

Our work is
driven by a
desire to provide
meaningful
solutions
to real-world
problems.

Dear Friends,

In a world where real science is increasingly called into question, the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University remains dedicated to the prioritization and advancement of rigorous scientific research and education. Science matters — to our everyday lives, to our children and grandchildren and to the future of our planet. By caring for and developing our scientific collections, Academy scientists create a firm foundation for research on a host of issues affecting the natural world. Our research has relevant, real-world implications, from measuring water quality to identifying disease vectors and beyond. As we share our discoveries, we strive to help citizens, educators and policymakers alike make informed decisions about issues that impact ecosystems throughout the world.

The Academy is committed to building knowledge and applying our learnings to ensure a healthy future for life on Earth. Our work is driven by a desire to provide meaningful solutions to real-world problems in ways that create measurable impact. In this annual report, you'll learn more about how our scientists are spearheading innovative research into watershed ecology, how we are advancing care of our collections and how our programs are enabling members of our community to become deeply involved in our work. We hope you will take the time to explore our work more closely through in-person learning opportunities with our scientists, museum programming and more.

In addition to incredible scientific exploration, our past year brought to fruition an energetic strategic planning process. We posed essential questions about how the Academy can create a diversified slate of programs to better connect with our audiences — including those whom we've not yet reached — to realize our greatest value for the future. We sought ways to integrate the perspectives of those we serve by examining our role as a broker for difficult conversations around complex scientific issues. Further, we explored how we can engage locally, regionally and internationally to help people understand the complexity of the natural world and inspire them to become environmental stewards. We are excited to share our plan with you, our most loyal supporters, later in the spring.

We thank you for enabling us to continue to deliver robust, science-based knowledge in our community and well beyond.

Regards,



Scott Cooper



Peter A. Austen Chair, Board of Trustees



SCIENCE LEARNING IS OUR FUTURE

At the Academy of Natural
Sciences, we strive to share our
love of the natural world with our
community, seeking to engage and
enlighten through fun, interactive
programs and exhibits focused on
the natural world.

4

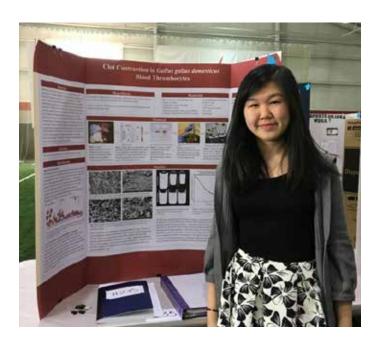
WINS Receives Highest Honor



Women In Natural Sciences (WINS) is the Academy of Natural Sciences' free summer and after-school mentoring and science enrichment program for high school women, particularly from underrepresented families and economically challenged schools in Philadelphia. The only program of its kind in the city, WINS encourages young women to pursue science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in college and as a career.



Last summer, WINS was thrilled to receive the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring Program — the highest United States accolade for STEM mentoring — in recognition of its outstanding work. These awards, which recognize "outstanding efforts of mentors in encouraging the next generation of innovators and developing a science and engineering workforce that reflects the diverse talent of America," are bestowed by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy with the National Science Foundation. We are deeply honored to accept this amazing recognition.



In many ways, admission to the WINS program guarantees a lifetime of mentorship. Students bond with peers who support each other through life's ups and downs, receive guidance from empathetic staff and are automatically connected to a network of experienced alumnae. For Lynn Larabi, a sophomore at Central High School in the WINS II program, WINS helped her discover that she wants to fight for environmental equality and help people better their communities. Her WINS interactive learning experiences have given her the opportunity to apply what she learns in the classroom to the outside world.

"Seeing a program that
advocates for women to go into
these male-dominated STEM
fields was a big opportunity."



"Seeing a program that advocates for women to go into these male-dominated STEM fields was a big opportunity," Larabi said. "As a first-generation [future college] student as well, I'm seeing a program that introduces me to all of these opportunities and [am] surrounded with people who love the same things that I do. It's very encouraging."









On Wednesday, May 9, 2018, WINS students gathered with Academy supporters and friends for a special event to commemorate 35 years of the program's success. During this special evening, Lisa Dyson, PhD, Founder and CEO of Kiverdi, received the first-ever WINS award to recognize an "outstanding female innovator in science, technology, engineering and math whose visionary contributions in science have made a positive impact on the world." More than 70 current and former WINS students attended the reception and presentation, helping pay tribute to Dyson and the success that WINS has had in creating a pipeline of women in STEM fields.

SCIENCE MATTERS



35

years of success for the Women In Natural Sciences program

65

students employed at the Academy through Drexel University's Cooperative Education program

23,606

hours of service contributed by 374 volunteers

2,000

wands made for Wild Wizarding Weekend

1,000

cricket cookies eaten by our visitors

28,542

schoolchildren visiting the Academy during field trips

Early Childhood Milestones

Through our partnership with Drexel University, the William Penn Foundation, the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Boeing, we have provided inquiry-based STEM professional development to over 100 early childhood educators mostly in the West Philadelphia promise zone. We have engaged over 2,000 students in age-appropriate STEM and literacy activities in their classrooms and community centers, with the Academy providing over 20 hours of direct instruction to each classroom. We held 12 hours of intensive STEM/ Literacy family learning workshops, given in English and Spanish, in the community; four parent/caregiver STEM workshops per year; and three free Family Days at the museum where every family receives a special STEM/literacy learning kit to take home.



CLIMATE CHANGE IS HAPPENING NOW

The earth is warming and climates are changing at an unprecedented rate — largely because of human activity. Because climate change has the potential to disrupt human and natural ecosystems, the Academy will continue its critical research to understand environmental conditions, processes and their impacts, as well as climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Viewing Dioramas Through the Ecosystem Lens

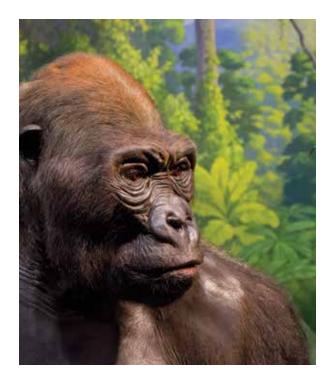
Throughout spring 2018, conservators, artists, taxidermists and other experts renovated two of the Academy's most important habitat dioramas thanks to generous contributions from our supporters.



With a significant gift from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, the Academy restored the diorama of the Takin, a large mountain goat collected in 1931 from a richly diverse natural area on the Sichuan/Tibet border during an expedition led by Philadelphia-area naturalist/adventurist Brooke Dolan II. From the

Vandy Charitable Foundation, we received support to renovate the Gorilla habitat diorama, collected during George Vanderbilt's 1934 African Expedition. Our team also renovated the diorama labels, adding graphics and digital highlights that enable visitors to explore the entire habitat along with the featured animal.







Working alongside specialized art conservators, Academy Exhibition Designer Lauren Duguid spent most of her spring and summer cleaning plant models inside the dioramas. She cleaned every plant she could safely reach, including the branches and real leaves in the leaf litter. She repaired damage, dusted a background mural, washed rocks, rewired broken and sagging branches, collected new region-specific leaf-litter, vacuumed tree trucks and repainted certain plants. She is most proud of the paint job she did on the marble berries in the Gorilla diorama (below), which had an original color that looked far too dark in the scene. She repainted each berry, stained it with indigo and then covered it with a thick gloss coat.

Now, the color feels electric.

They're tiny superstars in that scene.

"Now, the color feels electric," Duguid says.

"They're tiny superstars in that scene." Gorillas and birds eat these berries, which are as much a part of the ecosystem as the gorillas. This is the first time that the Academy has highlighted the non-animal species in any of our dioramas.

"If visitors compare the before and after images, they'll notice how much more lush the spaces look overall. With the new lighting and that haze of dust cleared away, the scenes feel more alive," Duguid says.

7

taxidermy specimens cleaned and re-dyed

180

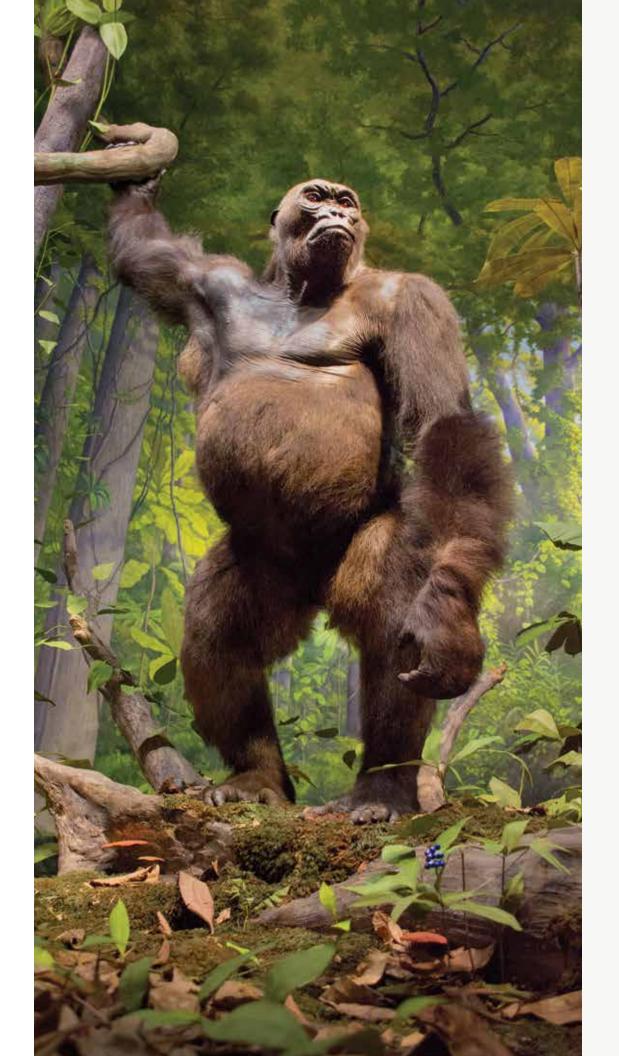
fragile rhododendron blossoms cleaned by hand with cotton swabs

8

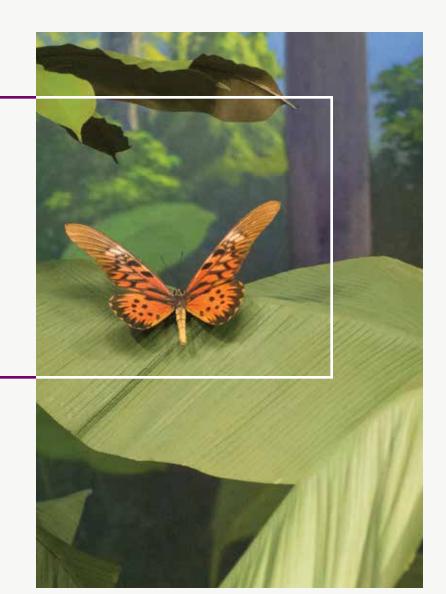
garbage bags full of fresh rhododendron leaves collected, dried, frozen, painted and installed in the Takin diorama

500

protective suits worn during the diorama cleaning process



SCIENCE MATTERS



Using Dioramas to Understand Climate Change

Dioramas preserve a snapshot of a specific location at a recorded time. The Academy can use these scenes to prompt conversations about alterations in biodiversity and habitat due to climate change or other impacts. The new interpretive graphics invite visitors to explore the animals, plants and ecosystems depicted in these captivating scenes and to think critically about how humans are impacting our environment.



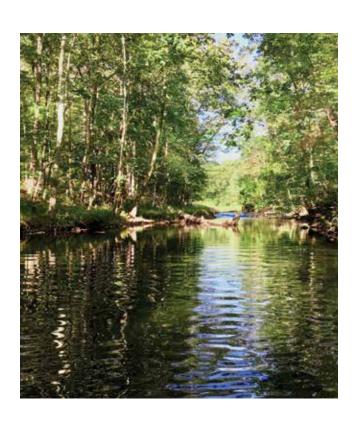


WATER IS A CRITICAL RESOURCE

The Academy has led vital water research and environmental outreach for over 70 years. We will continue to investigate the complex human and natural systems connected to water quality and quantity and to seek potential solutions for our threatened water resources.

Innovative Water Research

Almost 90 years ago, a young man in his mid-twenties traveled across the world in search of adventure — and scientific treasure. Philadelphia-area naturalist and adventurist Brooke Dolan II led extensive expeditions to western China and eastern Tibet. He collected about 3,000 birds, making the Academy's ornithological collection from the central Asian highlands one of the best in the United States. He also brought back rare high-altitude Asian mammals, including takin and giant pandas, now on display in the dioramas.





At the opening of the Panda diorama, a 10-year-old boy stood in the crowd, in awe of the explorers before him. The young Thomas Dolan IV, Brooke Dolan's nephew, would follow in his uncle's footsteps by pursuing fieldwork on behalf of the Academy and Dr. Ruth Patrick, a pioneer in environmental research and aquatic ecology. Tom Dolan was part of a team that Dr. Patrick hired in the late 1940s to study the plants and animals living in Lancaster County's Conestoga Basin. Their goal was to determine the usefulness of these organisms as indicators of sanitary

and industrial pollution. To this day, Tom Dolan lives according to the work ethic, grace and values he observed in Dr. Patrick during his six years of employment at the Academy. The concept of using biodiversity to assess stream health anchored Dolan's studies of water quality, pollution of aquatic ecosystems, open space reservation and other environmental issues as he served in leadership positions in nonprofit and governmental environmental organizations, principally in Pennsylvania.



The Dolan family continues to demonstrate its confidence in the Academy's ability to carry on our scientists' legacies. Led by Tom Dolan and his son, Brooke Dolan of Chester Springs, Pennsylvania, the Dolan family (including Sarah Dolan Price of Philadelphia, Margaret Chew Dolan of Philadelphia and Thomas Dolan V of Oakland, Calif.) carried on their tradition of giving, establishing the Dolan Fund for Innovative Water Research.

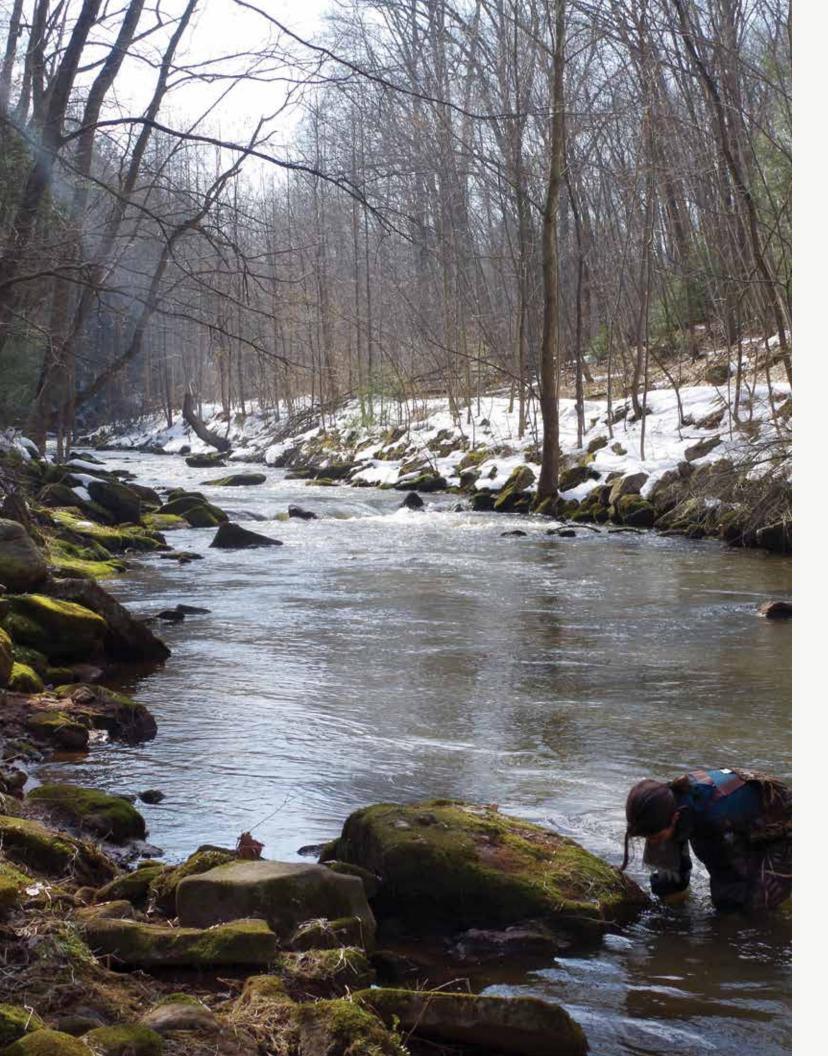
The Dolan Fund will encourage groundbreaking research on watershed ecology and provide leading support for a new post-doctoral fellow position in watershed ecology that will be called the Dolan Fellow for Innovative Water Research.





 $For \ more \ information \ or \ to \ make \ a \ gift, \ please \ contact:$

Meg North Vice President, Institutional Advancement 215-299-3790 | north@ansp.org





220,000+

slides in the Academy's Diatom Herbarium

68

publications by Center for Academy Science staff and joint Drexel University Department of Biodiversity, Earth & Environmental Science faculty

15 million

people rely on the Delaware River Watershed as a source of drinking water

Watersheds Defined

A watershed is an area of land that drains rainfall and small streams to a common outlet, such as a larger stream or river, that eventually ends up at the mouth of a bay. The Delaware River Watershed is a source of drinking water for 15 million people in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and New York.

In the last five years, the Academy has served as a key member of the coordinating committee of the Delaware River Watershed Initiative, a partnership of 50 environmental organizations funded by the William Penn Foundation. Through the Initiative, our scientists strive to monitor, protect and restore conditions in the streams, rivers and landscapes in targeted regions within the watershed.



BIODIVERSITY SUSTAINS LIFE

Diverse ecosystems are healthy
ecosystems, and measuring biodiversity
is a critical means of gauging
environmental health. Since its founding
in 1812, the Academy has been studying
the variety and distribution of living
things, including their extinction,
and has amassed a research collection
of more than 18 million specimens.
Caring for these specimens ensures that
they remain a treasured resource for
scientists around the world.

22

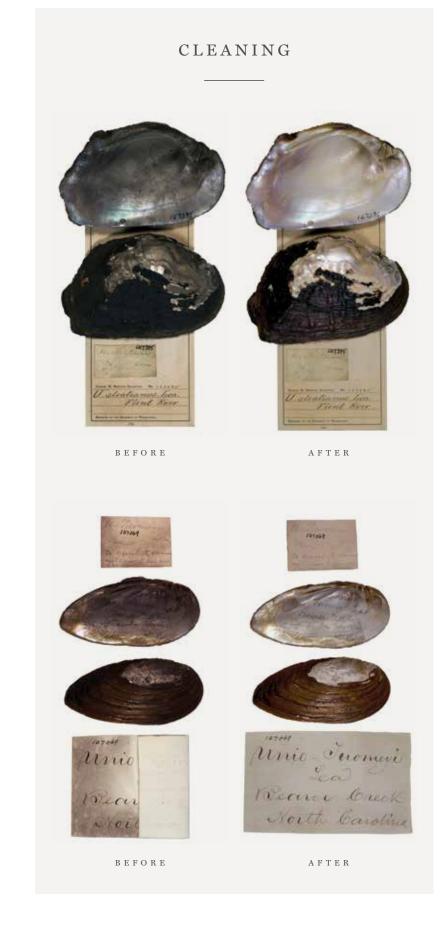
Caring for Collections

The Malacology Department has conducted a major overhaul of the freshwater mussels collection, the largest single component of the Academy's vast mollusk holdings and among the most ecologically and economically important animals of all.



There are shells dating from before the Academy's founding in 1812 and an unusually large body of 19thcentury material that represents a priceless record of pre-industrial environmental conditions in North and South America, Africa, Europe and the Far East.

With assistance from volunteers and students in Drexel University's Cooperative Education Program, our malacologists placed the shells in archival trays within the Academy's new cabinets and updated their systematic order to current standards. Updates to the digital catalog records and digital images of the most important specimens have enhanced the collection's online usefulness to researchers everywhere.



Many shells and labels had to be carefully cleaned to remove layers of soot. For up to a century in an era when the only defense against summer heat was to open windows, the shells had been displayed in glass cabinets or open trays. A few blocks from the Academy's location on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway stood the gigantic Baldwin Locomotive Works, which ran coal-fired foundries day and night. A short distance in the other direction lay the Reading Railroad tracks, where dozens of steam trains passed through each hour.

Many shells were carefully cleaned of a century's accumulation of urban soot.

Cheap Pennsylvania coal also powered steam tractors, ferries, ships and cranes and for more than two centuries, houses and buildings throughout the city were heated with it. The air was black with fine soot, which drifted in the windows and oozed through the tiniest gaps in display cabinets to settle on the exhibits.





164,000

shells in the Academy's freshwater mussel collection

100+

terabytes of digital collection images

15,669

plant specimens from the Longwood Gardens Herbarium added to the Botany Collection

492

years, age of the oldest book in the Academy Library

250,000

titles held in the Academy Library

Freshwater Mussels

Mussels can live for up to 100 years, during which time they rarely move but continually add layers to their shells. The rate at which they grow reflects factors such as water temperature and oxygen levels and can be measured in shell layers down to individual days. They also incorporate into their shells substances in the surrounding water such as metals and chemical compounds. Unlike their counterparts in the salty ocean, however, these pearly shells are quickly dissolved by the water and vanish once the animals that make them die.

With their dates of collection known, therefore, the shells preserved in our collection form a priceless and irreplaceable archive of environmental conditions stretching back into the 18th century. In an effort to increase the numbers and diversity of mussels within the Delaware River watershed, Patrick Center staff Roger Thomas, Kathryn Longwill and Chris Vito are working with partners from the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary and the Philadelphia Water Department to propagate and restore these important mollusks to areas they once inhabited.



EVOLUTION INFORMS SCIENCE

Evolution is a powerful concept that explains the order and coherence of life itself. Among other things, evolution informs how we treat human diseases, produce food crops and develop conservation plans for habitats and wildlife.

Capturing Biodiversity in a Pristine Environment

In February 2018, Academy ichthyologist Mark Sabaj joined an experienced team of Colombian biologists to explore the pristine waters of Sierra de la Macarena, an ancient plateau rising up to 1,200 meters above the forests and plains of central Colombia.





The plateau marks the crossroads of the Amazonian rainforest, Orinoquían savannas and the Andean mountains, setting a unique stage for the evolution of exceptionally high biodiversity.

La Macarena became Colombia's first national reserve in 1948, but the region has been largely off limits for decades as a rebel stronghold and therefore has been untouched by biologists for nearly 60 years.



Biologists at the Instituto de Investigación de Recursos Biológicos Alexander von Humboldt in Bogotá, Colombia, established a network of local authorities, guides and landowners who enabled the first expedition to the region in 2016.

In 2018, Sabaj joined the Colombian team to sample streams draining the eastern slopes of the plateau to illustrate the complex biodiversity of the region. This work is urgent, as the increased safety of the area has given rise to population increases and demands on the area's natural resources, especially water. Mounting threats by agriculture, mining and tourism threaten to destroy these relatively pristine and fragile environments.





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Local Insect Sampling Reveals Invasive Species

The spotted lanternfly, *Lycorma delicatula*, was first detected in 2014 in eastern Berks County, Pennsylvania. The species of plant hopper is native to China, India and Vietnam and has successfully invaded South Korea, Japan and now America. The insects most likely came from stone imported from Asia that had egg masses attached. Our entomologists carried out ongoing surveys of urban insects in Logan Circle, at Eastern State Penitentiary and in Camden County, New Jersey, with over 90 samples collected in 2018. Spotted lanternflies first appeared at the two Philadelphia sites in 2018, and we expect them to be more widespread in Philadelphia in 2019.

25

field journals of scientists digitized for the Archives

71

presentations by Center for Academy Science staff at national and international meetings

\$4.7M

in grants and contracts obtained by the Center for Academy Science

50,000

insect specimens collected by
Drexel PhD candidate Stephen
Mason to help understand the
impact of controlled (prescribed)
burns on the insect communities
of the pine-oak forests in the New
Jersey Pine Barrens



SUPPORTING REAL SCIENCE

Gifts from our generous contributors
help to protect the Academy's
irreplaceable collections; support
world-class research addressing
today's most significant questions in
environmental science, biodiversity and
evolution; enable our educators to share
our science with more than 80,000
schoolchildren each year; and fund
outstanding exhibitions, educational
programs and environmental forums
for learners of all ages.

Academy Members on a Mission

In summer 2018, Karen and Wayne Lattuca and Wayne's daughter and son-in-law, Adrienne and Kevin Franklin, trekked into the Morrison Formation of the Big Horn Basin for a members-only fossil hunting expedition.



They were headed for the border of Wyoming and Montana, a site where dinosaurs flourished 145 million years ago and where the Academy and the Bighorn Basin Paleontological Institute have been leading dinosaur digs for years. These expeditions focus on finding, collecting and documenting Jurassic, Cretaceous and Paleogene fossils, such as *Suuwassea* and *Stegosaurus*.

The Lattucas were in awe of their freedom to work within the site. They used screwdrivers, picks, brooms and brushes to clear dirt and stone; applied glue to broken fossil pieces; and even jacketed a fossil. They also got to know the staff — those fabled paleontologists with brushes in hand — which helped make the Academy's field research tangible.

The Lattucas have been Academy supporters for several years. In addition to a recent gift to our education and science programs, they just made a gift of appreciated securities, donating an appreciated stock or mutual fund to receive a tax deduction for the fair market value of their assets.







They distributed their gift over several years of membership, upping their membership to the Lewis and Clark Circle so they could take advantage of the benefits that were right for them. We are grateful to the Lattucas and the many other Academy supporters who make our work possible.



1,195
attendees at the 2018
Members' Night

43,637

visits from members in fiscal year 2018

167,583 total visitors during fiscal year 2018

Highlights From the Field

Academy Fossil Prep Lab Manager Jason Poole and his co-leader of the Bighorn Basin dinosaur dig, Jason Schein (Bighorn Basin Paleontological Institute), brought more than four tons of dinosaur fossils back to the Academy this summer. They found parts of *Allosaurus*, *Diplodocus*, *Suuwassea* and *Apatosaurus*, as well as crocodile and turtle specimens, all from the Jurassic period. Volunteers at the Academy are helping to open the fossil jackets and clean and stabilize the fossils in the Fossil Prep Lab, where visitors can ask questions and see the work unfold.







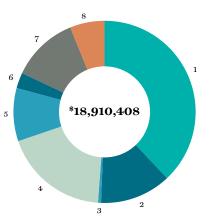
Financial Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2018

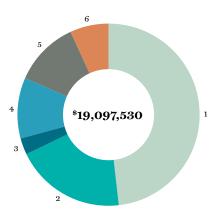
8. Other Income	1,162,758
7. Net Support from Drexel University	2,236,969
6. Endowment Income	530,424
5. Contributions, Bequests and Memberships	1,792,888
4. Net Assets Released from Restriction - All Programs	3,542,911
3. Other Programs and Grants	63,797
2. Public Programs, including Admissions	2,406,999
1. Research - Grants and Contracts	\$7,173,662

6. General and Administrative	2,187,974 1,326,221
	2,187,974
5. Building and Technology Services	0.107.074
4. Fundraising and Communications	2,097,755
3. Library	515,953
2. Public Programs	3,756,902
1. Collections and Research	\$9,212,725

Depreciation and Amortization	*(1,142,831)
Non-operating Activity, Net	\$2,630,98 4
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$84,160,580
Net Assets, End of Year	\$85,461,611

2018	Jun 30	62.198
2017	Jun 30	59.741
2016	Jun 30	55.032
2015	Jun 30	56.380
2014	Jun 30	53.612





The groundbreaking academic department Biodiversity, Earth & Environmental Science (BEES), formed upon the affiliation of the Academy and Drexel University, had a full-time equivalent enrollment of 172 students in 2018. The department generated approximately \$2.5 million in tuition revenue net of financial aid.



Thank You

On behalf of the Academy's Board of Trustees, we wish to recognize and thank those supporters who contributed to the Academy between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2018. Your generosity helps to fund the Academy's many research and education programs, and we are tremendously grateful for your support.

\$200,000 and up

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\$100,000 to \$199,999

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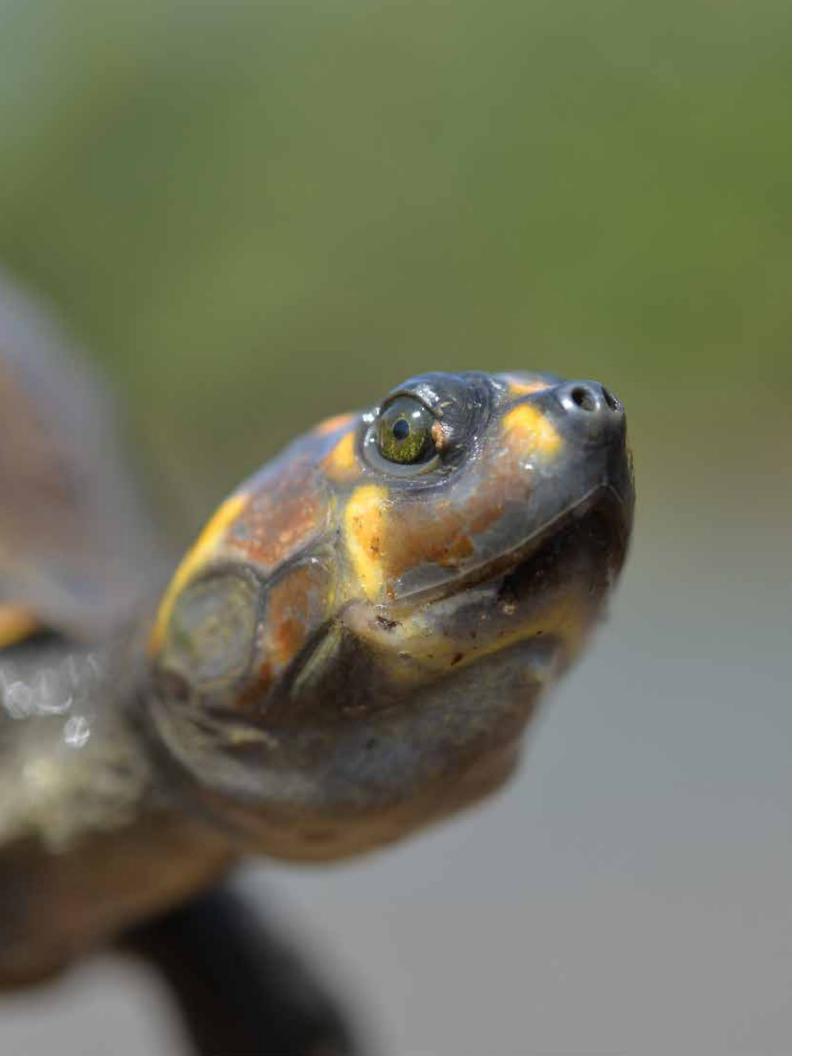
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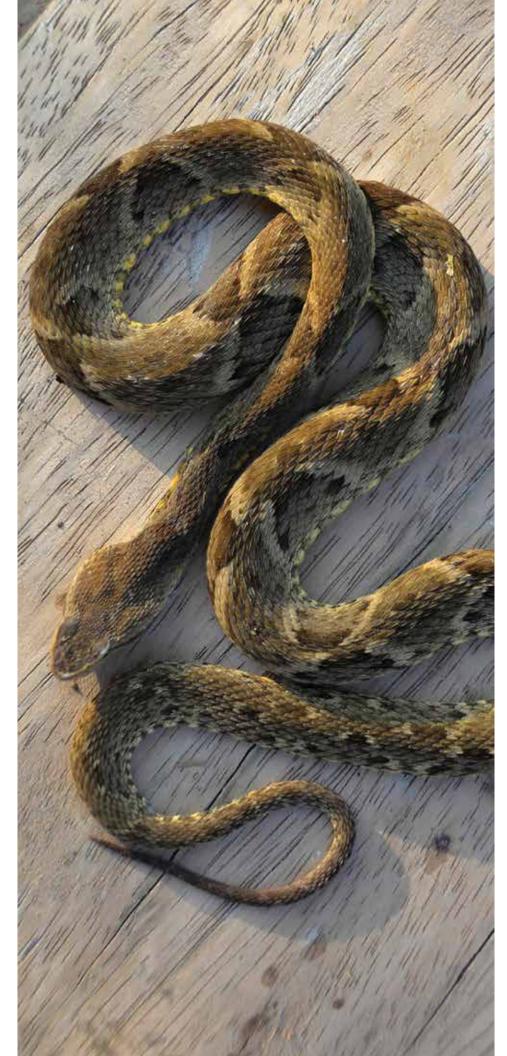
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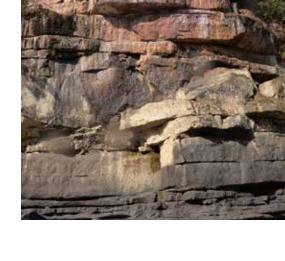
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