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Director
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Florida Museum Special Achievements, Faculty and Staff

Dr. Kathleen A. Deagan was elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Kathleen A. Deagan and Dr. Jerald T. Milanich were honored with 2015 lifetime achievement awards from the Southeastern Archaeological Conference.

Dr. Douglas S. Jones was named Chair of the Board for the American Alliance of Museums.

Dr. William Marquardt received an Exceptional Leadership Award from the Florida Association of Museums.

Dr. William Marquardt received the Southeastern Archaeological Conference Patty Jo Watson Award for best publication in the field of southeastern U.S. archaeology.

Dr. Jacqueline Miller was elected as an honorary member of the Entomological Society of America.

Dr. Douglas Soltis and Dr. Pam Soltis were named to the Thomas Reuters 2015 Highly Cited Researchers list, representing the top 1 percent in their field.

Dr. Douglas Soltis and Dr. Pam Soltis received the 2016 Darwin-Wallace Medal from the Linnean Society of London, considered one of the top international awards given to researchers studying evolutionary biology.

Dr. Pam Soltis was named Director of the University of Florida Biodiversity Initiative.

Dr. Pam Soltis was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences.

FY 2015-2016 Our Impact by the Numbers

**Collections and Research**

- 187 Peer-reviewed publications
- 1,125 Scientific and other visitors to collections
- 554 Collection loans of 37,620 specimens and artifacts
- 40+ Million total specimens
- 60 Grants and contracts worth $8.3 million
- 187 Undergraduates and postdoctoral fellows working in collections
- 24 Countries including the U.S. where Museum scientists conducted research

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<th>12</th>
<th>States including Florida where Museum scientists conducted research</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13,777</td>
<td>Accessions to collections</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>383,962</td>
<td>New specimens and artifacts cataloged</td>
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**Staff and Faculty Teaching**

- 36 Courses taught by Museum faculty
- 106 Graduate committees chaired
- 168 Graduate committees served
- 47 Independent Studies supervised
Collections and Research

The Department of Natural History had an outstanding year with 27 faculty overseeing about $65 million in total external grant support for research and collection activities, including 36 new and 24 continuing grants totaling $8.3 million. This per-capita funding rate is high, even for a research-intensive university like the University of Florida. Faculty and staff published 187 peer-reviewed books and journal articles, chaired 106 graduate committees, and served on the graduate committees of another 168 students. In addition, 160 undergraduates and 27 postdoctoral fellows were trained in Museum labs and collections. Museum faculty and staff taught more than 600 students in 36 courses through the departments of Anthropology, Biology, Entomology & Nematology, Geological Sciences, Wildlife Ecology & Conservation and others. They also oversaw independent studies and research topics for 47 students totaling more than 600 credit hours.

Museum collections grew by 13,777 accessions totaling more than 380,000 new specimens and artifacts. Museum researchers hosted 1,125 scientific visitors and processed 554 loans of more than 37,000 specimens. Most biological collections have transitioned to the new Specify database system, which adds many new features for virtual visitors to the collections. We hope to have all biological collections using Specify by the end of 2017. As part of a continuing effort to harness the tremendous wealth of information associated with Museum specimens, the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity received funding from the National Science Foundation to help advance the digitization efforts of butterflies and moths in North American collections. The resulting Lepidoptera of North America Network project, called LepNet, is a multi-institutional collaboration of 29 collections from 26 states, and more than 20 million specimens.

The Museum is one of only 10 global recipients for a new philanthropic investment by the Disney Conservation Fund to help conserve threatened wildlife and inspire a lifelong love of nature in young people. The new

Opposite page: Clockwise from top left, Kathleen Deagan, Jerald Milanich, Douglas Jones, William Marquardt, Jacqueline Miller, Douglas Soltis and Pam Soltis. ©Florida Museum photos by Kristen Grace, Eric Zamora and Mary Warrick. Top: Rob Guralnick, left, and Akito Kawahara, pictured in the Butterfly Rainforest, received an NSF grant to digitize Lepidoptera Collections. Above: David Blackburn, left, and postdoctoral researcher Ed Stanley capture a 3-D image of a frog specimen using UF’s new micro-CT scanner. ©Florida Museum photos by Kristen Grace.

FY 2015-2016 Financials

Expenditures

- **Salaries and benefits**: $14.37 million (51.91%)
- **Operating**: $5.66 million (20.45%)
- **Overhead/other fees**: $2.33 million (8.42%)
- **Transfers for future programming**: $5.32 million (19.22%)

**Total**: $27.68 million
decade-long initiative, called “Reverse the Decline, Increase the Time,” is focused on the recovery of 10 critically at-risk organism groups and reconnecting children with the natural world to inspire them to care for the planet. The McGuire Center is spearheading efforts to help reverse the decline of more than 42 butterfly species in Florida and California.

Last year we welcomed a new curator of herpetology, David Blackburn, who hit the ground running. This year, we identified a new director for the Florida Program for Shark Research, Gavin Naylor, who will be joining the Florida Museum in July 2017. He comes to us from the Medical University, South Carolina in Charleston. His research focuses on building out the Tree of Life for sharks, skates and rays.

This year also saw the beginning of the new UF Biodiversity Initiative. Nine years in the making, Museum curators were the origin of this new UF-wide endeavor. Curators wanted to find partners at UF who could help them realize new breadth to our work on biodiversity. Specifically, Museum researchers sought partnerships with geographers, educators, policy experts and others to expand their work. This vehicle for collaboration was finally realized as part of UF’s Preeminence Initiative. The University initially funded five preeminence hires in biodiversity: two in the Museum, two in the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and one in the Department of Biology. With the Museum’s application to have the Biodiversity Initiative formally recognized as a UF-wide institute, the University provided start-up funds for the first three years of the institute and 2,000 square feet of office and conference room space alongside the UF Informatics Institute. The Biodiversity Initiative now includes more than 100 members from 13 UF departments, and will continue to thrive and grow thanks to a $1 million gift from Ken and Linda McGurn. It has awarded four graduate assistantships, sponsored workshops and seminars, and will soon announce faculty seed grants. The UF Foundation has also made Biodiversity Initiative funding a top priority for the upcoming capital campaign. Many good things await in the coming year.
Exhibits and Public Programs

The Exhibits and Public Programs Division had a successful year with a number of well-attended events, including new initiatives targeting millennials, as well as high-performing incoming and outgoing traveling exhibits, and new outreach and partnership opportunities.

The featured exhibition line-up began with the hugely popular A T. Rex Named Sue from Chicago’s Field Museum, followed by the Museum’s First Colony: Our Spanish Origins, showcasing Museum research on the nation’s first enduring European colony of St. Augustine, established in 1565. The year ended with Wicked Plants, from the North Carolina Arboretum, a unique exhibition about the “evildoers” of the plant world. The Museum also presented the second exhibit in its climate change series, Our Changing Climate: Sea Level Rise, which explored current and future impacts on Florida and how scientists and communities are projecting and planning for change. Additionally, the year delivered an exciting final design and contracts to begin construction on the Discovery Zone, a new permanent exhibition for young children and families.

Two Museum exhibitions traveled to other venues, including Dugout Canoes: Paddling through the Americas to Oklahoma and St. Augustine, while Megalodon: Largest Shark that Ever Lived cruised through Santa Barbara, Nashville and Ontario.

The new Pop-up Museum initiative ventured to unexpected locations and audiences, popping up throughout North Central Florida with interactive on-site experiences. These included collecting moths at night, building native pollinator houses, investigating sea level rise and exploring the “tree of life” of flowering plants. The Museum also ventured into new territory by hosting New York’s fabulous Museum Hack group, which took over the Museum for a night of science programming and fun to more deeply engage young adults. Thanks to funding from the Museum Associates and a partnership with Alachua County Public Schools, more than 1,800 fourth-graders discovered Florida’s multicultural history during First Colony Days, which included teacher training, classroom activities and field trips to the First Colony exhibit. The Museum provided scholarships for children in the Alachua Multi-County Migrant Education Program to attend summer camps. The program transported kids to the Museum from Alachua, Citrus, Clay, Gilchrist, Levy and Union counties. About 20 percent of this summer’s more than 100 Junior Volunteers, ages 12 to 17, were multilingual, speaking Arabic, Chinese, French, Hindi, Korean, Portuguese and Spanish. The students used their language and science skills to interact with visitors or work as camp or collections assistants.

FY 2015-2016 Our Impact by the Numbers (continued)


Morgan, G.S., B.J. MacFadden, and M. Martínez. 2015 Quaternary gomphotheres (Mammalia: Proboscidea: Gomphotheriidae) from the continental shelf, Pearl islands, Panama. Quaternary International 392:335-348.


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