emirates; The Cleveland Museum of Natural History; The Field Museum, Chicago; Instituto Sangari, São Paulo, Brazil; Junta de Castilla y León, Spain; Korea

Green Foundation, Seoul; Natural History Museum of Denmark, Copenhagen; Papalote • Museo del Niño, Mexico City, Mexico; and Saint Louis Science Center.

Climate Change was curated by Edmond A. Mathez, curator, Department Earth and Planetary Sciences in the Division of Physical Sciences; and co-curated by Michael Oppenheimer, Albert G. Milbank Professor of Geosciences and International Affairs at the Woodrow Wilson School and Department of Geosciences, Princeton University. *Climate Change* was designed and produced by the American Museum of Natural History's Department of Exhibition.

Climate Change at the American Museum of Natural History was produced by Bank of America. Major support was also provided by The Rockefeller Foundation. Additional support for *Climate Change* and its related educational programming was provided by Mary and David Solomon, the Betsy and Jesse Fink Foundation, the Trust for Conservation, and the Red Crane Foundation.

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A model of a flooded lower Manhattan dramatically demonstrated the impact of rising sea levels.

FLOODED CITY

The model you see here doesn't predict the future—but it does illustrate one possible outcome of polar ice sheet meltdown. It shows the southern end of

LOWER MANHATTAN,
BELOW CHAMBERS STREET
Scale model, 1 inch = 100 feet
American Museum of Natural History,
Education Department

Is this how Manhattan would really look, **perhaps 10 THOUSANDS OF YEARS IN THE FUTURE**, as sea levels rise? Probably not, because we would, at enormous expense, build sea walls and pumps to protect the

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634
million people live in
10 vertical meters
vertical feet, of sea level, a
fact highlighted in *Climate
Change*.



119

models, fossils, and mammal mounts were featured in the *Extreme Mammals* exhibition.

"Part of the show's excitement is the dizzying variation of life forms contained in this single category," raved *The New York Times* in its review of *Extreme Mammals*.

EXTREME MAMMALS

The captivating exhibition *Extreme Mammals: The Biggest, Smallest, and Most Amazing Mammals of All Time*, which explored extraordinary extinct and living mammals, ran from May 23, 2009, through January 3, 2010, in Gallery 4. Featuring spectacular fossils from the Museum's collections, vivid reconstructions, and live animals, the exhibition examined the ancestry, evolution, and diverse adaptations of various mammal species. Using dynamic media displays, animated computer interactives, hands-on activities, touchable fossils, taxidermy specimens, and a habitat of live sugar gliders, *Extreme Mammals* highlighted distinctive mammalian qualities as well as the shared lineage that unites this diverse class of animals.

Visitors were asked to consider "What is extreme for mammals?" as they entered the gallery and encountered models of two extraordinary extinct mammal species: 16-foot-tall *Indricotherium*, the largest mammal to walk the Earth, and *Batodonoides*, which weighed less than a twentieth of an ounce. An exact cast of the fossil *Darwinius masillae*, the spectacular new mammal discovery revealed at the Museum in May 2009, was also included in this section.

In *What is a Mammal?* visitors were introduced to the basics of mammal evolution and biology; to the fossils of some early mammal relatives that were once mistaken for dinosaurs; and to the characteristics unique to mammals, such as three middle-ear bones, a diaphragm for breathing, and more. *What is Extreme?* let visitors compare the skeletons

of several mammals featuring "extreme" traits, such as the extinct *Uinatherium* like teeth, the opossum's prehensile tail, and humans' relatively large brain.

Head to Tail illustrated adaptations such as the glyptodont's thick bony armor. A section on *Reproduction* introduced visitors to monotremes that lay eggs, and marsupials, mammals that give birth to immature young and pouches, as a contrast to the more common mammalian trait of giving developed offspring. This section also included a habitat of live sugar koalas and kangaroos. *Mammals in Motion* focused on locomotion adapted to life in sea, and in the air; highlights included a life-size relief model of *Ambulocetus natans*, the extinct "walking whale," and the transitional fossil *Puijila darwini*, the most primitive known bat species that was recently described in a study led by Curator Nancy Simmons, was also prominently featured.

Finally, portions of the exhibition were devoted to mechanisms of evolution and of extinction. *Extreme Isolation* featured impressive fossils of extinct hoofed mammals *Scarrittia* and *Astrapotherium* to illustrate the concept of convergent evolution, the appearance of similar features in distantly related organisms living in similar environments. It also included a scientist-at-work video exploring unique mammal

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Extreme Mammals encouraged visitors to compare extreme traits; perennial favorite *Frogs: A Chorus of Colors* returned with three new species.



of prehistoric South America that drew on the work of Curator John Flynn and his colleagues. *Extreme Extinction* explored some of the causes of past mass extinctions as well as human-caused environmental changes and habitat loss that threaten species today. An amazing taxidermy specimen of one of the last-known Tasmanian wolves, a species that became extinct after intense hunting in the 1930s, was one of the highlights of this section, which also showcased some previously unknown mammal species that have been recently discovered.

Extreme Mammals was organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (www.amnh.org), in collaboration with the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; Cleveland Museum of Natural History; and the Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Canada. Funding for *Extreme Mammals* was provided by the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Endowment Fund. Additional generous support for *Extreme Mammals* was provided by the Bill and Ann Ziff Foundation, the Eileen P. Bernard Exhibition Fund, and Harlan B. Levine, M.D., and Marshall P. Levine.

Extreme Mammals was curated by John J. Flynn, Frick Curator in the Division of Paleontology and dean of the Richard Gilder Graduate School at the Museum. *Extreme Mammals* was designed and produced by the American Museum of Natural History's Department of Exhibition.

SEASONAL TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

Once again, Gallery 77 featured *Lizards and Snakes: Alive!* (May 24, 2008–January 5, 2009), a showcase of more than 60 live lizards and snakes representing 27 species from all over the world.

The Butterfly Conservatory: Tropical Butterflies Alive in Winter (October 11, 2008–May 25, 2009) celebrated its 11th year at the Museum and included five new species of butterflies.

Gallery 77 also featured *Frogs: A Chorus of Colors* (May 30, 2009–January 3, 2010), a popular exhibition that explores the rich and colorful world of frogs, with more than 200 live frogs representing approximately 25 species.

OTHER TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

The Unknown Audubons: Mammals of North America (March 31, 2007–January 3, 2009) highlighted the Museum's rarely displayed collection of original paintings and prints by John James Audubon and his sons John Woodhouse Audubon and Gifford Audubon, one of America's leading families of naturalists and wildlife artists, in the newly renovated Audubon Gallery. The exhibition placed Audubon's life and work in the text of a dramatic environmental story—protecting endangered ecosystems. Major funding for *The Unknown Audubons* was provided by the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Endowment Fund.

The following exhibitions were produced with support from the Arthur Ross Foundation: In the IMAX Gallery, *Saturn: Images from the Cassini-Huygens Mission* (July 15, 2008–July 26, 2009) revealed details of Saturn's rings, moons, and atmosphere with images sent over half a billion miles by the Cassini spacecraft. In the Audubon Gallery, *On Feathered Wings* (June 15, 2008–July 1, 2010) presented spectacular photographs of birds in flight. ●

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Climate Change let visitors examine the record of climate change by reading the rings on cross-sections of trees.

AWARDS

CLIMATE CHANGE

2009 Gold **Communicator Award of Excellence** for “Changing Climate, Changing World” video

2009 Silver **Communicator Award of Distinction** for “Rethinking Our Energy Future” video

THE HORSE (May 17, 2008-January 4, 2009)

Bronze **MUSE AWARD** 2009 was awarded by the American Association of Museums Media and Technology Committee in recognition of the highest standards of excellence in the use of media and technology for the “The Biology of The Horse” interactive in the category of “Interpretive Interactive Installations”

Judges said: “The Biology of the Horse” ignites visitors’ interests in a compelling and deeply satisfying interpretive experience... [that] enabled both a shared social experience and individual inquiry. The simplicity of interfaces and the real-time responsive projected image made this media highly satisfying.”

American Institute of Graphic Arts 2009 Certificate of Excellence for “outstanding design work” for graphics

2009 Gold **Communicator Award of Excellence** for “Enduring Bonds” interactive

2009 Silver **Communicator Award of Distinction** for “Breeds Interactive”

2009 **American Inhouse Design Award**, sponsored by Graphic Design USA

SPITZER HALL OF HUMAN ORIGINS

2009 Merit Award was given by the **Society for Environmental Design** in recognition of the interpretive exhibition design of the Anne and Bernard Spitzer Hall of Human Origins under the category “Environments”

MYTHIC CREATURES: DRAGONS, UNICORNS & MERMAIDS

2009 **Gold Communicator Award of Excellence** for “Creatures of the Water, Land, and Air” videos

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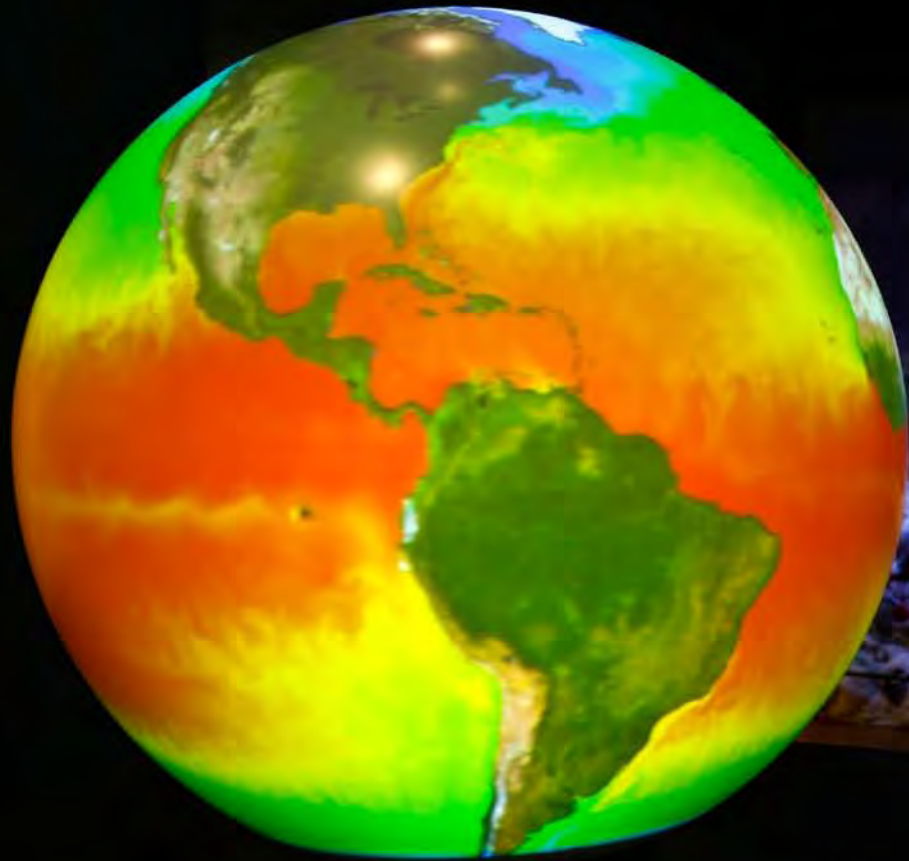


On his first trip to New York City from Italy, Alessandro makes the most of the Hall of Saurischian Dinosaurs with his parents and some souvenirs. In fiscal 2009, 40% of the Museum's audience comprised visitors from outside the United States.

“We came here because my son wanted to see dinosaurs, and I read that this is one of the biggest museums of natural history in the world!”

| EMANUELA, VISITING WITH SON ALESSANDRO AND HUSBAND SALVATORE FROM GENOA, ITALY |





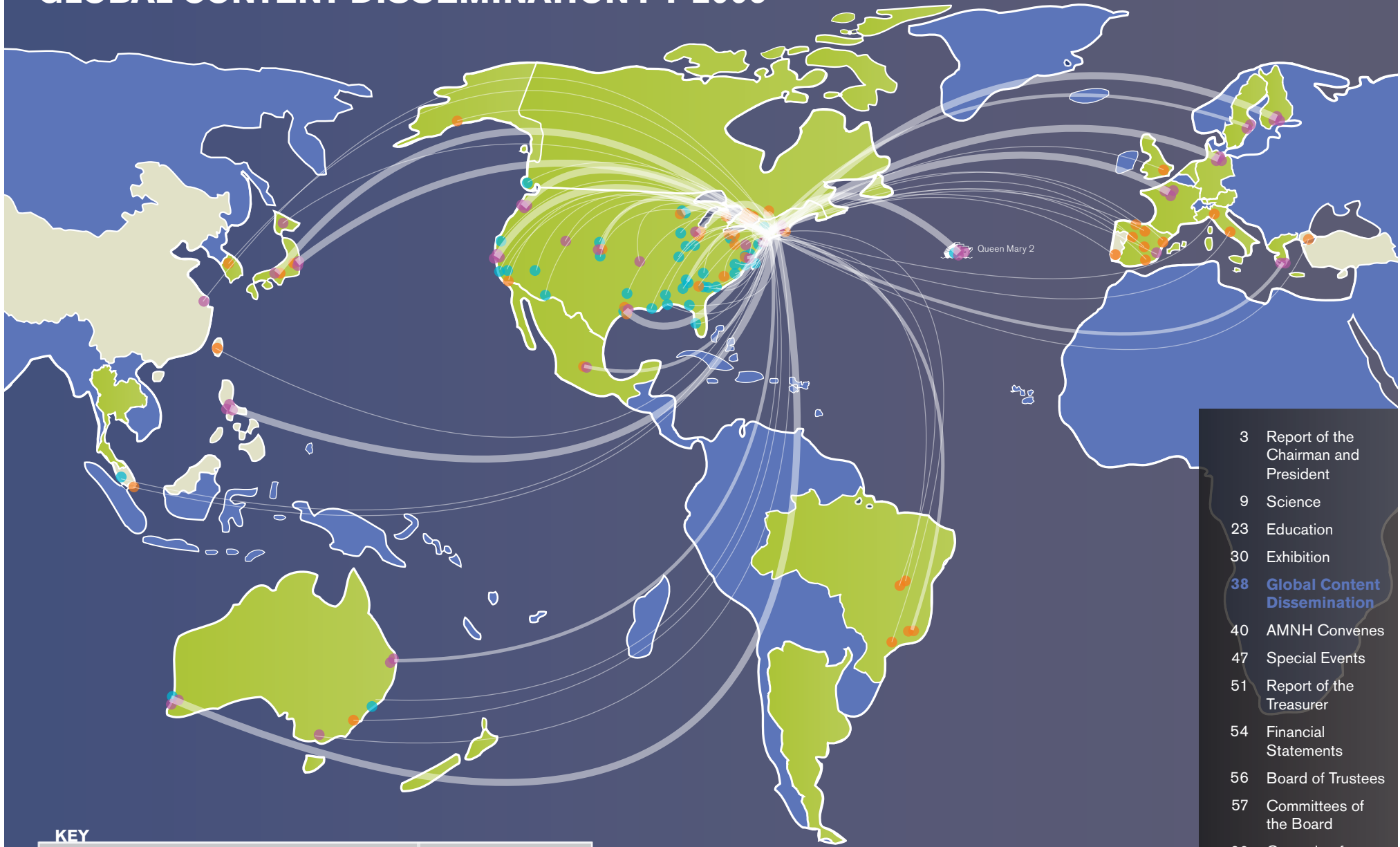
GLOBAL CONTENT DISSEMINATION

The major exhibition *Climate Change: The Threat to Life and A New Energy Future* began an international tour that includes stops in Latin America, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

Every year, the Museum's exhibitions, Space Shows, and Science Bulletins carry its scientific and educational work far beyond its walls to reach a growing global audience. All content distributed by the Museum is developed by its research scientists in conjunction with its renowned design, media, engineering, and exhibition teams.

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GLOBAL CONTENT DISSEMINATION FY 2009



KEY

COLOR KEY

● TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS

● SPACE SHOWS

● SCIENCE BULLETINS

■ THE DIGITAL UNIVERSE

AMNH's three-dimensional atlas of the observable universe

LINE WEIGHT

— 1 Show per location

— 2 Shows per location

— 3+ Shows per location

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In fiscal 2009, 23 Museum exhibitions and five Space Shows were presented in 67 venues in 20 countries. More than 40 venues featured the Museum's Science Bulletins in the U.S. and abroad.



AMNH CONVENES

In January 2009, the Museum celebrated the inaugural convocation of the Richard Gilder Graduate School.

As part of its mission to discover, interpret, and disseminate knowledge, the Museum brings together experts, policymakers, students, and the public each year to encourage connections and to foster dialogue about some of the most compelling issues of our time.

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The Mead Festival's opening-night film, the restored silent-era melodrama *In the Land of the Head Hunters*, was screened with live musical accompaniment.

THE 32ND ANNUAL MARGARET MEAD FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL

November 14–16, 2008

The longest-running showcase for documentary film in the United States, the annual Margaret Mead Film & Video Festival presented 26 remarkable installment. The festival opened with the screening of a newly restored print of *In the Land of the Head Hunters*, Edward S. Curtis's 1914 melodrama featuring the Kwakwaka'wakw Native American tribe, with live musical accompaniment by the Coast Orchestra, a Native American classical ensemble. Other selections include films on climate change, on challenges faced by children growing up in communities around the world, and on the legacy of pioneering anthropologist and Museum Curator Franz Boas. The Mead Festival's dynamic post-screening discussions offered audiences a chance to hear from filmmakers and experts.

The Mead Festival was made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; the Netherlands Consulate-General, New York; the Goethe-Institut, New York; Arts and Culture Network Program of the Netherlands Institute, Budapest; PocketVisions/London International Documentary Festival; The Bard Graduate Center; NYU Native Peoples Forum, and JPMorgan.

Exclusive corporate sponsor for *Water: H₂O=Life* and education is **JPMorgan Chase & Co.**

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AMNH CONVENES



The Richard Gilder Graduate School at the American Museum of Natural History celebrated its first convocation in January 2009.

RICHARD GILDER GRADUATE SCHOOL CONVOCATION

January 20, 2009

The Museum celebrated the inaugural convocation of the Richard Gilder Graduate School at the American Museum of Natural History with a ceremony in the Milstein Family Hall of Ocean Life. Honorary degrees were presented to Museum Trustee Richard Gilder, for whom the graduate school is named, and to Dr. Rita R. Colwell, former Director of the National Science Foundation. Museum Trustees and friends, as well as faculty, were in attendance. A reception was held in the Roosevelt Rotunda following the ceremony.



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The annual Isaac Asimov Memorial Debate brings the world's finest minds to the Museum to debate pressing questions on the frontier of scientific discovery.

2009 ISAAC ASIMOV MEMORIAL DEBATE

March 10, 2009

Each year, the Hayden Planetarium proudly hosts the Isaac Asimov Memorial Debate, a discussion series honoring the memory of the prolific and influential author. The 2009 debate, moderated by Frederick P. Rose, Director of the Hayden Planetarium, and deGrasse Tyson, invited a distinguished panel of experts to discuss recent discoveries and reclassifications of objects in our solar system. The panel included Gibor Basri, professor of Astronomy at the University of California, Berkeley; Jack Lissauer, space scientist at the NASA Ames Research Center; Sara Seager, Lillienand Professor of Planetary Science and Associate Professor of Physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Steven Soter, research associate in the Department of Physics, Division of Physical Sciences at the American Museum of Natural History; Alan Stern, planetary scientist and author; and Alan S. Sykes, director of the Planetary Science Institute.

The Isaac Asimov Memorial Debate is made possible through the generosity of the Asimov family and friends.

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Biodiversity Specialist Katherine Holmes shares a marine microorganism display with young visitors on World Water Day.

WORLD WATER DAY

March 19, 2009

At this second annual celebration, which was held in the Milstein Family Hall of Ocean Life, scientists, conservationists, and educators shared activities, displays, and information highlighting water conservation efforts with visitors. Hundreds of children enjoyed a “Treasures of the Sea” scavenger hunt developed by the Biodiversity and Conservation Outreach Program Manager Margaret Domroese, and visitors had the opportunity to meet live water-dwelling animals from the Alley Pond Environmental Center, the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary, and Audubon Center. The day culminated in a special performance by the Arm-of-the-Sea Theater.

Proudly sponsored by **The Paul and Irma Milstein Family**. The American Museum of Natural History gratefully acknowledges the **Tamarind Foundation** for its leadership support of *Water: H₂O=Life* and the Johns Hopkins University Center for a Livable Future for assistance. Exclusive corporate sponsor for *Water: H₂O=Life* and education is **JPMorgan Chase & Co.** *Water: H₂O=Life* is supported by a generous grant from the **National Science Foundation**. The support of the National Atmospheric Administration is appreciated. The Museum extends its gratitude to the Panta Rhea Foundation, Park Foundation, and Wege Foundation for their support of the exhibition's educational programming and materials.

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AMNH CONVENES



Dr. Eleanor J. Sterling, director of the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, welcomes symposium participants; Dr. Majid Ezzati, associate professor of International Health at the Harvard School of Public Health, was a keynote speaker.

CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION MILSTEIN SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

April 2–3, 2009

The CBC's Milstein Science Symposium "Exploring the Dynamic Relationship Between Health and the Environment" brought together experts and discuss links between health and environment as well as to highlight the progress made in science and policies on the subject. On April 2, a special symposium featured speakers including Peggy Shepard of WE ACT for Environmental Justice, a community-based organization; Dr. Peter Daszac; and Walter Mugdan, director of Remedial Response for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The discussion was moderated by National Public Radio's Julie Burstein of "Studio 360."

The symposium was sponsored by the Paul and Irma Milstein Family, with additional support from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), United States Department of Defense, and the Karen Katen Foundation.

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Cellist Yo-Yo Ma performed at the world premiere of Bruce Adolphe's "Self Comes to Mind."

WORLD PREMIERE OF BRUCE ADOLPHE'S "SELF COMES TO MIND," PERFORMED BY YO-YO MA

May 3, 2009

The Samuel J. and Ethel LeFrak Theater was the setting for the world premiere of a unique multimedia work born of an extraordinary collaboration between composer Bruce Adolphe, neuroscientist Antonio Damasio, and cellist Yo-Yo Ma. Adolphe's composition was performed alongside video imagery of Damasio's research and preceded with recorded texts distilling Dr. Damasio's research. A lively discussion moderated by author Jonah Lehrer followed.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

The 2009 Corporate Dinner honoring John J. Mack was held in the Milstein Hall of Ocean Life.

The Museum enjoyed a successful 2009 fiscal year, with special thanks to our Museum Trustees and event leadership.

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SPECIAL EVENTS



Allison and Roberto Mignone with their daughters at the 15th Annual Family Party.

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL FAMILY PARTY

October 21, 2008

More than 1,500 parents and children came together for this spectacular event. With help from its chairmen—Hilary Addington, Devon Briger, Diana DiMenna, Allison Mignone, Alexandra Lebenthal, Catherine Sidamon-Eristoff, and Laura Whitman—the event raised \$500,000. At this year's party, for the first time ever, guests were part of the "Museum Science Center." They interacted with live animals, measured skulls, and looked into a microscope to see the inside of an ivory tusk. The party engaged a spectrum of ages and learning levels. Once again, the Museum was grateful to collaborate with Scholastic on this event.

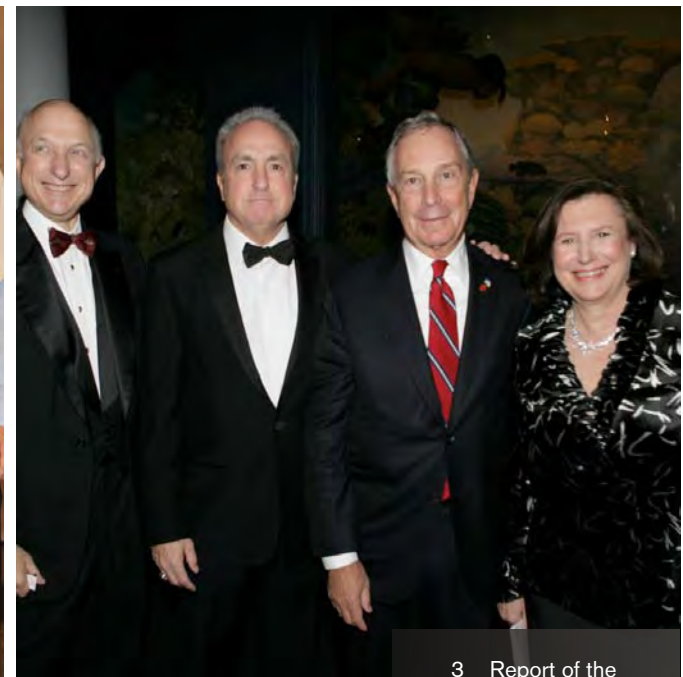


Trustee Theodore Roosevelt IV, President Ellen V. Futter, and Chairman Lewis W. Bernard at the Theodore Roosevelt Birthday Celebration.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S 150TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

October 27, 2008

To pay tribute to the memory of the 26th United States President and devoted conservationist Theodore Roosevelt, the Museum organized a celebration to mark his 150th birthday. President Ellen V. Futter, along with Chairman Lewis W. Bernard and Trustee Theodore Roosevelt IV, Theodore Roosevelt's great-grandson, cut the birthday cake and welcomed 60 New York City schoolchildren from P.S. 262.



Chairman Lewis W. Bernard, Lorne Michaels, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and President Ellen V. Futter at the 2009 Museum Gala.

MUSEUM GALA

November 20, 2008

Over 600 guests attended at the annual Museum Gala, which raised over \$2.8 million for the Museum. The evening's chairmen were Museum Trustees Jodie and John Eastman, Kathy and Tom Freston, Alice and Lorne Michaels, Laura and Robert Silberman, and Museum friends Lisa and Philip Falco and Brian Williams. The live auction was hosted by Brian Williams along with Jamie Niven of SunTrust and the evening concluded with an awe-inspiring performance by Jon Bon Jovi.

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Museum Dance Chairmen Fabiola Beracasa, Katie Lee, Arden Wohl, Claire Bernard, Tinsley Mortimer, and Milla Jovovich.

THE MUSEUM DANCE

March 26, 2009

More than 600 guests attended the Museum Dance sponsored by Dior Beauty and Judith Ripka. The chairmen of the event were Fabiola Beracasa, Claire Bernard, Katie Lee, Milla Jovovich, Tinsley Mortimer, and Arden Wohl, who were dressed in eco-friendly Stella McCartney eveningwear to underscore that this was the first Museum Dance designed to have minimal impact on the environment.



ELL Chairmen Kathryn Kempner, Catherine Sidamon-Eristoff, Suzanne Cochran, Veronique Pittman, Connie Spahn, and Mary Solomon.

NINETEENTH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL LECTURE LUNCHEON

April 23, 2009

Museum Trustees Mary Solomon, Connie Spahn, and Kathryn Kempner and Museum friends Suzanne Cochran, Veronique Pittman, and Catherine Sidamon-Eristoff chaired this year's luncheon and panel discussion on "Making the Right Choices: What It Really Means to Go Green." The discussion was moderated by Lynn Sherr, correspondent for ABC News' "20/20," and featured a panel of environmental experts and activists including James Gustave Speth, Sara Shallenberger Brown Professor in the Practice of Environmental Policy at Yale University; Alisa Gravitz, Executive Director of Green America; and Sloan Barnett, journalist and green activist. The luncheon raised nearly \$500,000.



John J. Mack, President Ellen V. Futter, and Chairman David

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CORPORATE DINNER

May 7, 2009

The Annual Corporate Dinner honored chairman and CEO of Morgan Stanley, for his distinguished service to science and education. The dinner raised over \$2.2 million to support Museum programs. Frank Bencack, Jr., Laurence Fink, Bob Iger, Jeffrey Immelt, Henry Kravis, Walter Shipley, and Jerry Speyer were chairmen for the dinner.

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SPECIAL EVENTS



Trustee Alan Rappaport, President Ellen V. Futter, and Chairman Lewis W. Bernard at the opening of the *Climate Change* exhibition.

CLIMATE CHANGE: THE THREAT TO LIFE AND A NEW ENERGY FUTURE

October 14, 2008

Nearly 600 guests gathered in the Theodore Roosevelt Rotunda for a reception to celebrate the opening of the Museum's major fall exhibition. In keeping with the spirit of sustainability and environmentally friendly ingenuity, guests had the opportunity to relax in a living room made entirely from recycled cardboard.

Climate Change is proudly presented by **Bank of America**.

Major support has also been provided **The Rockefeller Foundation**.

Additional support for *Climate Change* and related educational programming has been provided by Mary and David Solomon, the Betsy and Jesse Fink Foundation, the Linden Trust for Conservation, and the Red Crane Foundation.



Indricotherium cake at a reception for *Extreme Mammals*.

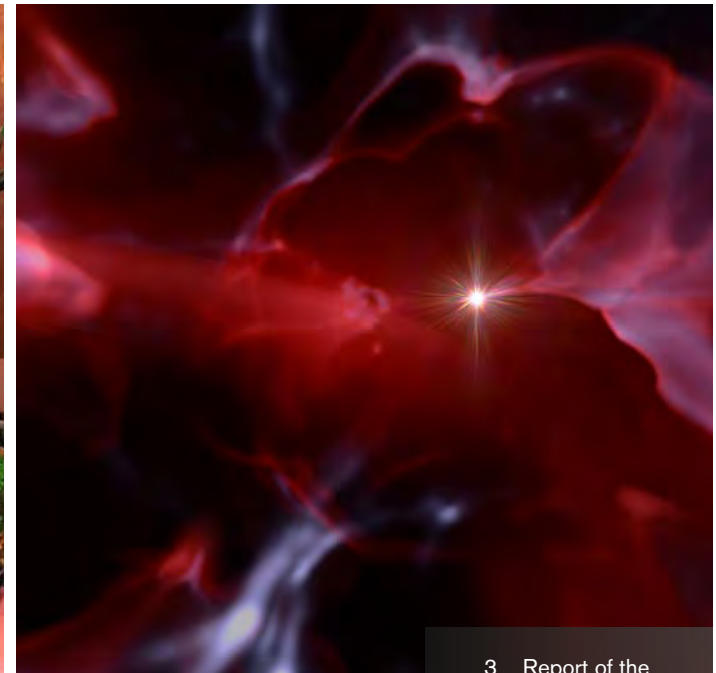
EXTREME MAMMALS: THE BIGGEST, SMALLEST, AND MOST AMAZING MAMMALS OF ALL TIME

May 19, 2009

Nearly 500 guests celebrated the new major temporary exhibition *Extreme Mammals: The Biggest, Smallest, and Most Amazing Mammals of All Time*. Guests were treated to a cake model of *Indricotherium*, the largest land mammal, from Buddy Valastro of Carlo's City Hall Bake Shop in Hoboken, New Jersey. The Learning Channel (TLC) filmed an episode of Buddy creating the cake for the exhibition opening on the hit show "Cake Boss."

Major funding for *Extreme Mammals* has been provided by the **Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Endowment Fund**.

Additional generous support for *Extreme Mammals* has been provided by the Bill and Ann Ziff Foundation and Harlan B. Levine, M.D. and Marshall P. Levine.



The *Journey to the Stars* opening was celebrated at a June 30 dinner with the Space Show, Museum Trustees, and scientists.

JOURNEY TO THE STARS

June 30, 2009

To celebrate the opening of the Museum's new Space Show *Journey to the Stars*, a reception for people was held in the Rose Center for Earth and Space. Guests had the opportunity to view the Space Show before it opened to the public. Following the reception, a dinner was held in the Astor Turret with Space Show and with Museum Trustees and scientists.

Produced by the American Museum of Natural History, and Phineas and Sandra Priest Rose Center for Earth and Space, Hayden Planetarium.

Journey to the Stars was created by the American Museum of Natural History, with the major support and partnership of NASA, Space and Astronautics Directorate, Heliophysics Division.

Made possible through the generous sponsorship of Earth and Space. And proudly sponsored by **Accenture**.

Supercomputing resources provided by the Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC) at The University of Texas at Austin through a project of the National Science Foundation.

The Museum gratefully acknowledges Celeste Sant'Ambrogio for their support of educational materials for *Journey to the Stars*.

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REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Visitors to the Rose Center for Earth and Space explore the Scales of the Universe exhibit. Despite difficult global economic conditions, attendance-related revenues declined only slightly in fiscal year 2009 from a peak in fiscal year 2008.

Fiscal year 2009 was a difficult year for the Museum from a financial perspective. During fiscal year 2009, the Museum's net assets decreased by \$146.5 million, from \$810.3 million to \$663.8 million. The major factor was a \$134.2 million decline in the market value of the Museum's endowment, from \$602.2 million to \$468.0 million, largely as a result of an unprecedented upheaval in global financial markets. Despite

difficult economic conditions, in part due to reduced operating expenditures and continued strength in revenue from paid admissions the Museum was able to realize a positive net unrestricted operating revenues of \$47 million for fiscal year 2009. This was due to transfers of designated contributions and other gifts to fund to plant and long-term investments and transfers to fund payment of debt service.

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REPORT OF THE TREASURER



Major plant projects in fiscal 2009 included the restoration of the historic 77th Street façade and the Grand Gallery.

UNRESTRICTED OPERATING RESULTS

During fiscal year 2009, the Museum's annual unrestricted operating revenues grew by \$0.9 million, to \$174.7 million. Attendance-related revenues, which reached a peak of \$40.2 million in fiscal year 2008, declined only slightly in fiscal year 2009, to \$39.6 million, despite difficult global economic conditions.

The Museum continued to receive substantial operating and programmatic backing from Trustees, other individuals, foundations, and corporations, as well as from the City of New York, New York State, and the Federal government. Contributions and grants used to fund Museum operations, including a portion of net assets released from restrictions, totaled \$60.6 million during fiscal year 2009. Included in this total is unrestricted operating support from the City of New York, including support for certain energy and pension expenses, totaling \$18.7 million. The City also provided substantial capital support to the Museum (see "Capital Expenditures" below).

Support for annual operations from the Museum's endowment—which is calculated by taking five percent of the average of 12 quarterly market values, ending March 31 prior to the succeeding fiscal year—fluctuates according to market conditions. During fiscal year 2009, endowment support for Museum operations totaled \$27.9 million including a portion of net assets released from restriction.

While annual Unrestricted Operating Revenues grew by \$0.9 million during fiscal year 2009, annual Unrestricted Operating Expenses, together with transfers to fund payment of debt service and other transfers to plant and long-term investments, grew by \$0.9 million, from \$173.7 million to \$174.6 million, resulting in positive net unrestricted operating revenues during fiscal year 2009 of \$47,528.

UNRESTRICTED OPERATING REVENUES AND EXPENSES FISCAL YEAR 2009

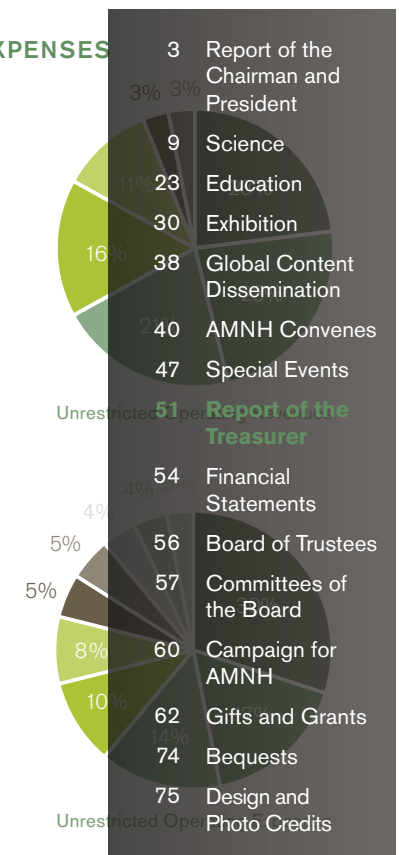
Revenues

- 23% Contributions and grants*
- 23% Visitor contributions and admissions
- 21% Auxiliary activities
- 16% Endowment and related funds*
- 11% The City of New York
- 3% Membership
- 3% Miscellaneous revenue and other fees

Expenses

- 30% Scientific research, education, and exhibition
- 17% Guardianship, maintenance, and operating costs
- 14% Cost of goods sold and other expenses of auxiliary activities
- 10% General and administrative
- 8% Transfers to fund payment of debt service
- 5% Visitor services
- 5% Fundraising and membership
- 4% Communications
- 4% Other transfers
- 3% Information technology

*Includes a portion of net assets released from restrictions



REPORT OF THE TREASURER

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

The Museum continued to fund priority capital improvement projects to meet infrastructure and security needs in fiscal year 2009, as well as exhibition hall renovations and new scientific facilities. The \$26.4 million invested by the Museum in its physical plant concentrated on such major projects as the restorations of the 77th Street façade and the Grand Gallery.

As in the past, the Museum funded most of its capital improvements from a variety of sources, including the City of New York, private donations, and the Museum's endowment.

The Museum recognized a non-cash depreciation expense of \$22.6 million during fiscal year 2009. Net of depreciation expense, the value of the Museum's physical plant grew by \$3.8 million, from \$454.0 million to \$457.8 million.

DEBT AND OTHER LIABILITIES

The Museum's liabilities increased by \$12.8 million during fiscal year 2009, from \$374.7 million to \$387.5 million. Major elements included a \$9.7 million increase in the market value of the Museum's interest rate swap obligations (as a result of lower long-term interest rates), a \$3.6 million increase in short-term borrowing for capital projects, and a \$2.7 million increase in the Museum's accrued post-retirement and other benefits. The amount of the Museum's long-term debt decreased by \$1.1 million, from \$273.3 million to \$272.2 million.

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

In what was a tumultuous year in worldwide financial markets, the return on the Museum's endowment during fiscal year 2009 was -18.9 percent. During the fiscal year, the Museum received cash gifts and pledge payments to the endowment totaling \$12.4 million and made planned withdrawals for Museum operations and capital investment totaling \$32.6 million. As a result, the market value of the Museum's endowment decreased by \$134.2 million during fiscal year 2009, to \$468 million.

The Museum's endowment asset allocation is intended both to drive investment return and to provide protection in volatile markets. The Museum's endowment funds are invested by leading investment managers in diversified equity and fixed income securities and are overseen by the Museum's Investment Committee. During fiscal year 2009, with extremely volatile equity markets and continued problems in the credit markets, the Museum increased its allocation to absolute return/hedge funds from 27 percent at the end of fiscal year 2008 to 36 percent and further reduced its allocation to marketable equities from 42

percent to 32 percent. The Museum also temporarily reduced its allocation to marketable fixed income from eight percent to zero percent, pending reassignment of its fixed income account to new managers. As a result, the percentage held in cash at the end of fiscal year 2009 increased from seven percent at the end of fiscal year 2008 to 16 percent. As of June 30, 2009, the Museum's endowment was invested as follows:

Marketable Equities	
Domestic equities	14%
International equities	15%
Emerging markets equities	2%
Global equities	1%
Total marketable equities	32%
Absolute return/hedge funds	36%
Marketable fixed income	0%*
Marketable real assets	3%
Private investment partnerships	3%
Cash equivalents	16%
Total	100%

*Pending reallocation of a portion of cash (\$60 million) to fixed income securities.

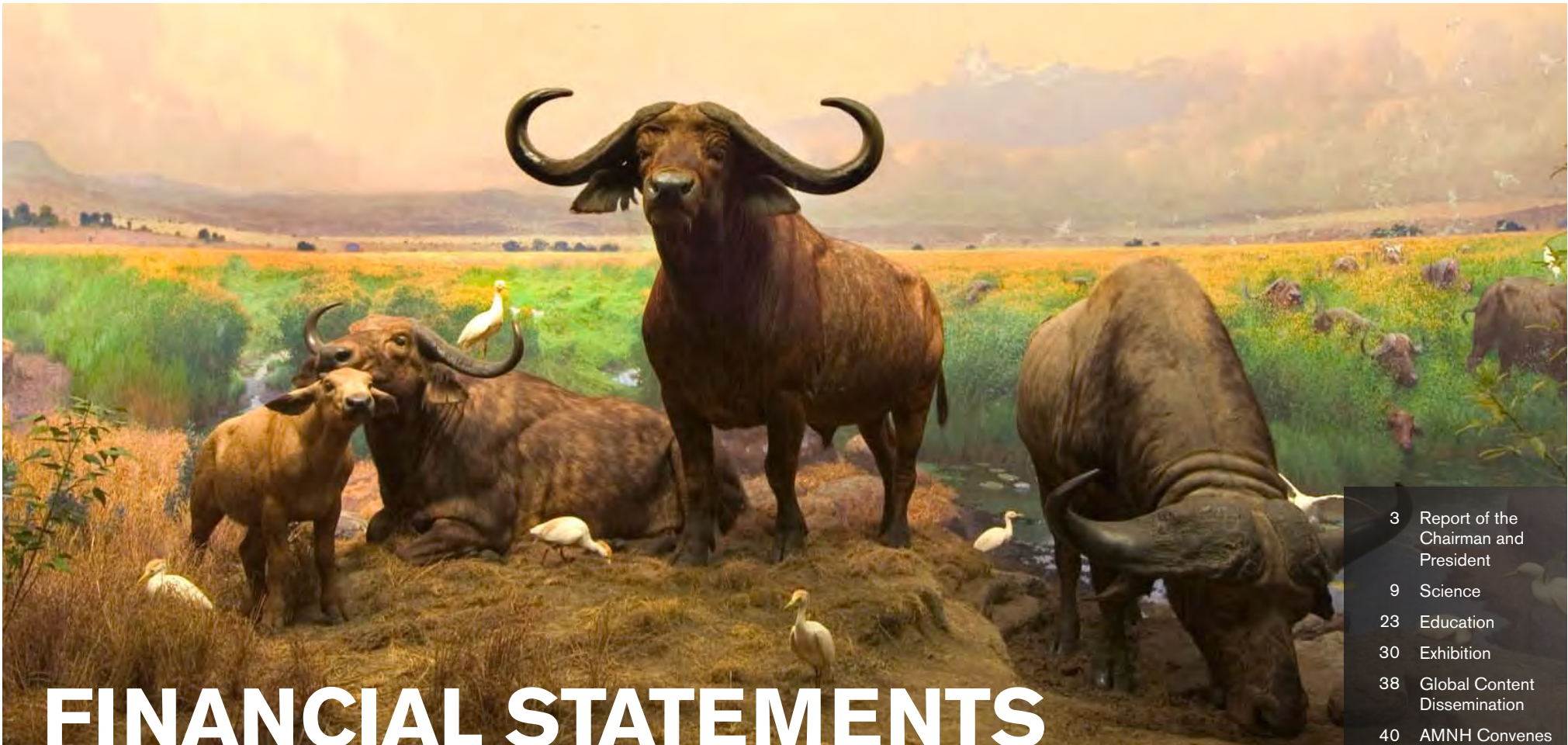
THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRANTS

Since embarking on its \$850 million fundraising campaign, The New Challenge: Meeting the Demands of Science and Society, on July 1, 2000, the Museum has benefited greatly from the generosity of its private and public supporters. In 2009, the Museum raised a total of \$48.6 million in support of its capital improvements, and endowment—a major endorsement of the scientific importance and social impact of the Museum's work in science, education, and exhibition. As a result, the Museum was able to successfully complete The New Challenge campaign a year earlier than planned.

Charles H. Mott

Treasurer

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The African Buffalo diorama in the Akeley Hall of African Mammals was prepared in 1934.

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CONDENSED SUMMARY OF CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets	FY 2009	FY 2008	Net Assets	FY 2009
Cash and other operating assets	\$ 70,690,017	\$ 56,787,784	Unrestricted	\$ 371,811,451
Contributions and grants receivable, net	46,873,219	63,828,366	Temporarily restricted	150,624,901
Long-term investments, at fair value	475,956,278	610,306,126	Permanently restricted	141,372,587
Plant and equipment, net	457,823,158	454,040,007	Total net assets	\$ 663, 808, 939
Total assets	\$ 1,051,342,672	\$ 1,184,962,283	Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 1,051,342,672
Liabilities				
Accounts payable and other liabilities	\$ 115,298,733	\$ 101,401,155		
Loan from the Trust for Cultural Resources	272,235,000	273,315,000		
Total liabilities	\$ 387,533,733	\$ 374,716,155		

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

UNRESTRICTED

			Non-Operating Revenue, Support, and Expenses		FY 2009	FY 2008
Operating revenue and support			Revenue and support for plant			
Investment return designated for operations	\$	20,124,704	\$	16,711,257	Contributions, grants, and miscellaneous income	\$ 2,466,966 \$ 1,743,393
Contributions and grants		25,034,922		26,664,760	Capital support from the City of New York	14,217,283 29,412,870
Operating support from the City of New York		18,657,314		17,760,568	Net assets released from restrictions	850,000 16,434,299
Visitors contributions and admissions		39,623,484		40,192,114	Transfer from long-term investments and operations to plant	17,919,672 5,948,449
Membership fees		5,568,133		6,474,890	Net gain (loss) on bond refinancing and other activities	840,546 (2,987,541)
Auxiliary activities		36,378,080		37,427,448		
Miscellaneous fees and other revenue		4,581,618		4,295,930		
Net assets released from restrictions		24,700,433		24,205,406		
Total operating revenue and support	\$	174,668,688	\$	173,732,373	Plant expenses	
Operating expenses					Interest expense not capitalized	\$ 12,933,472 \$ 14,656,480
Scientific research	\$	33,868,745	\$	32,633,850	Change in value of interest rate swaps	9,689,460 12,016,873
Education		12,397,615		12,354,490	Depreciation and amortization	22,583,795 22,948,585
Exhibitions		6,906,830		5,713,282	Plant expenses not capitalized	248,382 307,303
Membership		2,007,991		1,975,776		
Visitor services		9,355,762		7,099,788		
Auxiliary activities		24,262,002		25,357,573		
General and administrative		17,581,443		19,013,225		
Fundraising		5,862,624		5,344,263		
Communications		6,286,766		4,609,555		
Information technology		5,381,342		5,005,549		
Guardianship, maintenance, and operating costs		30,316,368		27,916,128		
Total operating expenses	\$	154,227,488	\$	147,023,479		
Designated contributions and transfers to plant and long-term investment		20,393,672		26,681,479		
Operating revenue and support in excess of (less than) operating expenses, designated contributions, and transfers						
	\$	47,528	\$	27,415		
					Long-term investments and other	
					Contributions and bequests	\$ 1,627,019 51 Report of the Treasurer
					Investment loss in excess of amounts designated for operations	(86,507,168) 54 Financial Statements (339,638)
					Contributions re-designated by donor	(71,641) 56 Board of Trustees (339,638)
					Net assets released from restrictions	6,460,637 57 Committees of the Board 28,738,649
					Transfers from plant and operations to long-term investments and other, net	2,474,000 60 Campaign for AMNH 20,733,030
					Effect of adoption of FASB Statement No. 158 measurement and recognition provisions	62 Gifts and Grants 881,053
					Other pension-related charges	525,402 62 Gifts and Grants 331,374
					Changes in net assets	\$ (84,604,865) 74 Bequests 167
						75 Design and Photo Credits



Attendance has soared to historic highs at the Museum, which welcomed nearly 4 million visitors in fiscal 2009.

As of June 30, 2009

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 Ellen V. Futter, President
 Roger C. Altman, Vice Chairman
 Steven A. Denning, Vice Chairman
 Fiona Druckenmiller, Vice Chairman
 Louis V. Gerstner, Jr., Vice Chairman
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 Speaker, the Council of the City of New York
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 President of the Borough of Manhattan
 Hon. Adrian Benepe,
 Commissioner, Department of Parks and
 Recreation
 Hon. Kate D. Levin,
 Commissioner, Department of Cultural Affairs
 Hon. Joel I. Klein,
 Chancellor, New York City Department of Education

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 Hughlyn F. Fierce
 Emily H. Fisher
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 Arthur Gray, Jr.*
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 David A. Hamburg

Richard A. Jalkut		
Harry P. Kamen		
Deborah C. Kessler		
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*Deceased



COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

The historic 77th Street façade has been hailed as one of the finest examples of Romanesque Revival architecture in New York City.

As of June 30, 2009

COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Audit

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 Lewis W. Bernard
 Nancy B. Fessenden
 Ellen V. Futter
 Charles H. Mott
 Richard L. Revesz
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 Roger C. Altman
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 Nancy B. Fessenden
 Ellen V. Futter
 Frederick A. Klingenstein
 Edwin H. Morgens
 Theodore Roosevelt IV

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 Ellen V. Futter
 Richard E. Jaffe
 Irma Milstein
 Valerie S. Peltier

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 Lewis W. Bernard
 Nancy B. Fessenden
 Ellen V. Futter
 Sibyl R. Golden
 Helene L. Kaplan
 Richard L. Revesz
 Theodore Roosevelt IV

Committee on External Relations

John Eastman, Chairman
 Lewis W. Bernard
 Tom Freston
 Ellen V. Futter
 Shelly B. Lazarus
 Richard Robinson

Committee on Trustees and Governance

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 Steven A. Denning
 John L. Eastman
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 Victor F. Ganz
 Helene L. Kaplan
 Mary Solomon

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 Ellen V. Futter
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 Helene L. Kaplan
 Ilene Sackler Lefcourt
 Irma Milstein
 Charles E. Phillips, Jr.
 Richard Robinson
 Ralph L. Schlosstein
 Anne Sidamon-Eristoff
 Mary Solomon
 Rosalind P. Walter
 Judy H. Weston

Executive

Lewis W. Bernard, Chairman
 Roger C. Altman
 Tom Brokaw
 Steven A. Denning
 Fiona Druckenmiller
 John L. Eastman
 Nancy B. Fessenden

Ellen V. Futter
 Louis V. Gerstner, Jr.
 David S. Gottesman
 Helene L. Kaplan

Frederick A. Klingenstein
 Linda R. Macaulay
 Roberto A. Mignone
 Irma Milstein
 Edwin H. Morgens
 Charles H. Mott
 Richard D. Parsons
 Theodore Roosevelt IV
 Jonathan F. P. Rose
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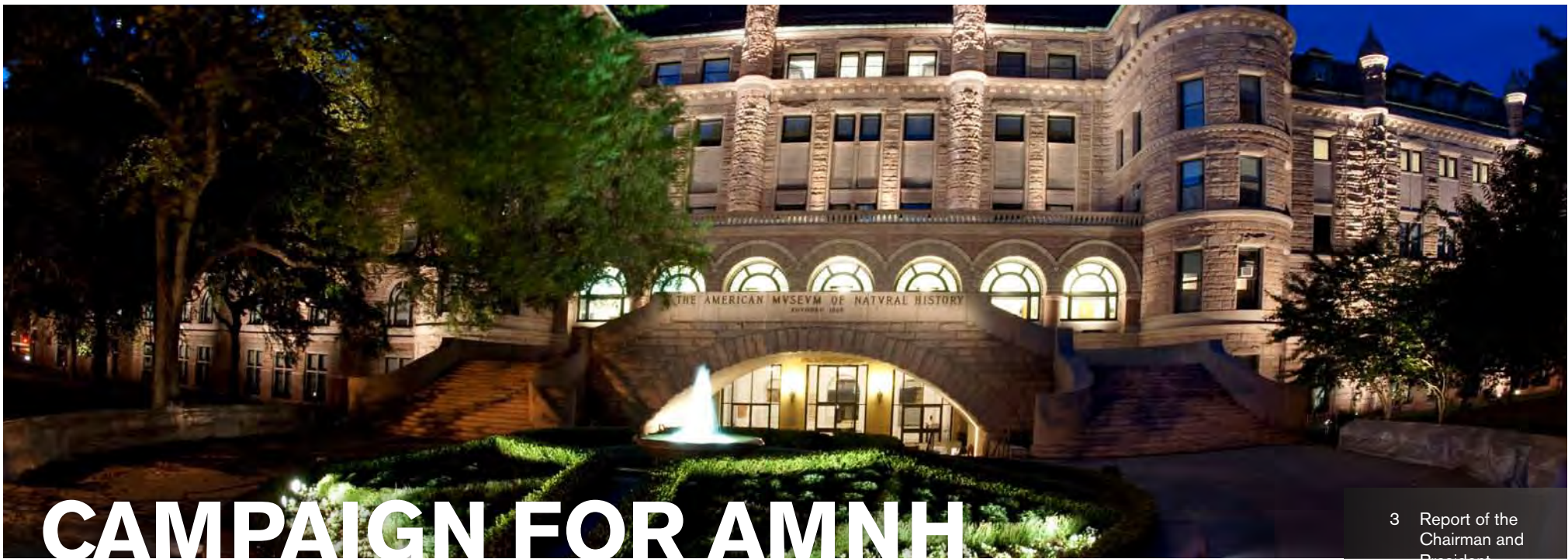
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CAMPAIGN FOR AMNH

The New Challenge: Meeting the Demands of Science and Society campaign garnered support for key capital projects, including the extensive restoration of the iconic 77th Street façade and the addition of the Arthur Ross Plaza.

THE NEW CHALLENGE: MEETING THE DEMANDS OF SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

For more than 140 years, the American Museum of Natural History has been a leading force in discovering and disseminating knowledge about the natural world and human culture. The Museum's scientific faculty, its laboratories and collections, its educational programs, and its exhibitions continue to be a robust intellectual engine that advances significant research and promotes education to meet society's evolving needs.

To build on this tradition of excellence, in 2000 the Museum launched a major fundraising campaign, The New Challenge: Meeting the Demands of Science and Society. The campaign aimed to secure the Museum financially, with a special focus on strengthening the endowment. We're proud to announce that, as of June 30, 2009, we have surpassed the goal of \$850 million one year ahead of schedule. Notably, the campaign raised more than \$245 million for the endowment, which is vital to maintaining the Museum's financial equilibrium as we continue to carry out the highest-caliber original research and to share scientific knowledge with the public. Members of the Museum's Board of Trustees provided more than one-third of the total funds raised, including \$160 million for the endowment, in a magnificent expression of support for all that the campaign aimed to accomplish.

Many ambitious goals have already become momentous achievements. Since the launch of The New Challenge campaign, the Museum has significantly expanded its capacity to support scientific research and to increase scientific literacy. With the establishment of the Richard and Lucille Busch School, the Museum became the first and only museum in the Western Hemisphere to grant Ph.D. degrees, greatly bolstering its graduate training in science. The creation of the Center for Comparative Genomics increased the Museum's research capabilities, including the hiring of postdoctoral fellows and graduate students. The newly established Gottesman Center for Teaching and Learning strengthened the Museum's leadership in developing and providing programs to enhance school curricula, to train teachers, and to broadly encourage science education.

The campaign has also garnered support for key capital projects, including the renovation of the Anne and Bernard Spitzer Hall of Human Origins, the 77th Street façade and the Arthur Ross Plaza, and the Grand Gallery.

The success of our campaign would not have been possible without the partnership and generosity of individuals, foundations, and corporations, as well as government institutions. We are grateful for this enthusiastic support, which has helped to ensure the Museum's financial stability and will continue to fuel our mission to carry out cutting-edge research, deepen scientific scholarship, and serve as a premier educational institution to a growing global audience.

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Summer campers explore the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Hall of the Universe.

“One of the best museums of science and natural history in the world. The halls and dioramas are fantastic, and the planetarium...outta this world!”

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The Polar Rink, the Museum's state-of-the-art skating rink made from recyclable synthetic surface and presented in conjunction with the major exhibition *Climate Change*, remained open on the Arthur Ross Terrace through March 2009.

JULY 1, 2008, THROUGH
JUNE 30, 2009

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- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- National Endowment for the Humanities
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