

THE
ACADEMY
OF NATURAL
SCIENCES



2005
ANNUAL
REPORT

CONNECTING
PEOPLE
TO NATURE
SINCE 1812

DID YOU KNOW?

One of the most dangerous animals in the world is the common housefly. Because of its habit of visiting animal waste, it transmits more diseases than any other animal.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



In these challenging times of global warming, habitat loss and species extinction, I am pleased to report The Academy of Natural Sciences is more focused than ever on our mission: to create the basis for a healthy and sustainable planet through exploration, research and education.

Despite fiscal belt tightening and personnel changes, our esteemed institution exceeded the 2005 budget, developed a creative blueprint for museum renovations, created a sharper focus in educational programming, and achieved important research milestones. We are proud to announce the discovery of a new catfish species and groundbreaking research that has led to a greater understanding of the genetics of mosquitoes that carry West Nile virus. This Annual Report recounts only a few of the many accomplishments of our dedicated scientists, educators, exhibit staff and other professionals, and volunteers whose collective passion works to connect people to nature.

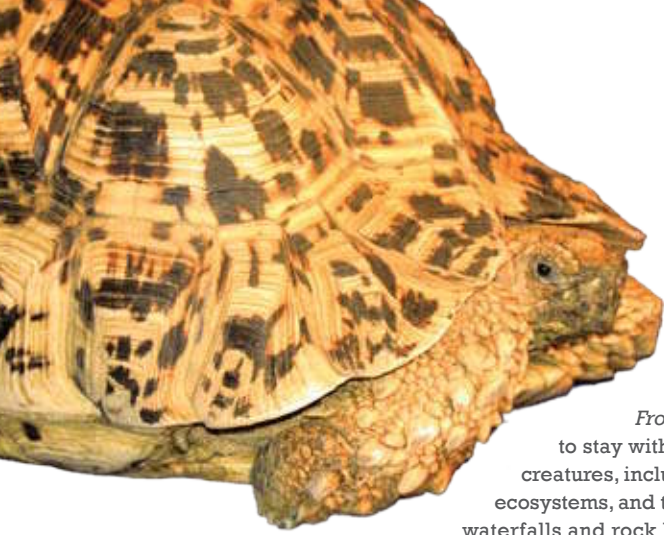
Academy scientists continue to assess the effects of climate change in such disparate locations as the tidal marshes of the Delaware Estuary and the steppes of Mongolia. An invasive fish, the northern snakehead, munched through the fish population in a local pond and became the object of a new museum exhibition highlighting Academy research on invasive species. The generosity of Academy trustees and other donors launched the Laboratory for Molecular Systematics and Ecology that allows Academy scientists to apply the latest techniques of molecular biology to their research.

The popular Town Square speaker series brought the public together to discuss issues close to home, such as contamination in the Delaware River, and to rub elbows with nationally prominent environmentalists, including former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and Pulitzer Prize-winning author John McPhee. People also were connected to nature through a “haunted museum” at Halloween that featured some of the more bizarre creatures from our collection of 17 million specimens. Temporary exhibitions on our relationship with dogs and live frogs educated and delighted tens of thousands more schoolchildren and families.

While we look back with pride on a successful 2005, we say goodbye to President and CEO Dr. D. James Baker, whose tenure ends in May 2006. Through Jim’s steady hand and leadership, the Academy was able to weather the challenge of shrinking funding from all sectors, while honing in on the goals of our mission. We soon will conclude our national search for his replacement. Dr. David Hart, Director of the Patrick Center for Environmental Research for nine years, left to pursue a career with the University of Maine. David’s leadership and foresight guided projects involving improving watershed restoration practices, developing better indicators of ecosystem health, and identifying risks from chemical contaminants.

Looking to 2006, we have much to be thankful for and much to look forward to, including the October opening of a completely redesigned *Butterflies!* exhibition, featuring live tropical butterflies. The return of these beautiful creatures kicks off a campaign to progressively improve the museum. None of this would be possible without the generous support of our benefactors. In this time of global environmental challenges, it is comforting to know that our supporters are there to help us forge ahead to create the basis for a healthy and sustainable planet.

Edward A. Montgomery, Jr.
Chairman of the Board of Trustees



05

MUSEUM

FROGS – A CHORUS OF COLORS / NOVEMBER 12, 2005 – MAY 14, 2006

Frogs—A Chorus of Colors leapt into the halls of the Academy in November to stay with us through the winter. *Frogs* explored many aspects of these fascinating creatures, including their biology, natural history, role in human cultures, importance to ecosystems, and the peril they face in a changing environment. Recreated habitats, including waterfalls and rock ledges, enabled the frogs to reside in familiar and comfortable environments during their stay at the Academy. In this highly interactive exhibit, visitors were able to get eyeball to eyeball with frogs from around the world, activate recorded frog calls, test their vision against a frog's, and perform a virtual dissection without hurting a frog.

DOGS: WOLF, MYTH, HERO & FRIEND / JUNE 4 – SEPTEMBER 5, 2005

Summer 2005 was truly the dog days of summer at the Academy. *DOGS: Wolf, Myth, Hero & Friend* sniffed out the facts on dogs and explored what makes our relationship with these amazing animals so unique. *DOGS* was the largest, most comprehensive traveling exhibition ever created to explore the history, biology and evolution of dogs and the roles that dogs play in human societies. Visitors guessed what dogs were saying in a "howling area," tested their noses against a dog's great sense of smell, and climbed into an avalanche scene to see what it's like to be saved by a search-and-rescue dog. Some of the special events associated with *DOGS* were The International Dogs Film Festival, The Dog Days of Summer Adoption Festival, and talks and demonstrations with seeing-eye dogs and bloodhounds from a K-9 search-and-rescue team.

THE MUSEUM OF UNNATURAL SCIENCES

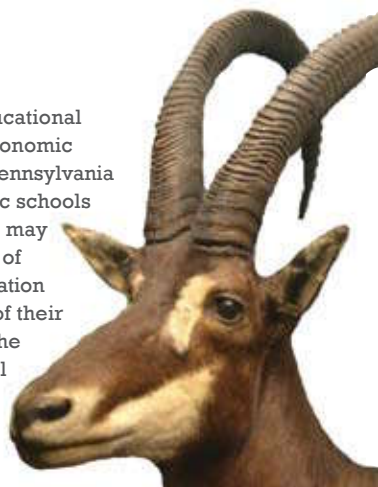
In October, the Academy welcomed monsters of all ages to enjoy the fascinating and spooky *Museum of UnNatural Sciences*. Visitors encountered our very own mad scientists (though they didn't experiment on any guests—we promise). The haunted museum told the dreadful story and long-hidden family secrets of Philadelphia's Grisly Family, the "terrible curse" from which its living (and dead) members suffer, and why Uncle Morgan Grisly's personal collection was struck from historical records. It also featured various shocking oddities from the Academy's collections, frightening folks the old-fashioned way: by extremely unpleasant surprise!

ALIEN INVADERS NEW PERMANENT EXHIBIT!

Our natural habitats are under threat from non-indigenous species of plants and animals. Who are these alien invaders, and why should we be concerned? The Academy's new exhibit, *Alien Invaders*, features the incredible snakehead fish! Snakeheads are an invasive species first seen in Maryland ponds two years ago. Known for its sharp teeth, nasty appearance and ability to crawl short distances over land, the northern snakehead is now rearing its ugly head at the Academy. The interactive exhibit features two large aquaria stocked with 4-inch to 24-inch-long northern snakeheads – dubbed "Frankenfish" for their sinister looks – recently collected by biologists from the Academy. The exhibit also spotlights other non-indigenous species, including plants and animals that do not occur naturally in particular areas, and explains the havoc they can wreak.

EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

The Academy is listed as an educational improvement organization under the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program of the Department of Community and Economic Development of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Over 20,000 children across Pennsylvania are benefiting from EITC scholarships and countless numbers of children in public schools enjoy innovative programs that otherwise would have gone unfunded. Companies may register with the EITC Program to become eligible for a tax credit equal to 75% of their contribution to the Academy up to a maximum of \$200,000 per year. An organization that commits to two consecutive years of support can be approved for up to 90% of their contributions. In 2005, CIGNA donated \$100,000 and Sunoco donated \$50,000 to the Academy. The funds were used to support the Academy's WINS (Women in Natural Sciences) Program.



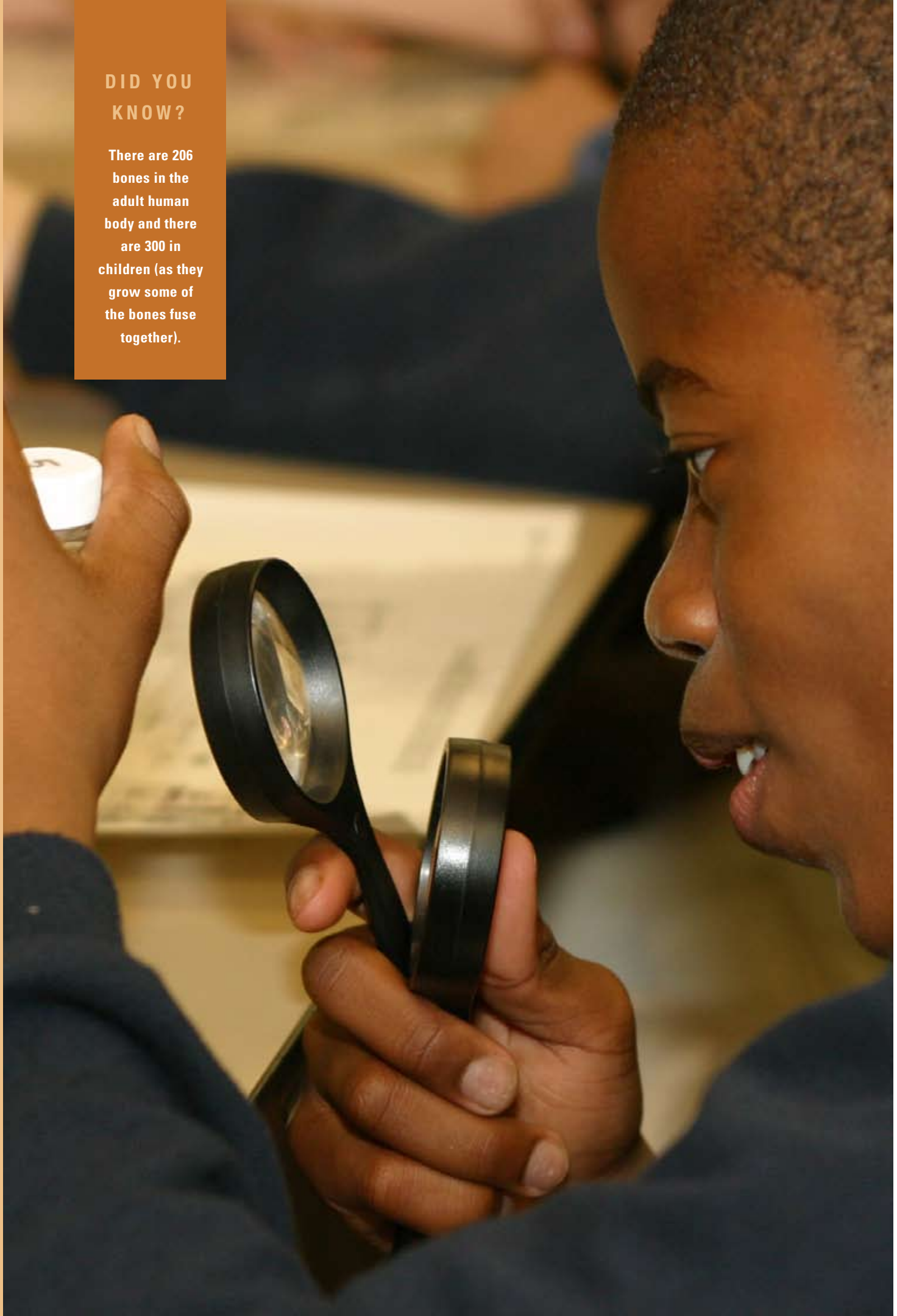
**DID YOU
KNOW?**

The poison
arrow frog
of South and
Central America
is one of the
most poisonous
animals in
the world.



**DID YOU
KNOW?**

There are 206 bones in the adult human body and there are 300 in children (as they grow some of the bones fuse together).



T

TOWN SQUARE

Town Square is a series of public and web-based forums designed to bring together science and policy experts and concerned citizens for discussions of critical environmental issues. The Academy welcomed a number of illustrious speakers to participate in Town Square in 2005.



Bruce Babbitt, former Interior Secretary under President Clinton, visited the Academy on November 14 to promote a “national discussion” on balancing urban growth and wilderness protection. A former Arizona governor, Babbitt has built a legacy of protecting the beauty and integrity of the nation’s national parks and federal lands. Babbitt’s new book is the critically acclaimed *Cities in the Wilderness*, which offers new insights into the critical topics of land use and development.

On December 1, Pulitzer Prize-winning author John McPhee was awarded one of the Academy’s highest honors: the Gold Medal for “artistic endeavors and life’s work that have contributed to mankind’s better understanding and appreciation of the natural world.” McPhee, who teaches writing at Princeton University, won the Pulitzer Prize for General Non-fiction in 1998 for *Annals of the Former World* about the geological history of North America. He has written some 20 other books, most recently, *Irons in the Fire*.

A group of the area’s influential environmental organizations have joined forces to make Philadelphia the greenest, most livable city in America. The group, called The Urban Sustainability Forum, plans a series of ambitious initiatives to achieve this goal. One component is a series of public discussions at the Academy that focus on the social, economic, quality-of-life and environmental conditions of Philadelphia. One of the highlights thus far was an evening with Jaime Lerner, governor of the Brazilian state of Paraná and renowned as an architect and urban planner who has implemented a host of enlightened social, ecological and urban reforms. He is the former mayor of Curitiba, dubbed “the world’s most sustainable city.”

THE 2005 PHILADELPHIA SHELL SHOW

The Philadelphia Shell Club celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2005 with the Philadelphia Shell Show at the Academy over Columbus Day weekend. The show featured judged exhibits of shells in scientific and artistic categories, as well as noncompetitive displays by collectors and artists. Special emphasis was placed on the Sailors’ Valentine, a unique decorative art form that features shells in geometric patterns. An exhibit of antique and contemporary



Valentines from private collections was on display by the Academy library, and many of the leading artists in the field presented their work.

To mark the Shell Club’s anniversary, there was a lecture about legendary Academy curator and club founder R. Tucker Abbott.





SCIENCE

THE ACADEMY PROBES WHAT'S EATING HISTORIC USS MONITOR

The ironclad Civil War battleship *USS Monitor* rests in 240 feet of water off the North Carolina coast, but its ultimate fate may hinge on work done in a lab at the Academy. Although recovery efforts in recent years have brought to the surface hundreds of artifacts, a hidden enemy is mucking up the works. Sulfur, which naturally occurs in the mud, minerals and organic matter in the ocean, is eating away at the ship's wooden elements. Now, Academy scientists, led by Dr. David Velinsky, have been called in to measure exactly how much sulfur is present so that conservators can determine how to combat the deterioration.



Dr. David Velinsky



Dr. Donald Charles



Dr. Dina Fonseca

SURPRISING GENETIC DIFFERENCES FOUND IN SOUTHERN HOUSE MOSQUITO

In a paper published in the February issue of the *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, Dr. Dina Fonseca and her team identified genetically different strains of the southern house mosquito (*Culex quinquefasciatus*): an insect found everywhere in the tropics and subtropics. This research helps medical entomologists and doctors understand why certain infectious diseases, including elephantiasis, West Nile virus, avian malaria and poxvirus, occur in parts of the world but not in others.

DRBC HONORS PIONEERING ECOLOGIST DR. RUTH PATRICK

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) will name the courtyard of its new office building the "Ruth Patrick River Garden" in honor of the Academy's world-renowned environmental scientist. The commission released a concept design plan for the courtyard at a ceremony held at its West Trenton headquarters on December 7. Dr. Patrick has been associated with the Academy since 1933. In 1947, she founded the Academy's Limnology Department, now called the Patrick Center for Environmental Research. She is currently the Francis Boyer Chair of Limnology at the Academy and the honorary chair of its Board of Trustees.

DR. DONALD F. CHARLES NAMED FIRST RUTH PATRICK CHAIR IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

In recognition of his internationally acclaimed research involving microscopic aquatic algae, the Academy named Dr. Donald F. Charles to the first Ruth Patrick Chair in Environmental Science. Charles, head of the Phycology Section of the Academy's Patrick Center for Environmental Research, has a long and accomplished record focusing on the use of diatoms and other algae as ecological indicators and their influences on aquatic ecosystems. He has published nearly 100 scientific articles, papers and technical reports and served as associate editor of the *Journal of Paleolimnology*. Named after the Academy's own pioneering ecologist, the Ruth Patrick Chair is a five-year appointment.





**DID YOU
KNOW?**

The average
life span of the
female mosquito
is 3 to 100 days;
the male's is
10 to 20 days.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

The animal
with the largest
brain in relation
to its body
is the ant.



T

THE ACADEMY INVESTIGATES EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON DELAWARE TIDAL MARSHES

Thanks to a prestigious 3-year, \$700,000 Science to Achieve Results grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, Drs. Melanie Vile and David Velinsky of the Academy's Patrick Center for Environmental Research are assessing how the tidal freshwater marshes in the Delaware Estuary are likely to respond to a predicted rise in sea level and the resulting intrusion of salt water into freshwater environments.

ACADEMY TEAM DISCOVERS NEW CATFISH SPECIES

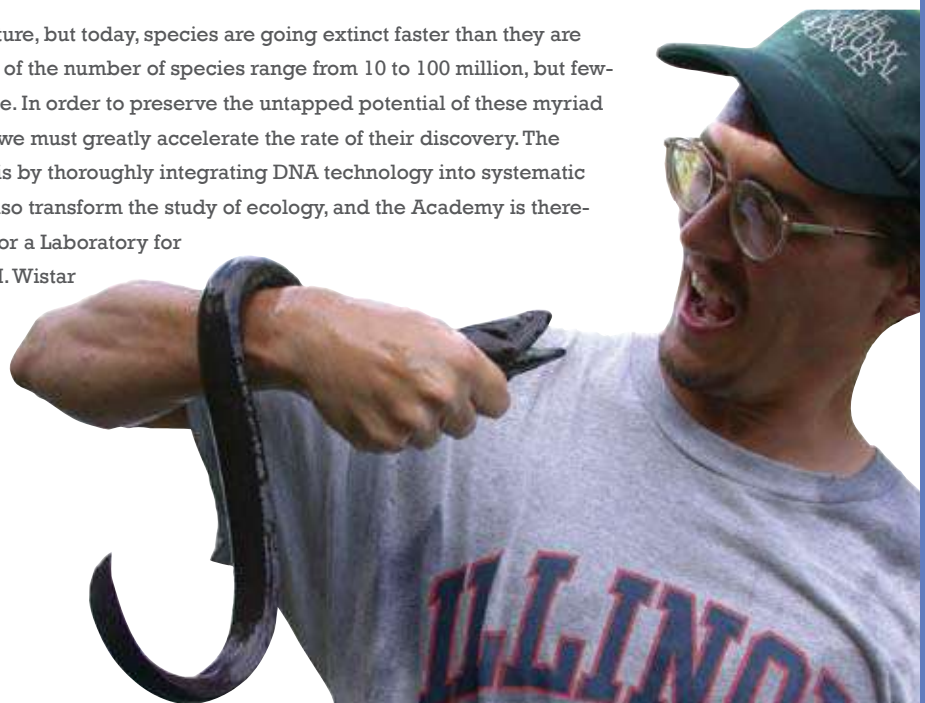
The Academy's Dr. John Lundberg, Curator of Ichthyology, and a team of researchers from Mexico and the U.S. have discovered a new species of catfish representing an entirely new taxonomic family: *Lacantuniidae*, a name derived from the fish's habitat in the Lacantún river of southern Chiapas state in Mexico. Only about 30 of the fish have been found since the 1990s and only one specimen was collected in a recent five-day expedition. The discovery was described in *Zootaxa*, an online scientific journal. Studies suggest this fish is the only member of an ancient group that may have arisen millions of years ago when dinosaurs roamed the Earth.

ACADEMY CURATOR HEADS POST-KATRINA COLLECTIONS RECOVERY AND RESTORATION

The herbarium at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratories in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, was seriously damaged by Hurricane Katrina. To help pay for its restoration, the American Society of Plant Taxonomists established an emergency fund, and the Academy's Dr. Lucinda McDade was asked to lead the effort. Among specimens housed at the herbarium were plants collected from the barrier islands, which document unique plant communities now destroyed by Katrina. The Academy is proud to have one of its own among the many who devote their time and energy to restoring the cultural riches of this devastated region.

I. WISTAR MORRIS III PLEDGES \$1M TOWARD LABORATORY FOR MOLECULAR SYSTEMATICS AND ECOLOGY

Each species has a unique role in nature, but today, species are going extinct faster than they are being discovered. Current estimates of the number of species range from 10 to 100 million, but fewer than 2 million are known to science. In order to preserve the untapped potential of these myriad species to inspire and aid humanity, we must greatly accelerate the rate of their discovery. The most promising means of doing this is by thoroughly integrating DNA technology into systematic biology. Molecular techniques will also transform the study of ecology, and the Academy is therefore aggressively pursuing funding for a Laboratory for Molecular Systematics and Ecology. I. Wistar Morris III, R. James Macaleer and David and Diane Hill have pledged \$1,000,000, \$500,000 and \$300,000, respectively, toward this effort.





LIBRARY

THE EWELL SALE STEWART LIBRARY

The staff and collections of the Ewell Sale Stewart Library continue to meet the informational needs of the Academy's scientists and visiting researchers from around the world. The Academy Library is the oldest natural history library in the Western Hemisphere, and new emphasis has been placed on preserving some of its irreplaceable volumes. The Friends of the Library instituted an "adopt a book" program that has raised over \$30,000 to fund the professional conservation of such treasures as Pierre Joseph Redoute's *Les Liliacees*. The Arcadia Foundation's \$250,000 challenge grant to the Archivist Endowment Fund is an important step in that campaign's quest to fund a full-time archivist.



Redoute Lily



James Gustave Speth

DEVELOPMENT

193rd ANNUAL MEETING

The Academy was honored to welcome James Gustave Speth, world-renowned environmentalist, author and teacher, to deliver a talk titled "Global Warming and Climate Change: How Do We Respond? How Much Time Do We Have?" Speth is Dean and Professor in the Practice of Environmental Policy and Sustainable Development at Yale University. Throughout his career, he has provided leadership and entrepreneurial initiatives to many task forces and committees, including the President's Task Force on Global Resources and Environment; the Western Hemisphere Dialogue on Environment and Development; and the National Commission on the Environment. He served as administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and chair of the UN Development Group. His publications include *Red Sky at Morning: America and the Crisis of the Global Environment*; *Worlds Apart: Globalization and the Environment*; and articles on foreign policy, foreign affairs and environmental science and technology in numerous journals and books.



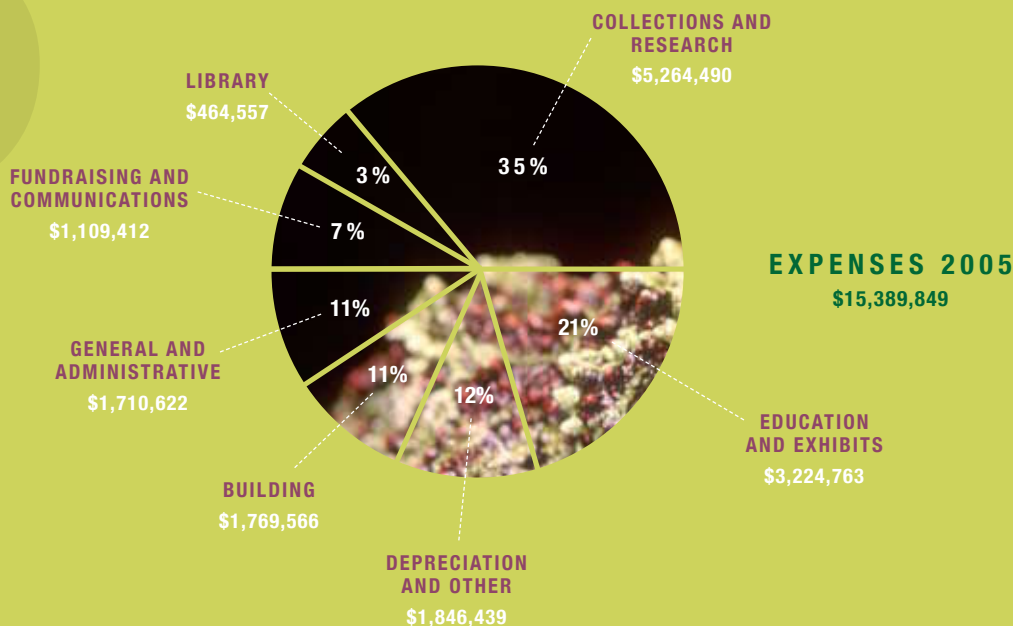


**DID YOU
KNOW?**

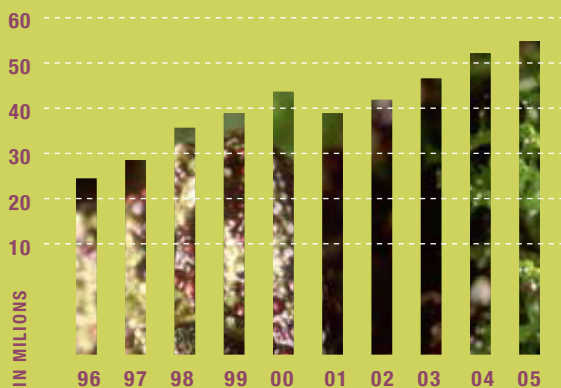
There are
more beetles
than any
other kind of
insect in
the world.

FINANCIAL REPORT

05



ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES ENDOWMENT GROWTH



REVENUE AND SUPPORT 2005

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| TOTAL OPERATING INCOME | \$10,597,200 |
| ENDOWMENT INCOME | \$3,057,384 |
| INVESTMENT ACTIVITY | \$531,543 |
| ANNUAL FUND, CONTRIBUTIONS, BEQUESTS | \$2,931,900 |
| STATE APPROPRIATION | \$428,000 |
| TOTAL | \$17,546,027 |

YEAR-END ENDOWMENT MARKET VALUE (MM)

| | |
|------|----------|
| 1996 | \$24.744 |
| 1997 | \$29.053 |
| 1998 | \$34.725 |
| 1999 | \$39.781 |
| 2000 | \$42.690 |
| 2001 | \$39.794 |
| 2002 | \$41.146 |
| 2003 | \$47.463 |
| 2004 | \$51.066 |
| 2005 | \$53.230 |



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The Academy of Natural Sciences gratefully acknowledges those listed here for their contributions in 2005. We appreciate your support of our general operations, endowments and special projects. The Academy continues to be a world leader in science research and education because of the generosity of numerous corporations, foundations and individuals. Thank you very much.

If your name was omitted or listed inaccurately, please accept our most sincere apologies and contact the Development Office at 215.299.1011 so that we can correct the mistake and not repeat it.

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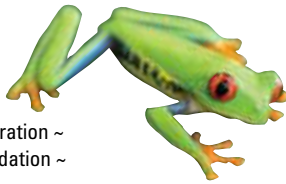
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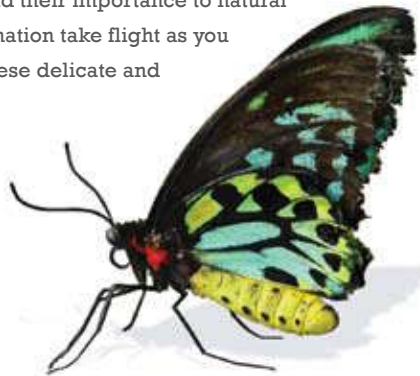
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