

The *flora*, FAUNA, & FOSSIL Flash

The Volunteer Newsletter of the Florida Museum of Natural History • SPRING 2012

Junior Volunteer Program Benefits Youth and the Museum

by Volunteer Program Staff



Jv Niyah Bilal-Hayes shares her knowledge of wildlife at a Discovery Cart.



Maria McNiece, Prerak Patel, Chan Bhosale and Andrew Brodsky take a quick break from their JV duties in the "Wild Music" exhibit.

If you visited the Museum during the summer, you probably noticed a large number of young people in orange T-shirts working in various departments. One hundred and twenty four students were selected from applicants representing an array of area middle, high and home schools to become part of the Museum's annual Junior Volunteer team. The well-respected and popular program allowed young members of our community to earn volunteer service hours, although many of the students would agree that the on-the-job experience they received was just as important.

Junior Volunteers had an assortment of duties that benefitted the Museum. Participants worked in the Butterfly Rainforest or the Discovery Room, shared Discovery Cart topics or "Wild Music" information with visitors, and assisted teachers with summer camps. Two new positions were also created last summer. Plant Sale assistants helped customers with their plant purchases, and Curatorial Assistants in Lepidoptera prepared and pinned specimens for future study. In addition to their regular service, some Junior

Volunteers also chose to help with various evening events at the Museum.

To celebrate their service, many of the Museum staff worked together to hold a Junior Volunteer appreciation party on August 12. Planned by Volunteer Program interns Leslyanne Drake and Amber Hodges, the event provided an evening for the JVs and their families to enjoy food, fun and fellowship. The annual Junior Volunteer Olympics was enjoyed for its team competitions, and Leslyanne and Amber wrapped up the evening with an awards recognition for Junior Volunteers who received outstanding evaluations from supervisors and/or served more than 100 hours during the past year.

A huge thanks goes to our adult volunteer staff who took the time to mentor many of the junior volunteers during the summer. Your enthusiasm and experience really made a difference in their young lives!

**Welcome
New
Volunteers
Fall 2011**

Sarah Allen
Bobbie Behm
Dorothy Burnham
Faun Carlson
Connie Casey
Diane Childs
Becky Deasey
Kelly Deuerling
Jerry Donaldson
Brendan Ebersole
Carmen Elenberger
Angel Estrada
Cecelia Everist
Jaimes Foster
Jane Fowler
Patricia Gilliland
Nancy Griffin
Charles Hall
Austin Hendy
Forrest Kahler
Amy Koester
Davys Lopez
Patricia Mair
Justine McCoy
Pingchien Neo
Taylor Remley
Nancy Ryan
Ana Silva
Jennifer Torres
Helen Whitley
Casey Wooster
Neza Xiuhtecutli
William Yang
Amanda Yribarren

Volunteering at the Florida Museum...

Greetings from the Coordinator

Dear Volunteers,
Hello! I am Amy, your new Volunteer Coordinator. I am excited to be working at the Florida Museum of Natural History. As a born and raised Gainesville girl and Gator fan, I grew up going to the Museum when the public exhibits were still located at Dickinson Hall. I remember the anticipation of walking through the cave and the excitement of discovering new items in the collection drawers. I'm looking forward to working at the Museum and helping to bring wonder and joy to visitors both young and old.

After attending Gainesville High School, I started my college career at Santa Fe and then moved on to the University of Florida. I received my B.S. from the College of Agriculture in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, with a minor in Zoology. I went on to receive my Master's in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences.

I worked for many years for the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey conducting freshwater fish surveys throughout the southeastern United States. I realized my desire to pass on my love of science and started working as an environmental educator. I've been an environmental educator for 4-H, the New Mexico Museum of Natural History, and Suffolk Wildlife Trust in the UK.

Most recently I was the Youth Sports and Fitness Coordinator for Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan. While this position took me away from science, it gave me the opportunity to work with over 350 volunteers and helped me realize how critical they are to an organization.



Dear Volunteers,
I'll miss you all and wish you many new adventures volunteering at the Museum. It's a rewarding place to volunteer in the midst of so much knowledge, history, unique specimens and exhibits and special volunteers, staff and visitors. It has been a privilege to work together to share science and history with researchers, students, the general public and many eager children and bring them into the wonder of this place and the objects it holds.

You are an integral part of the impact the Museum has on all of its audiences and your donation of time, energy and talent is crucial to its continued success. Thank you for investing yourself here when you could be doing so many other things with your time – we appreciate your service.

Best wishes, Julie Crosby

Julie began working at Santa Fe College on June 1, 2011 as the full-time coordinator of the "UF at Santa Fe" Center. Her main duties are to recruit and advise students in five online degree programs offered by UF and SFC. She invites everyone to "like" "UF at SF Center" on Facebook.



Amy Hester, FLMNH Volunteer Coordinator

I believe that this position will be a great way for me to blend my loves of science and people. I look forward to working with you to fulfill the Museum's mission of understanding, preserving and interpreting biological diversity and cultural heritage. While I have met many of you at the recent volunteer orientation and docent trainings, I hope to meet more of you in the near future. Feel free to stop by and say hi or come meet me at the Volunteer Recognition Reception on April 13th (more details will be emailed out). Thank you for volunteering your time and sharing your experience.

Sincerely, Amy Hester
Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteer Recognition Reception

April 13,
5:30 to
7:30 p.m.

Powell
Hall



JV Sydney Mitchell interprets a fossil specimen to a young visitor.



JOIN
the
MUSEUM!

CALL
(352) 273-2047

STAFF PROFILE:

Darcie MacMahon

By Kelly Schindler, former intern

“Bridging the gap between art and science” is what Assistant Director for Exhibits Darcie MacMahon is all about. Darcie began working for the Museum 21 years ago, when she was hired to help produce an archaeology exhibit on Fort Mose. With a background in archaeology and a resume that includes field work at sites like the home of author Nathaniel Hawthorne, Darcie’s passion was “conveying [her] research” to the public. This passion led her to the position she holds at the Museum today.

After working on the Fort Mose exhibit, she helped interpret information for other exhibits and spent some time in collections, helping to “rehab” the department with proper storage techniques. Her current position allows her to bridge the gap between art and science, something she finds challenging and interesting, as “art and science don’t always speak the same language.”

VOLUNTEER PROFILE:

Rosie Kereston

By Leslyanne Drake, former intern and current docent

Since sixth grade, sixteen year old Rosie Kereston has committed her summers to serving the Museum as a Junior Volunteer. “I had always loved visiting the museum as a child,” she says, “so I felt that dedicating my time to working there would be very worthwhile and fun.” Rosie also knew that she would later need volunteer experience for college scholarships, but she wanted to volunteer someplace she loved. The Museum was the perfect fit. “Going back to the museum is something I look forward to at the start of every summer.”

Rosie has spent five summers as a Junior Volunteer, serving in a variety of capacities. From working with children in the Discovery Room, to engaging visitors at the Discovery Carts, Rosie takes on every task with intelligence and enthusiasm. “Interacting with people of all ages and sharing my knowledge with them are two of my favorite things,” She said. This is why Rosie’s favorite job at the museum is being an interpreter in the Butterfly Rainforest. She loves talking with visitors in the rainforest and learning about different species of butterflies. This summer, Rosie was excited for the opportunity to volunteer in the McGuire Center collections because it provided her with hands-on experience in working with Lepidoptera.



Darcie MacMahon, Assistant Director of Exhibits

In her spare time, Darcie enjoys gardening, cooking and teaching tai chi downtown. She also enjoys bike riding at Paynes Prairie and often bikes to work. Another favorite thing about her position is the opportunity to interface with the Museum’s volunteers, saying that “they really enhance the Museum experience.”



JV Rosie Kereston dressed as a “pollinator” during ButterflyFest 2011. Photo by Jeff Gage

Recently, Rosie’s passion and hard work have enabled her to earn a volunteer position in the McGuire Center laboratory where she will assist a team of scientists in analyzing Lepidoptera genetics. Rosie is currently a Junior in high school, and she plans to attend college after graduation. Although she has not decided what she wants to study, Rosie’s work at the Museum has sparked her interest in biology and chemistry. “Without question,” she said, “volunteering at the Museum has already impacted my earliest career decisions.” Just as Rosie benefited from volunteering, the Museum prospered because of the work of talented and dedicated volunteers like Rosie.



Volunteers recognized for 100 hours or more of service

Please congratulate the following volunteers who reached multiples of 100 hours of service during the fourth quarter of 2011(10/1/11 thru 12/31/11). Each volunteer received four coupons for free

entrance into a fee-based exhibit for every 100 hours of service. The total number of hours (rounded) served since April 1, 2005, is listed in parentheses. Junior Volunteers are indicated by 'JV'.

4th quarter 2011

John Beaman (800)	Lesleyanne Drake (300)
Genell Bond (100)	George Edwards (1100)
Linda Bradley (100)	Lee Edwards (200)
Valerie Bray (100)	William Eschmeyer (600)
Kaitlin Buickel (200)	Barbara Fennelly (300)
Martha Cade (1700)	Gabriella Foster (JV) (100)
Lissa Campbell (200)	Linda Goshorn (500)
Sharon Castner (400)	Bob Gwin (1400)
Jeanne Chamberlin (200)	Charles Hall (300)
Janet Cornelius (1600)	Russell Henderson (600)
	Katherine Hendy (100)

Jerry Hessels (900)
Teena Jain (200)
Danica Kemper (JV) (200)
Ronald Lange (600)
Jennifer Li (JV) (100)
Nicholas Lutz (JV) (100)
Marilyn Martin (800)
Lorraine McDowell (1000)
Pedro Mendez (300)
Barbara Ornstein (700)
Annette Perry (600)

Dylan Petty (JV) (100)
Paul Roth (600)
Pat Smart (400)
Margaret Stuebe (400)
Sharon Thomas (100)
Joyce Thompson (300)
Joyce Trunk (100)
Erin van Gorkom (JV) (100)
Minjia Zhong (100)

Happy Birthday!

JANUARY

1 Teena Jain
5 Natalya Morgan
6 Ross Whetstone
7 Bob Gwin
8 Sandy Ohanian
9 April Geiger
10 Mary Lou Merkner
12 Irma Riley
15 Anthony Gray
15 Amy Koester
16 Risa Patarasuk
16 Barbara Fennelly
17 Greg Guyan
18 Martha Cade
24 Ron Bertie
25 Neil White
26 Cindy Roll

26 Nancy Ryan
28 Claudia Upegui
29 Verda Naylor
29 Katherine Wilson

FEBRUARY

1 Harvert Martinez
2 Mary Ranade
4 Sue Paper
5 Garrett Alvar
5 Jose Padilla
7 Amanda Farrell
7 Richard Walker
11 William Eschmeyer
12 Ruth Sherwood
13 Maureen Nesmith
13 Yong Shan
14 Emily Warchol
18 Carolyn Caracausa
19 Gloria Comstock

21 Mary Fischer
21 Oluwatoyin Ige
21 Julia Uthmeier
23 Jaimes Foster
27 Marti Berger
27 Zachary Randall
28 Ann Tison

MARCH

2 David Karpf
2 Amber Forrest
2 Amanda Yribarren
3 Laura Torres
3 Erin Kerfoot
4 Richard Roll
4 Alexandra DiCairano
5 Suzanne Conner
6 Pat Smart
6 Martha Kendall
6 Paige Carpenter

6 Nancy Montgomery
6 Pingchien Neo
6 Bobbie Behm
7 Linda Goshorn
7 Austin Hendy
8 Susan Sonsini
9 Danielle Atton
11 Rebecca Thompson
18 Helen Kiefer
19 Linda Bradley
20 Russell Henderson
22 Lauren O'Neill
22 Frank Carlile
22 Kaitlin Buickel
24 Paul Roth
25 Bishara-David Nassif
26 Catherine Carr
26 Kate Martin
30 Clara Darr

APRIL

1 Erin Van Gorkom
3 Virginia Martinez
6 Melissa Cook
8 Rubye Sullivan
11 Valerie Bray
11 John Cherry
14 Lorraine McDowell
18 Debra Castle
18 Helen Whitley
18 Jean Smith
20 Faun Carlson
20 Holly Cherry
22 LaTwan Brown
22 Nicki Lane
24 Justine McCoy
24 Jennifer Torres
26 Carmen Elenberger
27 Diane Perdomo

Museum Contact Information

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Volunteer Program, Amy Hester, 352-273-2055,
ahester@flmnh.ufl.edu

Public Programs, Catherine Carey, 352-273-2064

School Programs, Dianne Behringer, 352-273-2036

McGuire Center for Lepidoptera & Biodiversity, 352-392-5894

Research & Collections (Dickinson Hall)..... 352-392-1721

Mark Your Calendar!

March 9 – JV Applications Available

March 19 – Wingding!

Continuing education for
Butterfly Rainforest volunteers

April 11 – JV Applications Due

**April 13 – Volunteer Recognition Reception,
5:30-7:30 p.m. , Powell Hall**

April 18 – New Volunteer Orientation