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ANNUAL REPORT 1999 - 2000

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FLORIDA

MUSEUM

OF

NATURAL

HISTORY



*The Florida Museum of
Natural History is
Florida's state museum
of natural history,
dedicated to
understanding and
preserving biological
diversity and cultural
heritage.*

FROM OUR DIRECTOR

As the new millennium dawns, museums across the nation report record attendance and popularity. America's 15,000 museums receive approximately 2.3 million visits each day, or about 865 million visits per year. In Florida, home to some 400 museums, the same trend prevails.

Florida currently ranks among the most populous and rapidly growing states in the nation, and the Florida Museum of Natural History is on a similar trajectory. With more than 25 million specimens and objects in its permanent collections, the Florida Museum is the largest collection-based natural history museum in the Southeast and one of the premier natural history museums in the nation.

During 1999, more than 116,000 people visited the Florida Museum of Natural History's new education and exhibition center, Powell Hall, located in the cultural plaza on the western edge of the UF campus. Included in this number are 35,000 K-12 students participating in museum educational programs. Another quarter million individuals viewed traveling exhibits created by museum staff and artisans.

As the Florida Museum of Natural History enters the 21st century, however, it is interesting to note that an even greater number of visitors come to the museum through cyberspace. The museum's expanding web site recorded 60 million hits last year, including nearly 2.5 million user sessions averaging 12 minutes each.

Many of our visitors are surprised to learn that the Florida Museum of Natural History is over 100 years old, tracing its origin back to the latter part of the 19th century. In 1917 the Florida Legislature designated it the state's official natural history museum. Over the ensuing 83 years, the museum's growth and development have mirrored that of the state itself.

Today the museum is more popular than ever. And, we predict that visitation will increase substantially after the permanent exhibitions at Powell Hall are completed, when the museum's traveling exhibit program is expanded, and with planned enhancements to our web site. But increasing visitation is only one indication of success.

Our curators and professional staff are engaged in a record number of research projects throughout the state and the world. Current funding for these projects includes the largest external research grants ever awarded to museum investigators. Scholarly publications are at an all-time high, as is the use of our research collections by scientists from around the world. The enduring commitment of the museum to research, collections and scholarship is evidenced by the continuing success and productivity of these academic efforts, as well as by recent American Association of Museums re-accreditation for the museum.

I believe that the Florida Museum of Natural History's continuing success is directly related to its ability to remain true to its mission. In pursuing this mission, the museum engages in a spectrum of activities: from fieldwork, to building scientific collections, to original research and publication, to teaching, public education and exhibitions. Happily, each of these endeavors remains dynamic and strong.

The Florida Museum of Natural History enters the 21st century committed to creating new scientific knowledge, promoting an understanding of the world around us, and preserving our natural and cultural heritage—timeless values for a timeless institution.



Douglass S. Jones

EXHIBITS & PUBLIC



The Northwest Florida exhibit hall opened in August.

More than 116, 000 people visited the museum during 1999, with an estimated 124,000 expected for 2000.

Our visitors come from throughout Florida, the United States and the world. About one-half of all visitors come for organized activities, including K-12 programs, lectures and other special events. The other half views the exhibits in an informal, non-structured setting.



CD PROGRAMS

Permanent Exhibits

Considerable progress in the development of three permanent exhibits at Powell Hall was made during the past year.

Northwest Florida: Waterways and Wildlife

Powell Hall's first permanent exhibit hall, directed by museum scientist Richard Franz, was completed and opened to the public in August. This 4,000-square-foot exhibit hall traces water as it flows from a cave-hammock and pitcher plant bog, to the Appalachianicola River and a coastal-marsh-dune setting.

The exhibit has spectacular murals, dioramas, and three dozen interpretive panels and artifacts from museum collections representing geology, paleontology, botany and archaeology. In addition to water, the exhibit's underlying theme is the rich biodiversity found in Northwest Florida and the threat of human activities that imperil native species.

This exhibit was designed with the help of Synergy Design Group of Tallahassee. All of the content, as well as most of the construction, sculpting and fabrication was done in-house by our scientific and exhibits staff.

Hall of Florida Fossils: Evolution of Life and Land

The world-renowned museum exhibit design firm R. Applebaum and Associates created the conceptual vision for this 5,000-square-foot hall, and Orlando-based VOA completed the architectural design. Many of the fossil skeletal reconstructions were completed, including the bear-dog, jaguar, peccary and rabbit as well as metal-sculpted silhouettes of the terror-bird, giraffe camel, giant shark and Florida condor. Construction on the exhibition is scheduled to begin in 2001.



South Florida: People and Environments

This 6,000-square-foot hall has seen major progress, including completion of the shell mound, chickee (thatched dwelling) and several murals. Work also began on the mangrove swamp walk-through, as well as mounting of 600 artifacts to go on exhibit.

Changing exhibits

Masters of the Night: The True Story of Bats



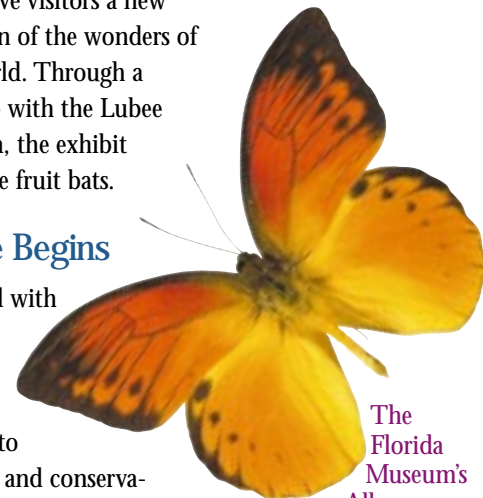
Hosted in the summer of 1999, this popular exhibit explained the ecological importance of bats and gave visitors a new appreciation of the wonders of the bat world. Through a partnership with the Luce Foundation, the exhibit featured live fruit bats.

EarthQuest: The Challenge Begins

In the fall of 1999, the museum joined with the Alachua County Office of Waste Management to bring this highly interactive exhibit to Gainesville. The exhibit used many hands-on activities to emphasize the importance of recycling and conservation in everyday life, and focused on the "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" theme.

The Maya of Guatemala: Ancient Monuments and Living Descendants

The summer of 2000 brought another photographic exhibit to the museum gallery. This exhibit featured the best and rarest images photojournalists Jacques VanKirk and Parney Bassett-VanKirk made over 20 years to document the ruins of Mayan sites in Guatemala. The exhibit also included striking images of modern Mayan descendants.



The Florida Museum's Allyn Museum of Entomology in Sarasota houses the world's third largest collection of butterflies and moths.



Exhibits and Education Endowments

During 1999-2000 two endowments were formed, one for Public Education and the other for Exhibits. With additional gifts from the State Matching Gifts Program, each of these programs now has an endowment of \$150,000.

Images of the Miccosukee

During the summer and fall of 1999, the museum displayed this photographic exhibit of Miccosukee Indian life taken in the Everglades during the 1930s by Florence Stiles Randle and her teen-age niece, Phyllis Sheffield. These images capture the elegant spirit of the Miccosukee, a people who defied all odds to escape 19th-century persecution and managed to retain their beliefs, customs and language in the remote interior of the Everglades.

Portraits of Early Floridians

This exhibit of 15 paintings by artist Theodore Morris provided a glimpse of Florida's early native peoples. The vivid portraits, displayed during the fall of 1999, illustrate the activities and dress of five Florida Indian groups: the Calusa, Apalachee, Timucua, Tocobaga and Ais.

National Geographic nature photographer Mark Emery also displayed his work in the main gallery during the spring and summer of 2000.

Traveling exhibits

Several Florida Museum-produced exhibits were displayed at other institutions and venues throughout the year. These included *The Last 50 Million Years: Paleontology of the Southeast*, which was exhibited at Santa Fe Community College, the Georgia Museum of Natural History and the Gainesville Regional Airport. *The Images of the Maya textiles* exhibit was displayed at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces; the Schiele Museum of Natural History in Gastonia N.C.; the Museum of Anthropology at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem N.C.; and the Brevard Museum of History and Science in Cocoa, FL. The Fort Mose satellite exhibit was displayed at the Georgia Museum of Natural History. Several smaller exhibits were displayed locally at the University of Florida Marston Science Library, Matheson Historical Center and Alachua County Public Library System.

Frequent Visitor Club

The Frequent Visitor Club invited individuals to sign up for free membership at the club desk, where in return they were allowed to choose from one of six artifacts to take home. With each return visit (limit of six), club members could select another natural history artifact. The club included more than 7,000 members.

In addition to receiving artifacts and certificates of completion after six visits, club members were invited to special events, including a behind-the-scenes tour of Powell Hall, fossil shark tooth hunt and a tour of Devil's Millhopper State Geological Site. As many as 75 members participated in each of these special events.



Down Like Lead: 400 Years of Florida Shipwrecks

Designed and produced under the direction of Florida Museum curator Susan Milbrath, the museum opened this 4,000-square-foot exhibit in the spring of 2000. Featuring a large diorama re-creating a 1559 wreck from Emanuel Point near Pensacola, *Down Like Lead* highlights 14 Florida shipwrecks from 1559 to 1942. The exhibit also focuses on early cartography, the golden age of piracy, and the history of ship design, shipwreck salvage and underwater archaeology. It will travel to other venues in 2001-2002.



About 100 collectors participated in the 22nd Annual Collectors Day. The Brides and Grooms collection was a first time participant.

Pony Express

The Pony Express is a public outreach program that involves museum supporters in educational activities dealing with Florida paleontology, and in particular, fossil horses. In 1999-2000, 40 people assisted museum scientists in digging 18-million-year-old fossil horses at the University of Florida Thomas Farm site. Twenty people participated in Family Day at Thomas Farm, 12 people collected fossils in western Nebraska on the Western Adventure and 12 people learned how to prepare, catalog and cast fossils at the Summer Lab Session. The Pony Express publishes a biannual newsletter, which also is available on the museum web site.

Senior Discovery Series

The Senior Discovery Series, presented four times a year, focuses on various topics of museum staff expertise and attracts about 75 seniors per lecture.

The following talks were presented last year:

- ☞ David Steadman, associate curator, "Tropical Birds," October 11.
- ☞ F. Wayne King, curator, "Reptile Forensics: Separating the Legal from the Illegal," December 6.
- ☞ Kurt Auffenberg, senior biologist, "Manila & Beyond," February 7.
- ☞ Dick Franz, herpetologist, "Exploring the Natural History of the Bahamas," April 3.



Galapagos Trip

The Florida Museum of Natural History Travel Club took its inaugural trip to the Galapagos Islands. Led by associate curator of ornithology Dr. David Steadman, 17 friends of the museum spent 10 days traveling and exploring these enchanted islands off the coast of Ecuador.



Public Lectures and Demonstrations

- ☞ Tibetan Monks presented a live demonstration showing how they create Mandala Sand Paintings, November 14-18.
- ☞ Florida archaeologist Roger Smith spoke on "Shipwrecks of Florida: A Maritime Legacy," March 5.
- ☞ Bill Nye, "The Science Guy," gave two public presentations, March 13-14.
- ☞ Stephen J. Gould, Harvard professor and evolutionary biologist, presented a talk "Questioning the Millennium," April 5.
- ☞ Peter Matthiessen, prize winning natural history author, presented a lecture, book reading and discussion, April 10.
- ☞ James Van Kirk presented an evening discussion of his Mayan photography exhibit, June 6.



EDUCATION



The Education Department presented 31 programs throughout the year, with more than 13,000 participants. They included annual favorites like Something's Fishy, Animal Fair, Collectors Day, Summer Activities Fair, Sensational Science and Bats, Bats and More Bats.

Activities

Education staff was involved in numerous collaborative projects with a variety of organizations including the Alachua County Office of Waste Alternatives, Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, Buchholz High School, School Board of Alachua County and Crown Region Environmental Education Service Project. Collaborative programs included Trashformations and Bill Nye, the Science Guy performances and reception.

The popular monthly Buchholz BioTrek received a Program of Promise award from the Department of Environmental Education, Florida Department of Education.

A slide lecture and Time Travelers programs were scheduled to complement the traveling exhibit "Down Like Lead: 400 Years of Florida Shipwrecks."

Teacher Education

Educators Open House became a collaborative project for the UF Cultural Plaza and also was co-sponsored by the School Board of Alachua County and Crown Region Environmental Education Service Project. More than 100 educators representing more than 45 institutions attended the Open House.

Two teacher workshops were offered in collaboration with the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, School Board of Alachua County and UF College of Education.

A "Down Like Lead" workshop was offered for elementary art teachers.





School Tours

About 16,000 visitors participated in guided and self-guided school tours. Of these visitors, 76 percent came from Alachua County, 19 percent traveled from contiguous counties, and 5 percent from other areas.

“EarthQuest” and “Museum Studies” tours were offered during the fall and “Museum Studies” and “The World Around Us” tours were offered during the spring.

Teacher, docent and student materials were developed, and student materials were correlated with Florida’s Sunshine State Standards and Grade Level Expectations.



Docent Program

Fall and spring training and additional training sessions throughout the year were held for 47 docents.

Three Florida Museum docents, Leslie Klein, Annette Perry and Pat Smart, attended the National Docent Symposium in Philadelphia.

Outreach

Inquiry Boxes

Early Native Peoples and Seminoles inquiry boxes were developed and more than 40 docents trained to take the boxes to area schools. Outreach programs were presented for 53 classes and more than 1,300 students. A project coordinator was hired and the museum received two grants from the Department of State, Science Museums Program for \$19,217 and \$19,166 after receiving the highest ranking of any of the science museum proposals.

Volunteer Program

The museum recruited 155 volunteers to work in various areas throughout the museum, including membership, visitor services, education, exhibits and public programs and collections and research.



Children’s Classes

The six-week summer program, four one-day classes and weeklong spring break classes served more than 800 students.

Girl Scouts

Education staff worked with the regional Girl Scout office in Jacksonville to develop additional programs for Girl Scouts, and nearly 150 girls participated in the Brownie Camp-In and Junior Girl Scout Camp.



Children’s Natural History Gallery

New art shows were coordinated for the Children’s Natural History Gallery to complement the “EarthQuest” and “Down Like Lead” exhibitions.

Expedition Florida’s electronic field trips explore the state’s natural beauty.

Expedition Florida

The museum’s Expedition Florida Project saw the completion of its first half-hour film, “From Exploration to Exhibition.” The film premiered on WUFT-TV Channel 5 in November as part of the station’s fund drive and then aired on public television stations throughout the state, including stations in Tampa/St. Petersburg and Ft. Myers/Naples. Distributed by IAPS books, the film is available in the Museum Collectors Shop and at Amazon.com. The Suncoast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences also nominated one of the project’s short films, on the Florida scrub jay, for a regional Emmy Award.



RESEARCH NEWS



Museum scientist identifies new species of sport fish

George Burgess, museum ichthyology collection manager, and James D. Williams, a scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey Laboratory in Gainesville, described a new species of bass in the Oct. 8 edition of the journal, "The Bulletin of the Florida Museum of Natural History."

The species, called *Micropterus cataractae* and found in rivers in Florida, Georgia and Alabama, has actually been known by anglers for the last 50 years as the shoal bass because it thrives in the shoals of rivers, Burgess said. But no one was certain the fish was different from its closest relative, the spotted bass, until Williams and Burgess noted key differences including coloration, absence of teeth on the tongue and number of rows of scales.

"Our research should put to rest any questions about whether it's a valid species or merely a variant of one of the other species," Burgess said.

"It's the end of an era in the sense that all the other bass and trout were discovered long ago, mostly in the 1700s and 1800s," said Burgess. "From now on, scientists likely will describe only the smaller, cryptic species that have avoided detection despite our best efforts."

Scientific identification of the fish is of interest to Florida's huge sport-fishing industry, Burgess said, because it paves the way for conservation efforts to begin. Shoal bass face many threats including dams, human population sprawl and the introduction of non-native fish species, he said.

"Largemouth bass are the primary species for sport fishing in fresh water here in Florida," he said. "There are numerous bass fishing tournaments that attract thousands of people to the state every year. The shoal bass, being a relative of the largemouth bass, generates significant interest among anglers in Florida as well as Georgia and Alabama."

The shoal bass is much rarer than the largemouth bass because it has a geographically limited range and more particular habitat requirements.

Williams said shoal bass are threatened by habitat loss caused by a series of dams on the Chattahoochee, Flint and Apalachicola rivers. Unlike other bass found in deep reservoirs and rivers, the shoal bass only lives in shallow portions of rivers and large creeks.

Booming population growth around Atlanta is diminishing the quality of the Flint River, another favorite haunt of the shoal bass. And a potential future problem is whether the shoal bass will face competition for food and habitat as other species of fish are introduced into Southeastern rivers, he said.

"Now that we finally have formal recognition of this new species of bass, we can move forward in carrying out conservation programs and habitat protection programs that we couldn't do in the past without a scientific name or description," Williams said.

Randell Research Center

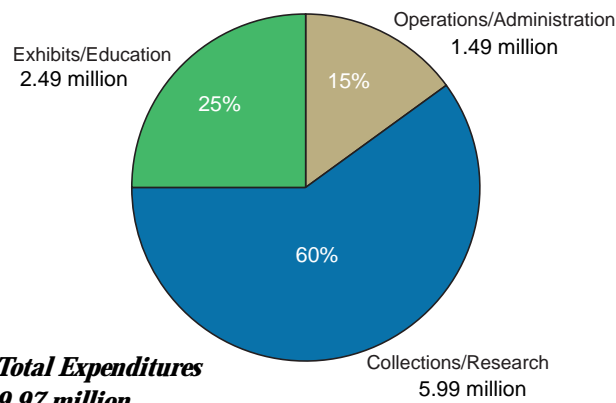
More than 650 people visited the museum's Randell Research Center near Ft. Myers for site tours last year. The museum completed a long-term site development plan for this important archaeological site and raised \$141,000 (matched by \$141,000 in state funds) for the first phase of this development. Plans call for a teaching pavilion, public rest rooms, parking lot and the first phase of an interpreted walking trail. Construction will begin in 2001.



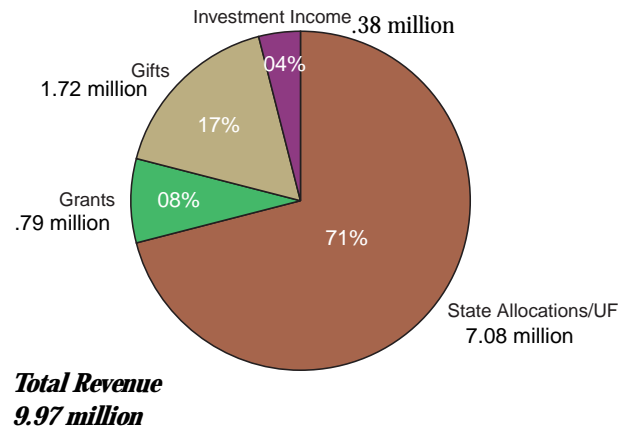
OFFICE OF FINANCE & PERSONNEL

1999-2000 FY Florida Museum of Natural History financial figures:

Expenditures



Revenues



OFFICE OF MUSEUM TECHNOLOGY

The Office of Museum Technology accomplished several major objectives, including rebuilding the intranet, computerizing the museum accounting system, developing computerized databases for two more collections, increasing employee walkup services and bringing new servers on line for e-mail, the World Wide Web and financial and intranet functions.

The new intranet provides employees secure access to the museum help desk, e-mail lists, policies, tutorials, financial figures, FTP site and web statistics.

The custom built accounting system includes "in-house" components developed for the Office of Finance & Personnel Planning staff and an intranet-based application for all museum employees with spending authority. The intranet version allows users to check balances and view appointments, detailed transactions, and purchase order, transfer and new OPS hire requests. The

functionality of the in-house version includes management of all aspects of the museum's finances, hiring and staffing.

The Office of Museum Technology also designed and developed databases for Historical Archaeology and Florida Archaeology collections.

Walkup services for employees were increased with new equipment and the network infrastructure for both Dickinson and Powell halls was upgraded, bringing both subnets of the museum network up to 100 MB bandwidth.

Museum web site attendance increases

Month/Year	Hits	Total User Sessions	Avg. Number User Sessions Per Day	Avg. Length of User Session
July 1999	1,347,188	81,494	2,628	10 min. 41 sec.
June 2000	4,532,479	195,882	6,529	12 min. 53 sec.

FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY RESEARCH LOCATIONS

Florida counties in which we conducted research during 1999-2000 are highlighted in green.



Cities/States/Countries on Map

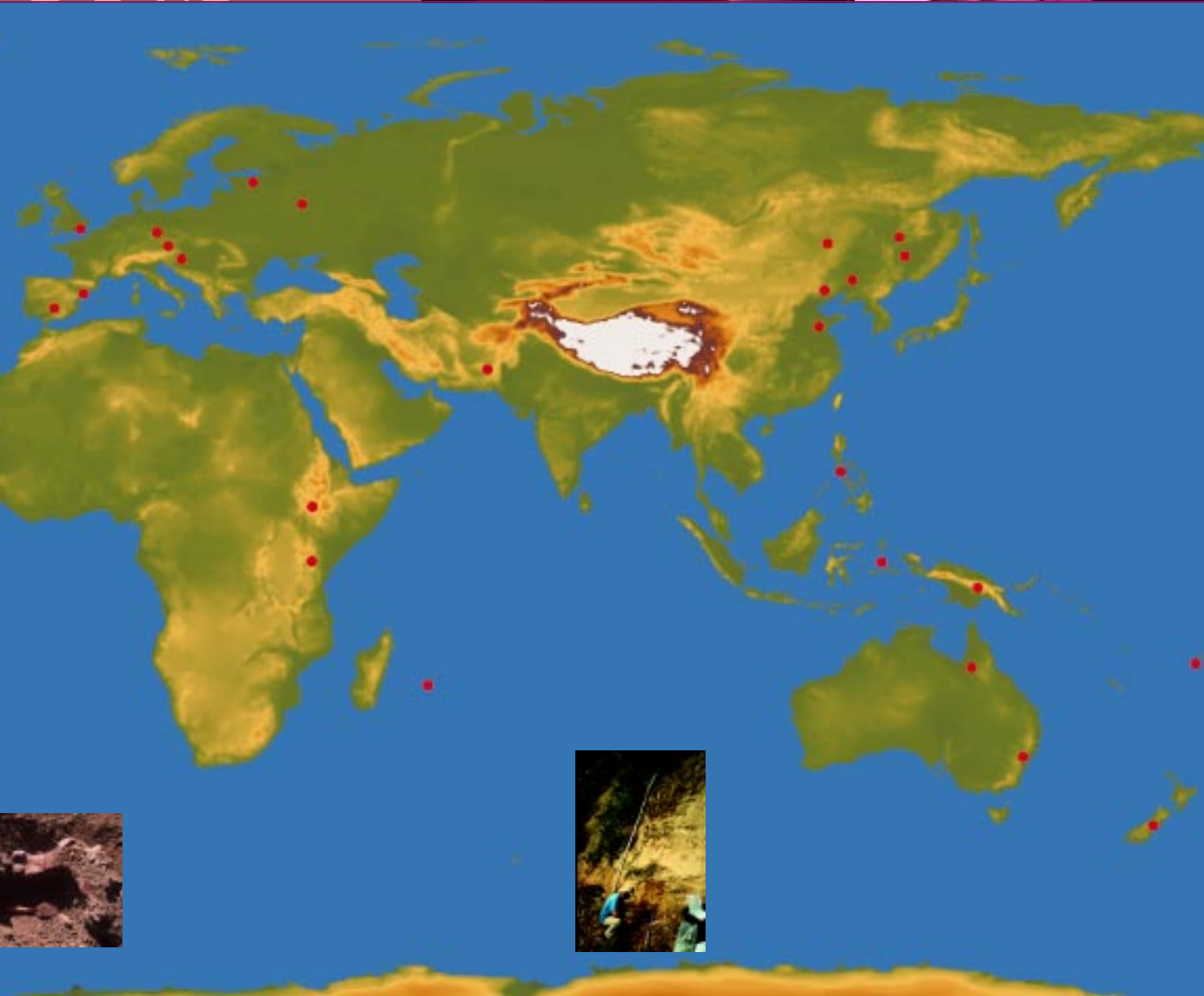
Andalusia, Spain
Antigua
Aruba
Asuncion, Paraguay
Bahamas
Barbados
Barcelona, Spain
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Bermuda
Blagoveshchensk, Russia
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East Central Brazil
Fiji
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Frankfurt, Germany
Fushun, China
Galapagos Islands

Galveston, Texas
Gondar Province, Ethiopia
Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands
Grenada
Guayaquil, Ecuador
Honduras
Indiana
Invitos, Peru
Isle of Pines, Cuba
Jamaica
Jixi, China
Jost van Dyke Island

Jujuy, Argentina
Kansas
Kingston, Jamaica
Laredo, Texas
Lita, Ecuador
London
Machala, Ecuador
Mandeville, Jamaica
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Massachusetts
Merida, Mexico
Missouri (Ozark and Miller counties)

ONS



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Moscow, Russia
Nairobi, Kenya
Nanjing, China
Nebraska
Nevis
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York
New South Wales, Australia
New Zealand
North Carolina

North Coast of Haiti
Northeast Chile
Northeast Mongolia
Ohio
Pakistan
Panay Island, Philippines
Papua New Guinea
Paute, Ecuador
Prague, Czechoslovakia
Queensland, Australia
Reunion Island, France
Saba
Salta, Argentina

Samoa
San Lorenzo, Ecuador
San Paulo, Brazil
Santana, Brazil
Sonora, Mexico
South Carolina
Southeast Peru
St. Eustatius
St. Johns Island
St. Kitts
St. Lucia
St. Martin
St. Petersburg, Russia

Sulawesi, Indonesia
Tennessee
Tobago
Tonga
Tortola Island
Trinidad
Tucuman, Argentina
Turks and Caicos
Venezuela
Vieques Island
Virgin Islands
Washington, D.C.
West Central Brazil



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DEVELOPMENT



Museum Exceeds Campaign Goal

Only six months remain before the completion of the University of Florida's 5-year capital campaign, "It's Performance That Counts." The Florida Museum of Natural History has raised \$7,629,023, surpassing the \$6,768,500 goal set at the beginning of the campaign.

Campaign accomplishments so far include:

- Close to \$2 million for collections and research, benefiting numerous museum programs including: Allyn Museum of Entomology (Sarasota), Southwest Florida Archaeology, the museum's unrestricted fund, Fossil Horse fund, Aucilla River Project, the Randell Research Center (Pine Island), Invertebrate Paleontology and Herpetology.

- Endowments help to secure the future of the museum by providing a stable, predictable and permanent source of funding. A little more than \$1.3 million has been raised for endowments, including the establishment of five new endowments: the Education

Endowment (qualifies for state match) to support educational activities, academic programs, teaching and research at the museum; the Exhibits Endowment (qualifies for

state match) to support the construction and maintenance of public exhibits at Powell Hall; the J.C. Dickinson, Jr. Director's Endowment (qualifies for state match) to support special projects through the Director's Office; a Museum Bulletin endowment to support publication of research findings; and a Registration & Conservation endowment to support collections management and artifact conservation. Additional gifts have been directed toward established endowments in South Florida Archaeology, Invertebrate Paleontology, Ichthyology, Ornithology, Dickinson Scholarships, Malacology and Island Archaeology.

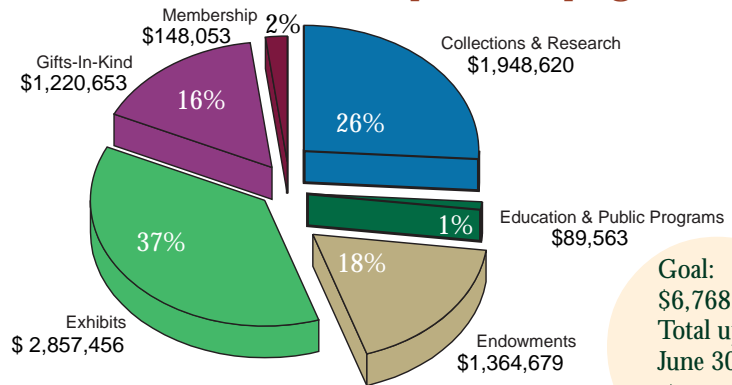
- Just over \$2.8 million has been raised for permanent exhibits, traveling exhibits and renovations at Powell

Hall. A \$105,000 lead gift from the Stans Foundation will construct a teaching pavilion at the Randell Research Center.

- More than \$1 million in appraised artifacts and specimens have been donated to our permanent collections.



FLMNH Portion of UF Capital Campaign



Goal:
\$6,768,500
Total up to
June 30, 2000:
\$7,629,023

The museum's private support came from six sources. Donations from non-alumni (\$3.8 million), and alumni and parents of current students (\$1.1 million) accounted for more than half of the money raised. Foundations (\$675,293) provided 8.8 percent of the total gift support, with corporations (\$395,631) and other organizations (\$425,701) rounding out the remaining private support groups. The state's matching gift program attracted many donors and provided \$1.2 million in additional support.

UF Foundation

The University of Florida Foundation receives, invests and administers private support for the museum. It is eligible to receive charitable contributions under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and the foundation is certified as a direct support organization for the university.

Thank you!

Museum donors recognize the museum's desire to rank as the premier collections-based natural history museum in the Southeast. Given the current competition for limited dollars from state and federal sources, however, the museum's success in achieving that standard of excellence requires significant private endowments and high levels of annual giving throughout the state and within local communities. Your continued support will raise the museum to even higher levels of excellence.

Thank you for your outstanding generosity.



HONOR ROLL

If you have a question or a correction concerning your listing please contact the Museum Development Office, PO Box 112710, Gainesville, FL 32611.

The 1999-2000 Florida Museum of Natural History Honor Roll of Donors is a way of recognizing your generous gift to the museum. The faculty and staff thank you warmly for your support.

Your name(s) should appear in alphabetical order among donors who made gifts of similar amounts. This year's honor roll includes the names of all donors of \$100 or more between July 1, 1999, and June 30, 2000. In spite of our best efforts, omissions and errors sometimes occur, and we are eager to know about them.

Gifts of \$100,000 or more

The Stans Foundation
State of Florida Comptroller Office

Gifts of \$50,000 or more

The Lastinger Family Foundation*

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Babcock Charitable Trust
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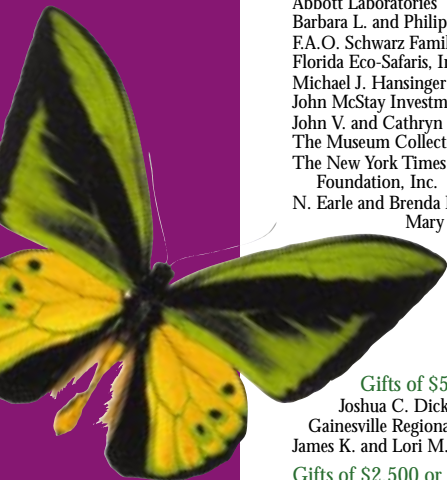
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PUBLICATIONS



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(Museum scientific staff indicated in boldface)

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