Dear Friends,

For all of us, the year past brought the unexpected — a pandemic that closed businesses, forced many into their homes and pushed our essential workers to their limits. Science itself came under the societal microscope as healthcare professionals, first responders, researchers and others accomplished truly brave and extraordinary work. We were all reminded of the importance of accessible scientific data, not only to expand our knowledge of a critical issue of global significance, but also, quite literally, to save lives.

The risks presented by a global catastrophe like COVID-19 are devastating and immediate, yet they are not wholly unlike those posed by climate change, which also poses existential threats, especially to individuals with low incomes and communities of color. Climate change is happening now, and in order to address it, sound exploration of the natural world must continue — pandemic or not. Accordingly, and despite the many challenges of the past year, our scientists and staff moved forward with their studies in biodiversity and environmental science, setting up temporary laboratories at home, collaborating virtually with research partners, exploring field sites with extreme care, publishing papers and reinvigorating our interactions with our data. Our administrative and public-facing teams also doubled down their efforts, finding new, creative ways to work, connect with each other and engage learners of all ages. When we reopened the museum to the public in summer 2020, we put the finishing touches on the brand-new William B. Dietrich Gallery and modernized Library Research Center. Our Women In Natural Sciences (WINS) program went digital, and our essential workers cared tirelessly for our live animals, our collections and our building, regardless of whether the gallery doors were open.

This year was certainly unusual, and we extend our warmest gratitude to the members, contributors, volunteers, staff and visitors who have continued your enthusiastic support and work on behalf of the Academy. Your steadfast encouragement has sustained us. Should you wish to connect with us to share your questions, feedback and inspirations, we welcome you to do so at the email addresses below.

As of this writing, vaccines are being rolled out, and masked visitors are returning to our galleries, but there are still many unknowns ahead. Rest assured that, at the Academy (and in our staff’s home offices and in the field), science won’t stop. Nor will the work of the Academy to be a convener and a collaborator with you on solutions that bring positive change to our environment on both a local and worldwide stage. We look forward to celebrating that sentiment and working alongside you as a united force for nature when we can finally be together in person.

Scott Cooper
President and CEO
sac454@drexel.edu

David E. Griffith
Chair, Board of Trustees
deg68@drexel.edu

On the cover: Scamandra thetis from the Academy’s Entomology Collection. Thanks to a digital index, scientists from around the world can access the Entomology Collection and request specimen loans without ever leaving their homes.
Renovation and Opening of our
William B. Dietrich Gallery
and new
Library Research Center
Thanks to the generosity of many Academy supporters, we completed the renovation for a modernized Library Research Center and new William B. Dietrich Gallery.

The transformed Library Research Center offers greater access to the Library and Archives for staff scientists and researchers around the world while improving environmental conditions and security of collections, preserving these treasures for future generations. The renovation project included the McLean Wolf Rare Book Room, through the generosity of The McLean Contributionship, and the Morris Reading Room, through the generosity of Martha and I. Wistar Morris III.

After a yearlong renovation, the elegant Library Reading Room was transformed into the William B. Dietrich Gallery, a new exhibition gallery named in recognition of The William B. Dietrich Foundation’s generous support of a major part of the renovation. This gallery marked the first new large space dedicated to exhibits in a decade. The opening celebration event was scheduled for March 27, 2020, just as the pandemic was shutting museum doors across the region.

This bold effort links Academy science and collections to the visitor experience, effectively improves our organizational sustainability and responsibly stewards our valuable collections.
Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access and Leadership Work
The Academy entered the new decade with an explicit mission to better understand the natural world and inspire everyone to care for it, aligning with our renewed intent to inform and build a movement of environmentally engaged communities for a healthy, sustainable and equitable planet.

As part of this renewed intent, we embraced our core value that inclusion, diversity, equity, access and leadership (IDEAL) are fundamental to everything we do. These are the values guiding our development into a 21st-century museum.

This year we established the IDEAL Board Committee, made up of the Academy’s Board of Trustees and IDEAL experts from our community, to serve as our outside advisory committee to guide our work. We created the IDEAL Charter Team for staff with representation that reflects the diversity we want for the Academy. In partnership with the Science Museum of Minnesota, we conducted our first Equity Survey to create a benchmark for where we are as an organization and to inform our five workstreams for the Charter Team and Board Committee. As a result, we focused our efforts on Academy Policy, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Environmental Justice in Science, Communications, Training and Fundraising. We began holding training sessions for all staff members, both in person and virtually, as the pandemic hit.

As we move forward, the Academy is committed to building IDEAL into all facets of our work, partnering with our diverse communities to connect with science and nature in creative, impactful ways — and being of, by and for all of Philadelphia.
Creation of the Center for STEAM Equity

This year, our nationally recognized Women In Natural Sciences (WINS) program and award-winning early childhood and STEAM initiative, Science and Literacy for Success (SLFS), were moved within the newly established Center for STEAM Equity.

The Center for STEAM Equity joins the progressive global field of research, programming and advocacy in social justice where citizens enjoy equal access to socioeconomic resources, individual freedoms and political representation. The Center focuses on both educational justice in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) and environmental justice, in service to diverse audiences across their lifespans — from early childhood onward.

Managing these programs within a shared infrastructure, built with the core values of equity and social justice, allows the Academy to strengthen its impact and contribute to a more diverse and equitable STEAM workforce.

Our aim is to create a continuum of equitable, inclusive STEAM opportunities that spans from pre-K through high school, infusing and supporting the kind of education, confidence and experience in our students that existing academic systems simply cannot.

SLFS trains educators and families, offers in-class mentoring and modeling and provides family workshops to improve early literacy and STEAM skills. WINS provides a safe space for young women to explore STEM majors and careers and develop the skills they need to become future leaders. Both are fundamentally social justice-oriented programs that seek to remove barriers and create avenues for youth — especially those who would not otherwise have access to STEAM programs — to grow and learn within the context of our current society.

Whether their experiences at the Center for STEAM Equity result in a lifelong hobby, an engaging college major or a fulfilling career, young people should have the opportunity to experiment and explore what science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics have to offer them.
Early Childhood Learning

Before the pandemic, the early childhood learning staff visited different home-based childcare centers each day as part of the Academy's Science and Literacy for Success and Discover! Play! Share! (DPS) programs. These initiatives are designed to enhance the quality of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and literacy instruction.

Once COVID-19 prevented in-person visits, the early childhood learning team pivoted to a mostly virtual format. Staff continued their monthly visits to early education centers around the city, but in new and creative ways. For centers that remained open, our staff visited them virtually. For centers that closed during this time, our staff teamed up with the center’s teachers to have family Zoom sessions with the children from home. Staff also created a virtual story time that included easy-to-do science activities that young learners and their families could follow along with from home utilizing materials that were readily available in their kitchens.

Our Early Childhood Learning programs have always been innovative, but this year required more innovation than ever before.

Our team continued holding professional development workshops for preschool providers, albeit virtually. Together with these preschool providers, they created virtual SLFS and DPS programming to ensure that young learners would continue receiving the best in literacy and STEM education remotely.

WINS

The WINS program forged ahead despite the challenges of the pandemic to staff and participants. We were pleased to hire two WINS alumnae just before COVID-19 temporarily shut Academy doors: Dominique Thomas, our coordinator of social justice programs, and Betty Louis, our engineering WINS project coordinator.

While WINS staff and participants could not be together for in-person activities, our staff adapted all their lessons for a virtual space.

To maintain the hands-on aspect of the program, they created kits that contained activities, scientific tools and materials, allowing the students to complete experiments and research from home. WINS staff worked closely with our scientists, co-ops and BEES students to put together a slate of presentations so that the students could benefit from the Academy's science and collections even though they could not physically visit the museum.
In January 2020, our Marketing and Communications team launched the Small Actions Spark Big Changes initiative, a year-long digital content campaign that connected our audiences with resources on how everyday choices can affect the health of the environment. As we moved into a virtual world in March, this digital content became evermore vital.

With the museum closed temporarily, the goal was to find meaningful ways to connect our audiences with our science and research.

In January 2020, our Marketing and Communications team launched the Small Actions Spark Big Changes initiative, a year-long digital content campaign that connected our audiences with resources on how everyday choices can affect the health of the environment. As we moved into a virtual world in March, this digital content became evermore vital.
In response to stay-at-home orders, our Learning team created a library of Science from Home digital content for educators and parents looking for at-home science activities and resources. Our A/V team directed and produced corresponding videos to engage our social media followers and website visitors.

Working together with our scientists and researchers, our Institutional Advancement and Learning teams developed virtual programs that gave a glimpse into our science and collections and allowed participants to interact directly with the curators, collection managers and researchers doing the work.

The Academy launched a robust slate of online programming with our first-ever virtual event in April 2020. Between April and June 2020, we held 16 virtual events that connected audiences of all ages to the natural world, even through a computer screen.

Academy entomologists created butterfly guides and participated in corresponding virtual events to help our audiences explore nature in their own backyards, patios and porches.
Science and Research Continue Despite the Pandemic

When COVID-19 closed the Academy’s doors temporarily in March 2020, staff from all departments scrambled to continue their work from home.
In lieu of spring fieldwork, our scientists and researchers stayed busy in their home offices. They focused on database work, such as inputting data from field sheets and collection ledgers, reorganizing and cleaning digital records and improving protocols for sharing data with partner organizations. Some created informative reports that interpret the vast amount of water quality data we have on streams in the Delaware Watershed. Our Collections and Library and Archives staff had more time for important digitization work to make our holdings more accessible to researchers around the world who could no longer visit the Academy in person. Across the institution, our staff dedicated time to scientific writing, submitting manuscripts to academic journals and developing proposals for new grants. And many constructed make-shift labs, bringing home microscopes to sort, identify and process samples and specimens found in earlier field seasons.

Scientists also had to adapt to the virtual world where classes are taught, students are advised and meetings are held online. The Biodiversity, Earth and Environmental Science (BEES) Department quickly shifted to virtual classes in March 2020. From classical classroom work, to laboratory experiments, to classes in the field, the faculty came up with novel ways to work with the students. These fresh approaches shed a new light on what educational experiences could look like in the future.

Despite all these changes, one thing was constant: scientific curiosity. Even during a global pandemic, science never stops.

For our Biogeochemistry team, seasonal monitoring of stream water quality for the Delaware River Watershed Initiative has been a key part of their work for the last six years. These samples, along with algae, fish, insect and habitat data collected by researchers in the Academy’s Patrick Center for Environmental Research, are used to assess baseline conditions and discern seasonal trends in stream health at over 35 sites across the watershed. Due to stay-at-home orders, the spring sampling season was postponed until the summer.

But how does a team, whose work is done largely in the field and the laboratory, transition to working remotely?

This was the big question for the Academy’s science and research staff in the early days of the pandemic.

In lieu of spring fieldwork, our scientists and researchers stayed busy in their home offices. They focused on database work, such as inputting data from field sheets and collection ledgers, reorganizing and cleaning digital records and improving protocols for sharing data with partner organizations. Some created informative reports that interpret the vast amount of water quality data we have on streams in the Delaware Watershed. Our Collections and Library and Archives staff had more time for important digitization work to make our holdings more accessible to researchers around the world who could no longer visit the Academy in person. Across the institution, our staff dedicated time to scientific writing, submitting manuscripts to academic journals and developing proposals for new grants. And many constructed make-shift labs, bringing home microscopes to sort, identify and process samples and specimens found in earlier field seasons.

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Despite all these changes, one thing was constant: scientific curiosity. Even during a global pandemic, science never stops.
River of the Year

In April 2020, the Delaware River was named the 2020 River of the Year by American Rivers. The health of the Delaware River is an extraordinary example of restoration and a model for equitable and innovative clean water solutions.

The Delaware River Watershed Initiative is one of the many collaborations responsible for the river’s recovery, but our work isn’t over. Threats like aging water infrastructure, urban development and climate change loom on the horizon, making the contributions of our scientists and researchers more vital than ever.

Visit ansblog.org to read more about how the Delaware River has transformed over the years.
Statement of Activities
for the Year Ended
June 30, 2020
(in thousands)

Operating Revenues and Releases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Grants and Contracts</td>
<td>$1,668</td>
<td>$1,368</td>
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<td>2. Contributions</td>
<td>1,173</td>
<td>818</td>
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<td>3. Allocations of Endowment Spending from Financial Capital</td>
<td>368</td>
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<td>4. Investment Income, Net</td>
<td>335</td>
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<td>5. Auxiliary Enterprises</td>
<td>2,308</td>
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<td>6. Other Income</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
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<td>Net Assets Released from Restriction</td>
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<td>($8,671)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues and Releases</strong></td>
<td><strong>$20,370</strong></td>
<td>($8,671)</td>
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Operating Expenses

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1. Salaries and Wages</td>
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<td>2. Employee Benefits</td>
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<td>3. Depreciation and Amortization</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Interest</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>–</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Other Operating Expenses</td>
<td>7,056</td>
<td>–</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$18,339</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Decrease in Net Assets from Operating Activities</strong></td>
<td>($2,031)</td>
<td>($3,742)</td>
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</table>

Non-operating

| | | |
| Contributions - Endowment and Other Gifts | – | $196 | $196 |
| Realized/Unrealized Net Gain (Loss) on Investments, Net of Endowment Payout and Expenses | ($52) | ($3,249) | ($3,249) |
| Expenses Related to Frozen Defined Benefit Pension Plan | (1,831) | – | (1,831) |
| **Decrease in Net Assets from Non-operating Activities** | (1,883) | (3,053) | (4,936) |
| **Total Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets** | **146** | (6,785) | (6,639) |
| **Net Assets, Beginning of Year** | $2,573 | $79,153 | $81,726 |
| **Net Assets, End of Year** | $2,721 | $72,358 | $75,079 |

Endowment Growth (in millions)

<table>
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<td>2014 Jun 30</td>
<td>53.612</td>
<td>53.612</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015 Jun 30</td>
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<td>2016 Jun 30</td>
<td>55.032</td>
<td>55.032</td>
<td>55.032</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019 Jun 30</td>
<td>61.880</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020 Jun 30</td>
<td>58.758</td>
<td>58.758</td>
<td>58.758</td>
<td>58.758</td>
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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 2020.
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, 2019, and June 30, 2020. Your generosity helps to fund the Academy’s many research and education programs, and we are tremendously grateful for your support. Because of our supporters’ investments in the Academy, science never stops.

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$500 to $999
Anonymous (2)

$250 to $499
Anonymous (3)

$100 to $249
Anonymous (4)

$50 to $99
Anonymous (5)

$25 to $49
Anonymous (6)

$10 to $24
Anonymous (7)

$5 to $9
Anonymous (8)

$1 to $4
Anonymous (9)

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For many years, the Academy’s most dedicated supporters have invested in our future by including the Academy in their estate plans. The Academy’s Board of Trustees established the 1812 Society in honor of our most forward-thinking supporters whose contributions have sustained the Academy’s growth for the past two centuries.

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