

2014 / 2015

*Annual Report*



**ON THE  
CUTTING  
EDGE**

THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES  
*of* DREXEL UNIVERSITY





# ON THE CUTTING EDGE

*Dear Friends,*

The Academy turned 203 this year, and each passing moment presented yet another opportunity for a new discovery. We are on the cutting edge of natural and environmental science research and education, from a massive multi-year initiative to protect and restore critical sources of drinking water in the Delaware River Basin, to an innovative program that united Philadelphia and Mongolian teens to learn about climate change.

Our ambitious campaigns to enrich our research and expand our public space are fortifying the Academy's future. In ornithology, we are focused on growing our research, training, and collecting enterprises. Last fall we welcomed Jason D. Weckstein, PhD, to the Academy. Jason is our associate curator of ornithology and associate professor in Drexel University's Department of Biodiversity, Earth & Environmental Science (BEES). His expertise in avian parasites and pathogens is more critical than ever as scientists track the paths of emerging diseases such as avian influenza, Lyme disease, and tick-borne illnesses.

Last year, nationally recognized consultants David Heil & Associates, Inc. recommended that the Academy repurpose the Library Reading Room as a signature exhibit space for public engagement and education. The Academy's architects and planners are preserving the historic character of the room, including the high, ornate ceiling and windows stretching two stories, as a backdrop for an immersive, next-generation natural history visitor experience. The renovations will include the development of a modernized library research center where researchers can access the Academy's collection in a safe, secure, and environmentally controlled space. We look forward to unveiling this new space to our members, visitors, and supporters in the years ahead.



In the following pages, we will immerse you in the Academy's science and museum, introducing the faces and spaces of our museum and research enterprise. You'll meet our WINS students, some of whom traveled across the world to learn about climate change; you'll see a transformation of a popular museum space, *The Big Dig*; and you will read about our critical work to assess, maintain, and improve the quality of aquatic ecosystems within the Delaware River Basin.



We thank our members, contributors, volunteers, co-ops, staff, and visitors for your ongoing support of our research, exhibits, and programs. It is thanks to you that we can remain at the forefront of research and education in biodiversity and environmental science.

All the best,

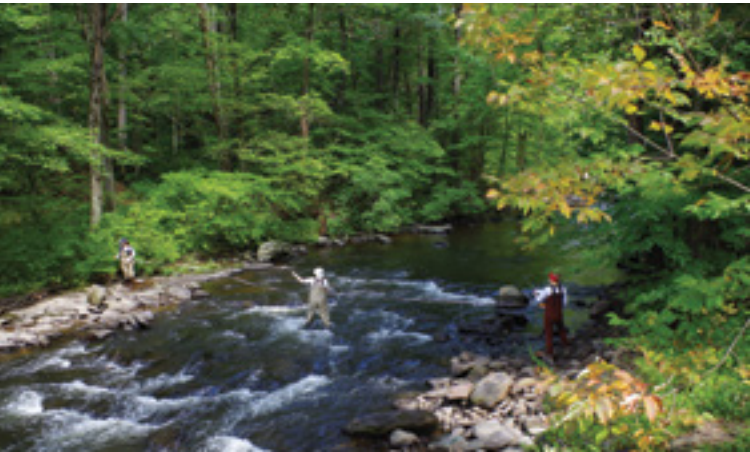
  
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## FUTURE-FOCUSED RESEARCH

*In early 2014, the Academy was granted three years of funding from the William Penn Foundation for its work on the Delaware River Watershed Initiative, a massive multi-year program to protect and restore critical sources of drinking water in the Delaware River Basin.*



The Academy is working alongside its partners—the William Penn Foundation, the Open Space Institute, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Institute for Conservation Leadership—to provide scientific oversight for the entire project, with more than 40 grantees working to restore degraded areas, protect undamaged areas, and monitor watershed health.

In spring 2015, the Foundation awarded the Academy additional funding to expand the work we're already undertaking. The new funds will enable Drexel faculty to become more engaged in the initiative and help support the Academy's scientific capacity. So far, the Academy's work has included monitoring of ecological conditions at over 100 sites across the Delaware Basin.

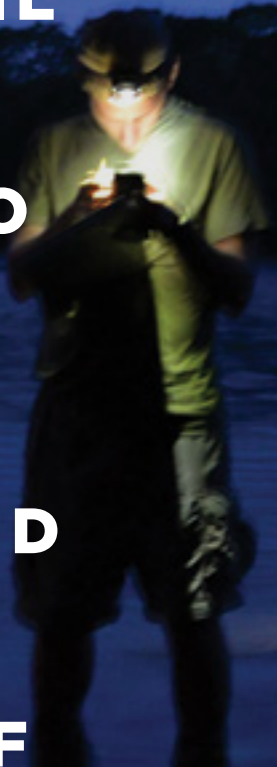
We are sharing this work with the public through presentations, including monthly *Tapping our Watershed* programming. Local organizations have adopted Academy protocols and are undertaking their own monitoring programs at individual sites. Academy scientists are providing guidance to ensure consistency of methods so that all the data can be used together to understand whether the initiative's stream restoration and protection activities are improving water quality.



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**ACADEMY  
RESEARCHERS  
TRAVELED THE  
WORLD, FROM BRAZIL  
TO MONGOLIA AND  
THE PHILIPPINES, TO  
UNDERSTAND THE  
DIVERSITY OF OUR  
NATURAL WORLD AND  
ADD NEW SPECIES  
TO THE CATALOG OF  
LIFE ON EARTH.**

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## UNPRECEDENTED PARTNERSHIP

*In an innovative collaboration, upper-level mechanical engineering students at Drexel University are creating educational, visitor-friendly tools for the Academy of Natural Sciences and other local science centers.*

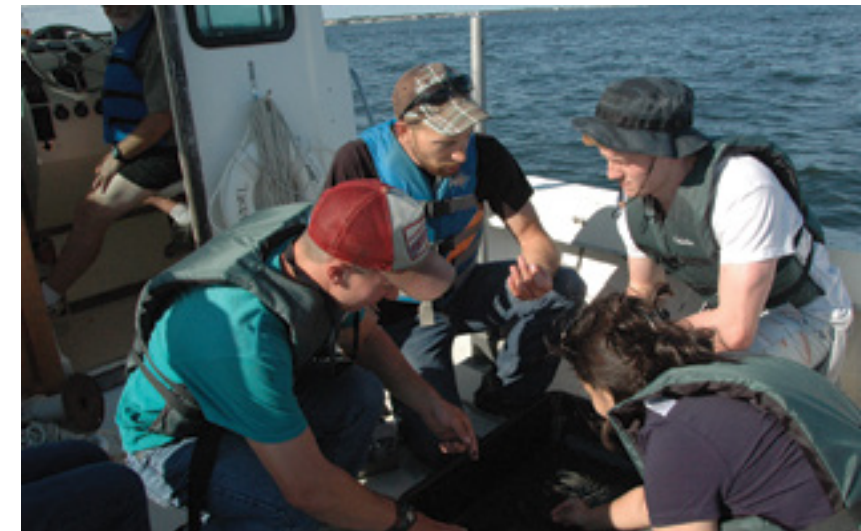
While encouraging students to step back and focus on the purpose of their work, this pioneering exchange enables our educators to provide an immersive learning experience for our visitors. As clients and mentors, Academy educators asked the students to build a tool that would demonstrate adaptations to museum visitors. They briefed the students on our museum's needs and provided feedback to help them develop physical prototypes of their products. One group built a hands-on skeletal model of a snake jaw, made up of wires, knobs, and a 3-D printed copy of a python skull in the Academy's Education Collection. The model demonstrates how a snake jaw opens, closes, and moves from side to side, debunking the myth that a snake must dislocate its jaw to feed.



*Before the start of their freshman year, BEES students attend a pre-term field experience, working alongside scientists to gain hands-on experience in basic and applied research methods.*

Among the most significant outcomes of the Academy's affiliation with Drexel University is the establishment of the new academic department, Biodiversity, Earth & Environmental Science. In fall 2015, nearly 150 undergraduate students were enrolled in the BEES Department, which offers majors in environmental science, geoscience, and environmental studies and sustainability.

Two admitted students had previously attended the Drexel Environmental Science Leadership Academy, an Academy and Drexel University summer program that gives high school students learning opportunities in the field even before they begin their undergraduate studies.



**IN FALL 2015,  
NEARLY 150  
UNDERGRADUATE  
STUDENTS WERE  
ENROLLED IN THE  
BEES DEPARTMENT.**



## INNOVATIONS IN EDUCATION

*In summer 2015, five students in the Academy's Women In Natural Sciences program took a 6,400-mile journey to a global hotspot of climate change: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.*



Along with 10 of their peers, the students have been learning about climate change and culture and collaborating via social media with 15 Mongolian teenagers, four of whom traveled to the Academy in spring 2015. The field trips were filled with lessons and activities designed to get the students thinking and talking about how climate change is affecting their homes and communities. The trips are part of their involvement in the Museums Connect program, an initiative funded by the U.S. Department of State. Administered by the American Alliance of Museums, Museums Connect pairs museums in the U.S. with museums abroad for a cross-cultural exchange that brings people, especially youth, together through community projects that address important topics such as women's empowerment and environmental protection.

For its innovative work, WINS was awarded the 2015 UL Innovative Education Award, which recognizes outstanding nonprofit organizations integrating science, technology, engineering, math, and the environment in their educational frameworks.

*WINS is a free after-school and summer science enrichment program that has introduced hundreds of high school women to future careers in science and other professions through hands-on science workshops, career and college exploration, and positive youth development.*



**IN FISCAL YEAR 2015,  
ACADEMY EDUCATORS  
REACHED MORE THAN  
78,000 STUDENTS  
DURING OUTREACHES  
AND FIELD TRIPS.**



## MUSEUM TRANSFORMATIONS

*The Big Dig, the Academy's very own fossil dig, was renovated in fall 2014 thanks to the generosity of the Leo Model Foundation and the Cotswold Foundation. The biggest addition is catered to our very smallest paleontologists.*

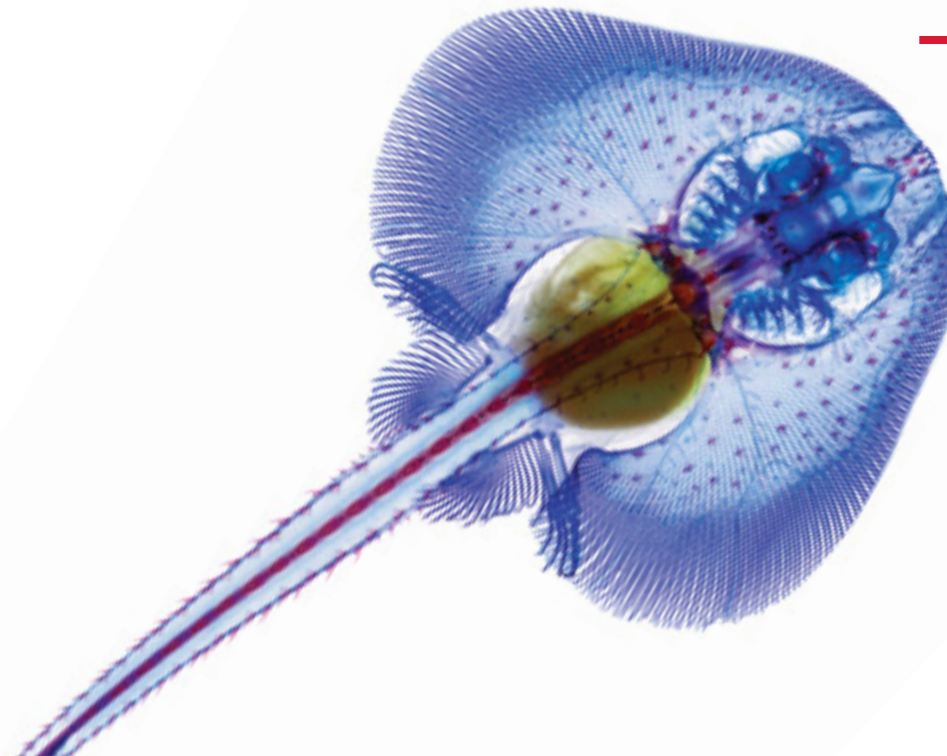
Nestled inside *The Big Dig*, the Little Dig activity involves using a brush to sweep aside child-safe inert cork bits to reveal dinosaur bones. Younger paleontologists will likely uncover a *Lambeosaurus* skull or an *Ornithomimus* arm and claw. A clever clipboard graphic identifies the bones found in the dig. As they listen to a windy soundscape accented by echoes of paleontological tools meeting rock, slightly older kids can pick up a chisel and grab one of the new double-sided map handouts, which depict species to search for in *The Big Dig*.



A new dramatic play wall with magnetic, movable dinosaur silhouettes covers the low wall opposite the digging space. Placed upon a charming Cretaceous landscape, dinosaur magnets that match the species in the dig are labeled with a scientific name and illuminated by custom-designed LED lights.



**MORE THAN 175,000  
PEOPLE, INCLUDING  
STUDENTS, MEMBERS,  
AND THE GENERAL  
PUBLIC, VISITED THE  
MUSEUM IN FISCAL  
YEAR 2015.**



Many visitors came to see exciting special exhibits, including *Chocolate: The Exhibition*, *Titanoboa: Monster Snake*, and *Animal Grossology*. The Art of Science Gallery featured insect art by Christopher Marley, nature mandalas by Caryn Babaian, and cleared and stained specimen photographs by Adam Summers. Pinned insect specimens and cleared and stained fish specimens from the Academy's collections were displayed alongside the work of Marley and Summers.



## COLLECTIONS TIPPING POINT

*The Academy's Ornithology Collection is widely recognized as one of the largest and most historically important ornithology collections in the world. In just the past year, the department grew from a single staff member to seven staff and fellows.*



The Academy's Ornithology Collection includes over 210,000 specimens and 20,000 tissue samples, representing more than 90 percent of the world's bird diversity. The Academy's goal is to become one of the world's leading ornithology centers by providing the endowment support necessary for future growth in our research, training, and staff.

In keeping with this ambition, the Academy hired Jason Weckstein, PhD, as associate curator of ornithology and associate professor in Drexel University's Department of Biodiversity, Earth & Environmental Science. His research program focuses on the biodiversity and evolutionary histories of birds and their parasites and pathogens. His arrival in fall 2014 marked a tipping point in the Academy's quest to situate our ornithology research program among the top programs in the country.

## WE THRIVE WITH YOUR SUPPORT

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

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marvin@ansp.org

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**IN FISCAL YEAR  
2015, ACADEMY  
SCIENTISTS  
ADDED 83,000  
SPECIMENS TO  
OUR BIOLOGICAL  
COLLECTIONS,  
AND ACADEMY  
STAFF DESCRIBED  
25 NEW SPECIES.**



## VISIONARY LEADERSHIP

*In April 2015, the Academy was pleased to bestow the William Maclure Award upon Martha H. and I. Wistar Morris III in recognition of their extraordinary philanthropic support and visionary leadership.*

Wistar has been an Academy Trustee since 2005, and Martha is a proud graduate of Drexel University. They have made significant, generous contributions to Academy science, supporting joint projects between systematics and environmental science that have helped pave the way for our combined Center for Academy Science. They were co-chairs of the Academy's Bicentennial in 2012 and received honorary degrees from Drexel in 2014. This year, the couple made a very generous contribution to support strategic initiatives. We thank them for their philanthropy!



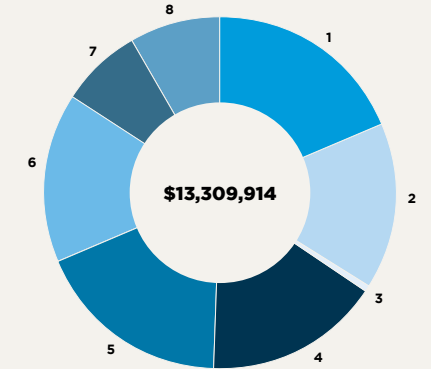
**THE ACADEMY'S INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT TEAM RAISED \$11.7 MILLION IN FISCAL YEAR 2015 IN SUPPORT OF ACADEMY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.**

This all-time record high for the Academy exceeded our goal by 51 percent and accounted for about 10 percent of the funds raised by the University overall in fiscal year 2015. The cost to raise a dollar was an exceptional 8 cents.

## FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015

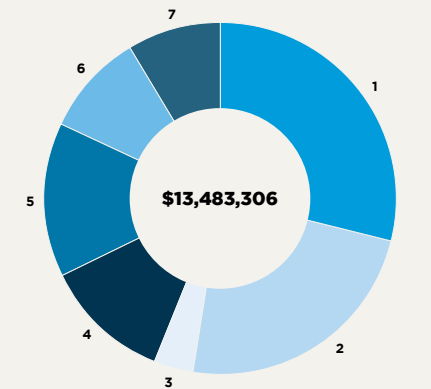
### Unrestricted Operating Revenue and Support

1. Research - Grants and Contracts	\$ 2,494,817
2. Public Programs, including Admissions	2,048,366
3. Other Programs and Grants	69,320
4. Net Assets Released from Restriction - All Programs	2,140,880
5. Contributions, Bequests, and Memberships	2,405,782
6. Endowment Income	2,044,862
7. Net Support from Drexel University	1,010,000
8. Other Income	1,095,887
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 13,309,914</b>



### Unrestricted Operating Expenses

1. Collections and Research	\$ 3,895,775
2. Public Programs	3,201,082
3. Library	472,391
4. Fundraising and Communications	1,575,063
5. Building and Technology Services	1,930,091
6. General and Administrative	1,251,246
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,325,648</b>



### Depreciation and Amortization

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,157,658</b>
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### Non-operating Activity, Net

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,941,399</b>
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### Net Assets

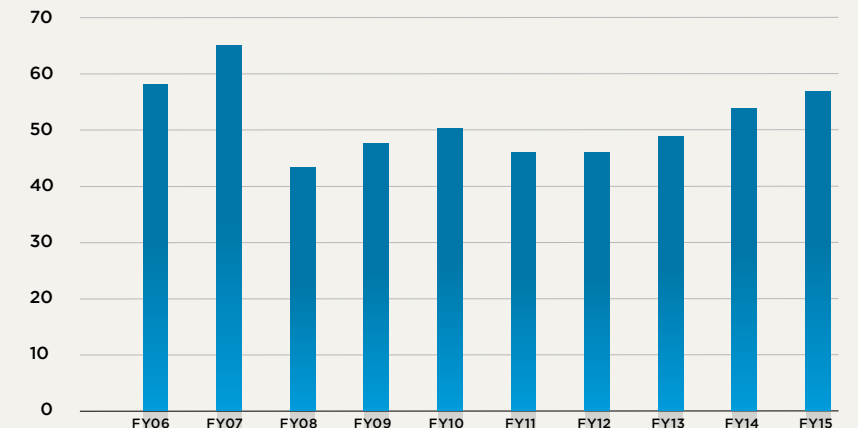
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,768,007</b>
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$79,254,435
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 81,022,442

### Endowment Growth (in millions)

2015	Jun 30	\$ 56.380
2014	Jun 30	53.612
2013	Jun 30	48.639
2012*	Jun 30	45.681
2011	Dec 31	45.794
2010	Dec 31	50.024
2009	Dec 31	47.439
2008	Dec 31	43.115
2007	Dec 31	64.743
2006	Dec 31	57.827

\*Change in fiscal year from December 31 to June 30

### Year-End Endowment Market Value (MM)





## 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, 2014, and June 30, 2015.*

*Your generosity helps to fund the Academy's many research and education programs, and we are tremendously grateful for your support.*

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*In October 2014, volunteer Chris Johnson discovered a gynandromorph butterfly, an individual with both male and female characteristics, in our Butterflies! exhibit. The right wings of this butterfly, Lexias pardalis, show the features of the female of the species, brown with yellowish spots. The left wings are darker, with the green, blue, and pink characteristics of the male.*

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