



PALEONTOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTION  
**ANNUAL REPORT | FY2012**

AFFILIATED WITH



Cornell University

# PALEONTOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTION

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The following individuals contributed to our success in FY2012 (July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012). Thank you!

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Ingrid Zabel, Ph.D., Development Associate

And thank you to our colleagues who moved on during this year:  
Cathy Blackburn, Jaime Hazard, Jennifer Thompson and Maya Weltman-Fahs

**Cover Photo:** Visitors enjoying PRI's state-of-the-art Prep Lab in the Museum of the Earth — both a research space and a public exhibition

## YEAR IN REVIEW

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In FY2012, we celebrated Dr. Warren Allmon's 20th Anniversary as PRI Director along with many other significant accomplishments.

This year we:

- Enjoyed an increase in the numbers of visitors, sales and revenue over last year
- Completed renovations of four new research laboratories
- Made significant progress on curation and computerization in Collections
- Gained significant media exposure with little marketing resources
- Renewed our affiliation with Cornell University
- Completed two more Teacher-Friendly Guides™
- Published our first series of papers on the Marcellus Shale and
- Made substantial progress towards a complete merger with the Cayuga Nature Center

## ONLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA DASHBOARD

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Pageviews: 40, 387

Unique visitors: 9, 743

Facebook: 1, 082 Likes

Followers on Twitter: 129

Tweets: 978

Turritellids are one of the most abundant gastropod groups and the focus of Dr. Allmon's research.

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



### TWENTY YEARS AND COUNTING... ONWARD AND UPWARD!

What a difference a few years can make. I visited PRI back in the 1990s, not long after Warren had taken over as Director. I saw the stacks of dusty, crumbling cardboard boxes piled high in the halls, the peeling paint, and the odd assortment of mismatched broken-down office furniture that served its (very) few employees. One could have easily become overwhelmed at the scale of the project and given up, but not Warren. He knew that each of those boxes contained the elements of one of the finest fossil collections in the country, and he was inspired by the deep and rich history of the institution and the extraordinary people who established it. He dove into his work with a passion and energy that made most of his colleagues tired just watching him, and with a powerful vision for what the place could become that guided his every decision. With a lot of hard work, strong support from his board, and some uncannily good fortune (“Hello, PRI? I think we have mastodon bones weathering out in our backyard...”), Warren and his team managed to transform PRI into a center for research and education that rivals the best of its kind in the nation.

Today, PRI has never been better. Collections grants have built new state-of-the-art facilities and enabled curation and digitization of a significant and growing part of the collection. Publication of both technical and educational materials is strong. Research by staff is at an all-time high. Outreach extends across the country with publication of the phenomenally successful Teacher-Friendly Guides and associated activities. A major new exhibit on glaciers and climate change is in the offing for the coming year. Merger with the Cayuga Nature Center has broadened our scope and added a dynamic new component to environmental education. And next year, we’ll celebrate another milestone with the 10-year anniversary of the opening of the Museum of the Earth. This is an exciting time to be part of the PRI family.

I step into this role as President of the Board with a good deal of humility, as I follow in the footsteps of some exceptional individuals. Most recently, Rob Mackenzie has guided the Board with quiet strength, clear vision, and infectious enthusiasm. His tenure has seen major steps toward financial security for the institution and an expansion of its influence in the community and beyond. I hope to be able to continue these trends, and see the reach of PRI expand further in the coming years. In my eye, the strength of PRI ultimately draws from its collections and the research being done with them, both in-house and beyond. It’s that foundation that makes us far more than ‘just’ a center for earth and environmental education. It gives us clout. The weightiness of the history and legacy of this place and the scientists who work here make everything we do from an outreach perspective more important, more influential. We need to nurture that special confluence of research and education that Warren saw right from the beginning, 20 years ago. The remarkable progress over recent years has put us very much on course to do this, and I am excited by what the future holds in store. Onward and upward!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Ivany". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a long, sweeping underline.

Linda C. Ivany, Ph.D.  
President, PRI Board of Trustees

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



### LOOKING BACK OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS, I AM AMAZED...

PRI was founded in 1932 with aims both ambitious and narrow. Founder Gilbert Harris, Cornell geology professor, wanted to build an organization that would serve professional and serious amateur paleontologists, and not too many others. PRI did this with distinction for 60 years. But by 1992, despite its international reputation for collections, publications, and research, the world had largely passed PRI by.

Today, this is definitely no longer the case. In its eighty-first year, PRI is a modern natural history museum, doing all the things that that description implies. Our specimen collection – always well-known to a small community of scientists -- has more than doubled in size since 1992, and with more than \$1 million in grants from the National Science Foundation has truly become what we always said it could be: a world-class resource for research and teaching. Staff has grown from three to over 25, including nine Ph.D.s, and our operating budget from less than \$200,000 to more than \$2 million. In 1992, PRI had essentially no public educational programs. Today, our nationally recognized programs in Earth science education reach tens of thousands of people across the country. Here in Ithaca, we opened the Museum of the Earth in 2003, an \$11 million exhibit and education facility that has also become nationally recognized for excellence and innovation. In 2004, seven decades of formal estrangement ended when PRI and Cornell University signed an affiliation agreement. PRI now serves Cornell in a variety of ways, from teaching to research to public outreach, and there is great potential to do more. PRI is also now in the last stages of completing the merger with Cayuga Nature Center, which is already allowing us to fulfill many of our long-term institutional aspirations to make paleontology relevant to concerns of the modern world.

Looking back on the past 20 years, I am amazed. At the extraordinary generosity and hard work on the part of so many people. At the power of some simple ideas to motivate. At the ability of people and institutions to do what at first – and repeatedly – seemed impossible. Although PRI has gone far beyond what Gilbert Harris intended, I continue to believe that we continue his legacy in the most important respect: if you believe something deeply enough, and pursue it relentlessly regardless of what critics say – and, oh yes, if it's a really good idea – you will succeed.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Warren D. Allmon". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

Warren D. Allmon, Ph.D.  
Director



**GREGORY P. DIETL, Ph.D.**  
Director of Collections

Dr. Dietl is a paleoecologist with a focus on the ecology and evolution of species interactions and conservation paleobiology—a rapidly developing field that applies the methods and theories of paleontology to conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services.

His research approach is very much multidisciplinary in nature, integrating interests across diverse fields of organismal and theoretical biology. Research highlights from the past year included co-organizing the successful NSF-funded workshop on “Conservation Paleobiology in the Coming Decades,” which brought scientists from around the world to PRI to explore how best to position this emerging field to address global environmental change problems.

He received an NSF grant to monitor the effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster on the ecology of oyster reefs in the Gulf of Mexico with the goal of obtaining geohistorical baselines of pre-impact oyster reefs, which will provide much needed context for setting restoration goals.

He holds an adjunct faculty position at Cornell University in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.

## RESEARCH

Original scientific research has always been at the core of what PRI is as an organization. Like Publications and Collections, Research is a fundamental part of our history. It adds credibility to our public programs and exhibitions and distinguishes us from other Central New York science museums. Our Research program enhances our value both as a community resource and as we seek enhanced collaboration with Cornell University.

Although PRI does not support any permanent staff position devoted solely or mainly to research, we have acquired an extraordinarily talented and active group of individuals (this year numbering 10) with Ph.D. degrees. Most of these are pursuing original research in addition to the jobs for which they were hired.

**Warren Allmon, Ph.D.** – *Cenozoic mollusks, macroevolution*

**Carlyn Buckler, Ph.D.** – *Earth science education, genetics*

**David Campbell, Ph.D.** – *Cenozoic mollusks, bivalve evolution*

**Gregory Dietl, Ph.D.** – *Cenozoic mollusks, evolutionary paleoecology*

**Don Duggan-Haas, Ph.D.** – *Science education*

**Richard Kissel, Ph.D.** – *Paleozoic reptiles and synapsids, science education*

**Paula Mikkelsen, Ph.D.** – *Recent mollusks, bivalve morphology*

**Judith Nagel-Myers, Ph.D.** – *Paleozoic mollusks, paleoecology*

**Robert Ross, Ph.D.** – *Earth science education, microfossils*

**Richard Waite, Ph.D.** – *Mesozoic gastropods, stratigraphy*

**You can learn more about these talented individuals throughout this report. PRI also publishes an annual *Research at PRI* report that covers their research in more depth. Go to [MuseumoftheEarth.org/Research](http://MuseumoftheEarth.org/Research) for more information.**



**RICHARD WAITE, Ph.D.**

Dr. Waite arrived in 2011 as a post-doctoral researcher working with Dr. Allmon. He received his Ph.D. in 2010 from the University of Fribourg in Switzerland, with Dr. Allmon on his committee. During his time in Ithaca he is continuing his thesis work on an important but under-studied group of Mesozoic fossil snails (the nerineoids) that closely resemble Dr. Allmon's favorite turritellid snails, as well as several other related projects.



- Micromollusks coated with gold-palladium, await scanning in PRI's scanning electron microscope.

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- Campbell, D. C., & C. Lydeard.** 2012. The genera of Pleurobemini (Bivalvia: Unionidae: Ambleminae). *American Malacological Bulletin*, 30(1): 19-38.
- Campbell, D. C., & C. Lydeard.** 2012. Molecular systematics of *Fusconaia* (Bivalvia: Unionidae: Ambleminae). *American Malacological Bulletin*, 30(1): 1-17.
- Carter, J. G., C. R. Altaba, L. C. Anderson, R. Araujo, A. S. Biakov, A. E. Bogan, D. C. Campbell, M. Campbell, Chen Jh., J. C. W. Cope, G. Delvene, H. H. Dijkstra, Fang Zj., R. N. Gardner, V. A. Gavrilova, I. A. Goncharova, P. J. Harries, J. H. Hartman, M. Hautmann, W. R. Hoeh, J. Hylleberg, Jiang By., P. Johnston, L. Kirkendale, K. Kleemann, J. Koppka, J. Kříž, D. Machado, N. Malchus, A. Márquez-Aliaga, J. P. Masse, C. A. McRoberts, P. U. Middelfart, S. Mitchell, L. A. Nevešskája, S. Özer, J. Pojeta, I. V. Polubotko, J. M. Pons, S. Popov, T. Sánchez, A. F. Sartori, R. W. Scott, I. I. Sey, Sha Jg., J. H. Signorelli, V. V. Silantiev, P. W. Skelton, T. Steuber, J. B. Waterhouse, G. L. Wingard, & T. Yancey.** 2011. A synoptical classification of the Bivalvia (Mollusca). *University of Kansas Paleontological Contributions*, 4: ii + 47 pp.
- Carter, J. G., P. J. Harries, N. Malchus, A. F. Sartori, L. C. Anderson, R. Bieler, A. E. Bogan, E. V. Coan, J. C. W. Cope, S. M. Cragg, J. R. García-March, J. Hylleberg, P. Kelley, K. Kleemann, J. Kříž, C. McRoberts, P. M. Mikkelsen, J. Pojeta, Jr., I. Tëmkin, T. Yancey, & A. Zieritz.** 2012. Part N, Revised, Volume 1, Chapter 31: Illustrated Glossary of the Bivalvia. *Treatise Online*, 48: 1-209, 327 figs.
- Coan, E. V., & R. E. Petit** 2011. The publications and malacological taxa of William Wood. *Malacologia*, 54(1-2): 1-76.
- Durham, S. R. S, G. P. Dietl, & C. C. Visaggi.** 2012. The mismeasure of behavior: a natural history revision of prey preference in the banded tulip snail. *Journal of Shellfish Research*, 31: 101-112.
- Harasewych, M. G., & R. E. Petit.** 2011. Two new species of Admetinae (Gastropoda: Cancellariidae) from the northeastern Pacific Ocean. *The Nautilus*, 125(3): 159-163.
- Landau, B., C. M. Da Silva, & R. E. Petit.** 2012. The family Cancellariidae (Mollusca: Gastropoda) in the Neogene of the Bocas del Toro Region, Panama, with the description of seven new species. *Journal of Paleontology*, 86(2): 311-339.
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- Meyer, X., D. Capps, B. Crawford, & R. M. Ross.** 2012. Using inquiry and tenets of multicultural education to engage Latino ELL in learning about geology and nature of science. *Journal of Geoscience Education*, 60(3): 212-219.
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- Petit, R. E.** 2012. John Edward Gray (1800-1875): his malacological publications and molluscan taxa. *Zootaxa*, 3214: 1-125.
- Seeley, R. H., & W. H. Schlesinger.** 2012. Sustainable seaweed cutting? The rockweed (*Ascophyllum nodosum*) industry of Maine and the Maritime Provinces. *Annals of the New York Academy of Science*, 1249: 84-103.
- Sharma, P. P., V. L. Gonzalez, G. Y. Kawauchi, S. C. S. Andrade, A. Guzman, T. M. Collins, E. A. Glover, E. M. Harper, J. M. Healy, P. M. Mikkelsen, J. D. Taylor, R. Bieler, & G. Giribet.** 2012. Phylogenetic analysis of four nuclear protein-encoding genes largely corroborates the traditional classification of Bivalvia (Mollusca). *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, 65: 64 - 74.
- Waite, R., & A. Strasser.** 2011. A comparison of Recent and fossil large, high-spired gastropods and their environments: the Nopparat Thara tidal flat in Krabi, South Thailand versus the Swiss Kimmeridgian carbonate platform. *Facies*, 57: 223-248.

Please go to [MuseumoftheEarth.org/Research](https://www.museumoftheearth.org/Research) and click on the Publications and Presentations tab for a complete list of peer-reviewed papers, other papers or articles, and papers and posters presented at professional meetings.



**PAULA M. MIKKELSEN, Ph.D.**  
Associate Director for Science  
Director of Publications

Dr. Mikkelsen is a malacologist, conducting research on the systematics and diversity of living and fossil marine mollusks. Her research program covers a broad approach to systematics, phylogeny, and the evolution of diversity in marine mollusks, especially those from the southeastern U.S. and the Caribbean.

She currently is a principle investigator on two NSF grants to study the evolution of bivalve mollusks in collaboration with colleagues: “BivAToL” (Assembling the Bivalve Tree of Life), which produced the traveling exhibition, “Science on the Half Shell: How and Why We Study Evolution,” and “BiTS” (Bivalves in Time and Space), which explores the evolution of two large clades of bivalves, from molecular, morphological, and paleontological viewpoints.

Also near the top of her research agenda is production of a new book on the marine snails of the Florida Keys, which will follow the format of her 2007 book “Seashells of Southern Florida - Living Marine Mollusks of the Florida Keys and Adjacent Regions: Bivalves.”

She holds an Visiting Fellow position at Cornell University in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

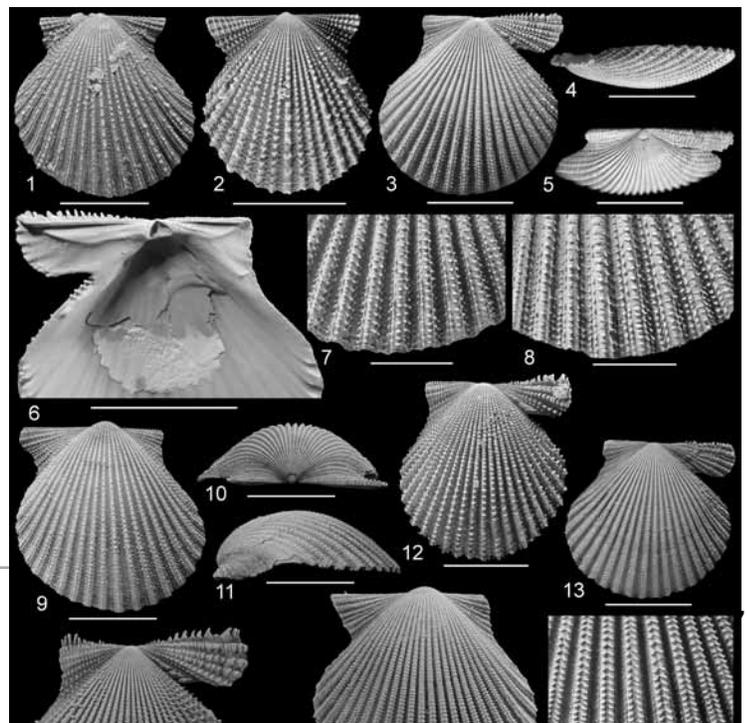
Dr. Thomas Waller published a monograph in *Bulletins of American Paleontology* on the fossil scallops (Pectinidae and Propeamussiidae) of the Dominican Republic, which included 18 stunning plates of these exquisite mollusks.

## PUBLICATIONS

Over the past 20 years, Dr. Allmon continued PRI’s historical focus on publishing original and peer-reviewed publications. He created a member newsletter, which morphed into the popular magazine *American Paleontologist*, and as an editor or author, added 34 new *Bulletins*, 4 new issues of *Palaeontographica Americana*, and 16 stand-alone volumes to our booklist. Under the steady leadership of Dr. Mikkelsen since 2006, our publications remain popular, relevant, and scientifically important.

### HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR INCLUDE:

- After 19 years, we retired our quarterly magazine *American Paleontologist* in February 2012. Rather than devoting resources to an online publication of the same format, we decided to move toward alternative means of providing this content. Paleonews and a limited amount of other content (such as book reviews and essays from student award winners) are now being posted in the Paleontology Section of the online magazine “ThisView of Life” in cooperation with the Evolution Institute at Binghamton University. [www.thisviewoflife.com](http://www.thisviewoflife.com) and click on Paleontology
- *Bulletins of American Paleontology* was three years behind schedule when Dr. Mikkelsen took over, which has affected our ability to acquire new subscribers. We made significant progress toward catching up by completing 2009 and beginning 2010. We expect to be on schedule in 2013.





**JUDITH NAGEL-MYERS, Ph.D.**  
Collections Manager

In her role as Collections Manager, Dr. Nagel-Myers has focused on the NSF grant-funded curation of the Zinsmeister Collection, which comprises Cretaceous to Eocene fossil faunas of Antarctica. As part of this project, she has created an online exhibit housed on the PRI website.

Her research focuses on fossil marine mollusks. She is especially interested in their form and function and the circumstances of the evolution of their traits, incorporating the relationships of species with habitat and climate as well as species with each other.

One major project that she has been working on with Carl Brett (University of Cincinnati), Gregory Dietl (PRI), and John Handley (PRI Trustee and Research Associate) is the trace fossil record of durophagous predation in the Middle Devonian Hamilton Fauna of New York State.

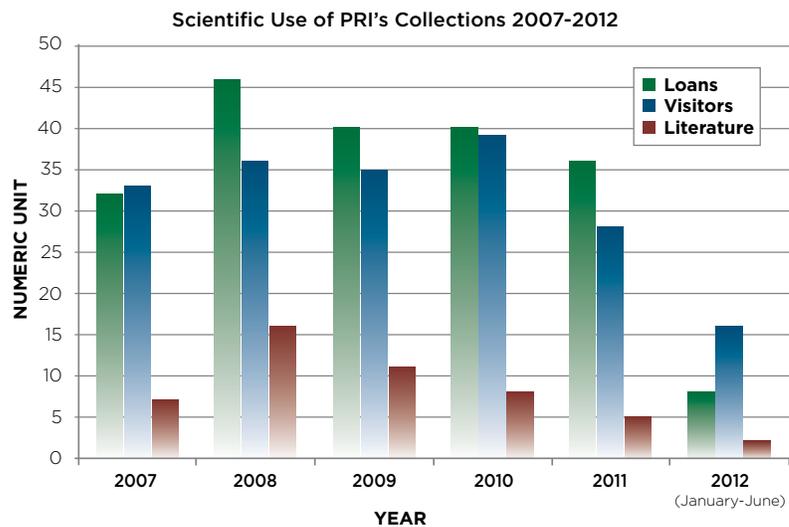
She recently started a collaborative project with Richard Aronson (Florida Institute of Technology) and Gregory Dietl (PRI) on predation in Eocene mollusk faunas from Antarctica.

**COLLECTIONS**

Since PRI's founding in 1932, a core activity has been the stewardship of collections entrusted to the institution's care. Our Collections Department enjoyed significant progress in specimen curation this year, thus making PRI's collection— among the largest invertebrate paleontology collections in the United States— more accessible to researchers, students, and educators.

**HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR INCLUDE:**

- completion of the reorganization of the non-type systematic collection of fossil and modern mollusks;
- completion of the digitization of the Harris-Palmer collection of Paleogene mollusks from the southeastern US;
- initiation of curation and digitization of the Zinsmeister Collection of fossil mollusks from Antarctica; and
- the number of scientific loans (36) in 2011 was the 4th highest level of usage in PRI's history



**FY2012 Donations to Collections**

The following individuals donated specimens:

- |                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Warren Allmon     | Bill Klose             |
| Rosemarie Badmann | Paula Mikkelsen        |
| Gordon Baird      | Michael J. Moore       |
| Art Bloom         | Drew Muscente          |
| Gregory Dietl     | Judith Nagel-Myers     |
| Rod Feldmann      | George and Janet Stone |
| Gerald Gunderson  | Scott Tuttle           |
| Linda Ivany       | Karl A. Wilson         |



## PRI'S NSF COLLECTION SUPPORT

Efforts in Collections focused primarily on two ongoing NSF-funded projects:

- 2-year, \$497,100 project to reorganize and digitize PRI's non-type systematic mollusk collection. This project resulted in installation of nearly 4,000 new compactorized drawers in the Collections Wing, physical curation and digitization of the Harris-Palmer Paleogene Coastal Plain collection, reorganization and basic curation of the non-type systematic Recent (modern) and fossil mollusk collection (the historic backbone of PRI's collection) and 4) basic curation of the Hodson Venezuelan collection of mainly Cenozoic mollusks.
- 2-year, \$246,504 project to database and curate the Zinsmeister Antarctica collection. This collection was transferred to PRI in spring of 2009 from Purdue University. The Zinsmeister Collection is arguably the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of Cretaceous-Eocene fossil mollusks from Seymour Island, Antarctica. This project will upgrade the more than 5,300 specimen lots in the collection to the highest curatorial standards.



### DAVID CAMPBELL, PH.D.

Collections Assistant Dr. Campbell's main area of study is in molluscan systematics, with a specific focus on freshwater mollusks, Paleogene mollusks, and the classification of bivalves. In 2011, he worked on both the Systematic Collection Grant and the Zinsmeister Grant. He also wrote numerous publications (see Peer-Reviewed Papers for a full list) and presented his research at various meetings and symposia.



• A father and son enjoy exploring the ancient seas of Central New York on a PRI fossil collecting field trip.



**CARLYN S. BUCKLER, Ph.D.**  
Senior Education Associate

Dr. Buckler started her career as a research scientist in molecular biology and genetics, but her passion has always been to work towards a scientifically literate public. Her current education research studies the connections between the public understanding of science and the efficacy of various approaches to communicating science to different demographics. She is also active in designing and promoting hands-on, inquiry-based science learning through citizen science projects that allows people of all ages and abilities to understand and experience the process of science.

In managing PRI's Mastodon Matrix Project™ citizen science program, Dr. Buckler has studied the use of citizen science projects in helping researchers gather data, and in helping the public better understand the process of science through involvement in actual science research. She is adjunct faculty at the Cooperstown Graduate Program in Museum Studies, advising on content for their new Masters of Science program in Natural History Museum and Science Center Studies, starting fall 2013.

## EDUCATION

For the past 20 years, PRI's Education Department has strategically and steadily focused on building nationally recognized programs. We served more than 36,000 people this year through a variety of programs and exhibits.

### HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR INCLUDE:

- We published the "Marcellus Papers," a series of ten pamphlets on the science behind natural gas in the Marcellus Shale.
- Our Mastodon Matrix Project™ reached its 13,500 participant and was named the #1 Citizen Science project of by scistarter.com.

### STEM EDUCATION

Shortly after Dr. Allmon arrived in 1992, PRI started offering K-12 STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math] education programming. Within these four areas, we have become a national leader in Earth systems science education – the wide range of topics covering oceans and atmospheres, rocks and glaciers, and life itself. Topics of special focus include evolution, ecology and the environment, climate and energy, and the public understanding of science. We provide professional development for teachers as well as resources for classrooms. We also participate in local and national initiatives to improve education practices and increase scientific literacy, such as the development of the National Resource Council's *A Framework for K-12 Science Education* and the NSF's *Earth Science Literacy Principles*.

### CITIZEN SCIENCE EDUCATION - MASTODON MATRIX PROJECT™

Our Mastodon Matrix Project™ continues to be a success with over 3,700 participants this year. The program engages participants in "reconstructing" the late Pleistocene in central New York by investigating 13,000-year-old sediment from a mastodon excavation. In doing so, participants better understand the process of science, and how we know what we know about past environments. The program was started in 2000 by Dr. John Chiment from Cornell University and brought to PRI in 2001 by Dr. Allmon. Participants have found shells, beaver-chewed sticks, rocks, twigs, leaves, mammalian hair and assorted "unknown" items in the chunks of matrix, all suggesting remnants of past life. Since 2008, more than 13,500 people worldwide have participated and matrix has been sent to every continent - except Antarctica!

### TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Working closely with educators is one of the most effective strategies for reaching students in classrooms across the nation. PRI began this approach under Dr. Allmon's leadership in the 1990s, considering how best to make an impact in K-12 STEM education with a small staff, but one considerable expertise and resources.

We now implement a wide range of innovative programs to develop new approaches and materials for teacher professional development. These programs focus especially on Earth system science, biological evolution, and climate and energy. PRI also collaborates with other organizations. Specifically, we offer workshops with the Cornell Institute for Biology Teachers, and with the New York Academy of Sciences, which provides support for graduate student mentors doing afterschool programs in New York City schools. We also offer workshops and resources at national conferences, such as the annual meetings for the Geological Society of America, National Science Teachers Association, Science Teachers Association of New York State, and North American Association for Environmental Education.



### *Teacher Resource Day*

As PRI's collections began to grow with new accessions, Dr. Allmon created Teacher Giveaway – a program to provide specimens not suitable for PRI's research collections, but potentially excellent for teaching, to teachers. Today, "Teacher Resource Day" is an annual event for local and regional educators to collect educational specimens and publications for their classroom, tour the collections and the Museum, and attend presentations by PRI staff on how to use their newly acquired specimens. Fifty-four educators participated in 2011. The event continues to be generously sponsored by Chemung Canal Trust Company.

### *Teacher-Friendly Guides™*

The \$1.8 M, NSF-funded Regional and Local (ReaL) Earth Inquiry Project helps educators teach about local and regional Earth system science in an inquiry-based way. The project divides the country into seven regions, providing both resources and programming for each. This includes completing a national series of Teacher-Friendly Guides™ to Earth Science, as well as region-specific, professional development workshops, where teachers work with project staff to create Virtual Fieldwork Experiences (VFEs). In the process of creating VFEs, the educators also learn more deeply about the Earth system science of their region, about engaging learners in field study, and about how to use technology in new and productive ways in the classroom. All of the work is driven by the question, "Why does this place look the way it does?" and supported by the content found within the Teacher-Friendly Guides™. The Northeast and Southeast guides complete, and drafts of the remaining five guides are well underway, with completion of the guides in 2013.

This year, locations for the professional development have included: Devil's Lake, Wisconsin; Mesa, Arizona; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve in Idaho. In 2011 at the Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America, Drs. Kissel and Duggan-Haas, along with Portland Community College's Dr. Frank Granshaw, led a short course on "Virtual Field Experiences in Geoscience Education," which included staff from the Geo Education Team at Google. For the 2012 Annual Meeting of the National Science Teachers Association, Drs. Kissel and Duggan-Haas and three ReaL Earth Inquiry teacher-participants collaborated with staff from the Peabody Museum of Yale University to deliver a session on VFEs.

## **EVOLUTION**

### *Fossil Finders*

PRI began to gain prominence in science education in the 1990s because of Dr. Allmon's skills and passion for building public understanding of evolution, a topic he and PRI continue to focus on today. Fossil Finders helps 5th to 9th grade teachers teach the nature of science through engagement in authentic paleontological research focusing on core concepts of evolution and geologic history. Teachers come to New York to help collect and analyze samples from our fossil-rich strata, and use these samples with their students to explore concepts such as environmental change, biological variation, adaptation, and sedimentation. The project was originally a collaboration between Cornell Department of Education, Dr. Barbara Crawford (University of Georgia)

and Dr. Dan Capps (University of Maine). By the end of this year, about 12,500 fossil specimens had been identified, measured, and submitted to the online Fossil Finders database.

### *Teacher Friendly Guides™ for exhibitions*

We also completed two new resources to help educators teach evolution. *The Teacher-Friendly Guide to Evolution Using Bivalves* was produced in association with our traveling exhibition, "Science on the Half Shell: How and Why we Study Evolution", and *The Teacher-Friendly Guide to the Evolution of Maize* was produced in collaboration with the Maize Diversity Group at Cornell University and is based on our traveling exhibition, "Maize: Mysteries of an Ancient Grain."

### **CLIMATE AND ENERGY** *Marcellus Shale*

The current heightened public interest in the Marcellus provides a teachable moment; for many individuals, this is the first time they have been interested in where their energy comes from. Our work is funded by several grants, including a two-year, \$149,000 grant from NSF that focuses on educator professional development using the Marcellus Shale as a case study for developing approaches to emergent energy issues. We are working with cohorts of educators in two communities, Elmira and Binghamton, which are already affected by Marcellus Shale development across the state border in Pennsylvania and will be affected even more if the current New York State moratorium on drilling is lifted.



Teachers participating in PRI's Real Earth Inquiry project explore ancient lava flows at Craters of the Moon (top) and the volcanic history of Arizona's Superstition Mountains.

The project not only develops resources and strategies for teaching about the Marcellus Shale, but also develops strategies for any community that faces emergent energy issues. How can educators be better prepared for working with the public when new energy infrastructure is proposed? A fundamental goal is to provide evidence-based information and to build understanding of the science related to the Shale, the extraction techniques employed in gas recovery from the Shale, and associated environmental impacts. We strive to do this with as much impartiality as possible. Participants include teachers from kindergarten through universities. Drs. Duggan-Haas and Ross, along with PRI staff member Kelly Cronin have led face-to-face workshops and webinars with the two cohorts.

Ms. Cronin and Dr. Duggan-Haas also extended PRI's set of "Marcellus Papers," a series of papers providing detailed reviews of key topics regarding Marcellus geology, drilling, and environmental impacts. We hosted a Press Day to 12 members of the press from around the region in January 2012 to formally launch the Papers. Numerous presentations have been given by staff in a range of venues,

including the national and state conferences of the National Science Teachers' Association, The National Association for Environmental Education, Engineers for a Sustainable World, and the Science Teachers' Association of New York State.

## My Climate, My Community

The traveling kiosk components of the My Climate, My Community project came together this fiscal year. *Weird Weather* consists of a pair of standalone kiosks that personalize the growing effects of climate change in New York State. A touch-screen interactive visitor survey provides a space for our audience to let us know their views on climate change in their communities. The project was informed by a survey of perceptions of climate change by residents of rural communities in Upstate New York in collaboration with Cornell University sociologist Dr. Richard Stedman. The two kiosks will be traveling in Tompkins County and nearby counties in Central New York, with a focus on rural libraries and town halls. The project was funded by NSF and the Park Foundation.



## PUBLIC OUTREACH

PRI began providing public outreach under Dr. Allmon's direction through attendance at local fairs and festivals and has grown to include the amateur fossil collector community. These programs often reach families with children, either local or visiting the Finger Lakes region on vacation, and ideally our K-12 STEM programs reach some of the same children, complementing and reinforcing learning experiences. These programs are vital to maintaining public visibility and solidify the perception of PRI as a scientific authority and an educational resource.

### Summer Programs

We visit a fossil collecting site one Saturday each month from June to September and offer the James Potorti gorge walks, a suite of interpretive walks to Taughannock, Treman, Buttermilk, and Watkins Glen State Parks, every August. We had a booth at the Great New York State Fair in September 2011 where nearly 4,000 people visited our booth – many were families searching for fossils in our giant shale pile.

### Traveling Exhibitions

Maize: Mysteries of an Ancient Grain

This exhibit opened August 26, 2011 at the Old Capitol Museum at the University of Iowa and was so popular that the stay was extended for an extra 6 weeks. Maize was at the Corn Palace, a popular tourist destination in Mitchell, South Dakota and then traveled to the George W. Bush Presidential Library in TX. At the end of the year, it was at the Susquehanna River Archaeological Center in Waverly, NY.

Science on the Half Shell -

How and Why We Study Evolution

The first venue to host the exhibit was the Field Museum in Chicago where it opened March 9 and stayed for the remainder of FY2012.

In May 2012, Exhibitions Manager Beth Stricker attended the American Alliance of Museums annual conference. There she presented *Maize and Science on the Half Shell* at the Traveling Exhibitions Forum, and as a result, Maize is now booked through August 2014.

**Our facilities at the Museum of the Earth and the Cayuga Nature Center provide venues for hands-on education that emphasizes science as an inquiry-driven process of exploration and discovery. More information can be found on pages 18-21.**



*Devonian Dreams: The Imagery of Art Murphy*, a temporary exhibition at the Museum of the Earth, showcased early marine invertebrate fossils. Rather than taking a scientific approach, Art's images infused these small creatures with a richness and a monumentality more likely found in studio portraiture.



**DON DUGGAN-HAAS, Ph.D.**  
Senior Education Research  
Associate

Dr. Duggan-Haas's STEM education research is currently focused upon determining the fundamental ideas that are most important for everyone to understand about the Earth system and how to help educators nurture understandings of those ideas.

The Marcellus Shale provides a teachable moment for engaging the public in understandings of energy, climate and the broader Earth system. He's grown especially interested in technology rich place-based education – an approach that engages learners in the close study of their local environment and using these locally grounded understandings to better understand the global Earth system.

Dr. Duggan-Haas currently serves as Chair of the Geological Society of America's Geoscience Education Division. He has also played an active role in the development of the Next Generation Science Standards, which are intended to replace the 1996 National Science Education Standards.

## EDUCATION GRANTS

FY2012 funding for education and exhibits allowed us to reach audiences in Tompkins County and across the country. Funding was received from both local and federal sources. The following grants were active during FY2012:

### **National Science Foundation Discovery Research K-12**

(FY2008): Enhanced Earth system teaching through ReaL Earth Inquiry: NSF DRL733303, Aug 15, 2007 – July 31, 2013, \$1,763,588 (PI: Ross; co-PIs: D. Duggan-Haas, S.E. Humbert).

### **National Science Foundation Discovery Research K-12**

(FY2008): Fossil Finders: Using Fossils to Teach about Evolution, Inquiry and Nature of Science: NSF DRL 733223, Jan 1, 2008 – Dec 31, 2013, \$1,491,746, \$266,951 to PRI. (PI: B. Crawford, Education |Grants Cornell Dept of Education; co-PIs: R. Ross, W. Allmon)

**National Science Foundation** (FY2008) AToL: Phylogeny on the Half-shell – Assembling the Bivalve Tree of Life, NSF DEB 732860, Sep 15, 2007 – Aug 31, 2013, \$499,990 (PI: Paula Mikkelsen; co-PIs R. Ross, S.J. Chicone)

**Earth System Science Education Alliance** (pass-through for NASA and NSF Geoscience Education (FY2008) Global Climate Change and Informal Earth System Science [online professional development for informal educators], June 1, 2008 – May 31, 2012, \$39,945 (PI: Carlyn Buckler; co-PI; R. Ross, Rusanne Low of GLOBE).

**National Science Foundation** (FY2009) Traveling exhibit and teacher professional development on evolution of maize, associated with maize genetics research. (DBI 0820619, March 1, 2009 – February 28, 2013, \$110,000 (PI: Ed Buckler of Cornell University)

**National Science Foundation Geosciences Division** (FY2009): Tracking Climate in Your Backyard: Climate education for 4-H educators & youth, GEO 808122, Sep 15, 2008 – Aug 31, 2012, \$148,455 (PI: R. Ross, co-PI: S. Sands, A. DeGaetano, B. Schirmer)

**National Science Foundation Geoscience Division** (FY2010): Planning for a charter school-university-museum partnership to enhance diversity in the geosciences: NSF GEO 0939765, October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2012, \$39,055 (PI: R. Ross; co-PIs: R. Kissel, D. Duggan-Haas)

**National Science Foundation Geoscience Division** (FY2010): Geoscience education for communities impacted by gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale: NSF GEO 1016359, April 15, 2010 – March 31, 2013, \$97,127 (PI: R. Ross; co-PIs: T. Smrecak, T. Jordan, L. Brown)

**National Science Foundation Informal Science Education** (FY2010): My Climate, My Community: Sustainable Climate Change Exhibits for Rural Audiences: NSF ISE 0917581, September 1, 2009 – August 31, 2012, \$74,346 (PI: S. Chicone; co-PIs: R. Ross, T. Smrecak, S. Sands)



PRI staff Warren Allmon, Kelly Cronin, Don Duggan-Hass and Robert Ross talk with journalists about natural gas and the Marcellus Shale during a January 2012 media event in the Museum of the Earth.

**National Science Foundation Earth Science Instrumentation and Facilities (FY2010):** Acquisition of a New Generation Benchtop SEM for Earth Systems Research, K-16 Education, and Public Outreach. NSF EAR 0930032, September 1, 2009 – August 31, 2011, \$110,000 (PI: R. Ross; co-PIs: W. Allmon, P. Mikkelsen, G. Dietl)

**Cornell Cooperative Extension Smith-Lever (FY2010):** Understanding the environmental, social, and economic impacts of gas exploration and drilling in the Marcellus Shale: NYC-124481, October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2012, \$69,000 (PI: W. Allmon; co-PI: R. Stedman, R. Ross, S. Riha)

**Park Foundation (FY2010):** My Climate, My Community: Exhibits and public forums on climate change for rural Tompkins County. July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2012, \$36,000 (PI: S. Chicone, co-PIs: R. Ross, T. Smrecak)

**National Science Foundation Geosciences Division (FY2011):** Educator Professional Development on Energy and Environment: A Case Example Focusing on Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Drilling. NSF GEO 1035078, September 15, 2010 – August 31, 2013, \$149,237 (PI: R. Ross; co-PIs: D. Duggan-Haas, T. Smrecak, C. Buckler)

**National Science Foundation Atmospheric and Geospace Sciences Division (FY2011):** Improved Regional and Decadal Predictions of the Carbon Cycle. NSF GEO 1049033, April 1, 2011 – March 31, 2015, \$1,064,067; \$60,736 to PRI (PI: N. Mahowald; co-PIs: P. Hess, R. Ross, C. Shoemaker)



**RICHARD A. KISSEL, Ph.D.**  
Director of Teacher Programs

Dr. Kissel is a vertebrate paleontologist and educator. From Texas to Germany, Dr. Kissel has traveled the world to excavate and study the fossil remains of ancient amphibians, dinosaurs and other reptiles, the ancient relatives of mammals, and ice age mammals. He has authored popular articles and children's books on paleontology and the nature of science, and he is a featured scientist online at NOVA scienceNOW. Dr. Kissel is also the Vice Chair and Informal Education Representative of the Geological Society of America's Committee on Education.

Dr. Kissel's current scientific research focuses on the enigmatic group of Paleozoic tetrapods known as diadectids—the first tetrapods capable of processing a diet of high-fiber terrestrial plants. He is also interested in inquiry-based approaches to science education, exhibition development and design, and the history and nature of science.

Dr. Kissel holds faculty positions at Johns Hopkins University in the Museum Studies graduate program and at Ithaca College in the Department of Biology.

## MUSEUM OF THE EARTH

Through hands-on, visual exhibitions and outreach, the Museum encourages critical thinking about life on Earth in the past and today, and how our species is affecting the natural world.

### SCHOOL GROUPS

- Served 3,700 schoolchildren
- *Ancient Seas Over New York, Dinosaur Science* and *New York State Geology* remain our most popular programs
- Through the Kids Discover the Trail program, the Museum continues to provide every 1st grade class in Trumansburg and ICSD with a look into the history of life on Earth. This year 460 students and 133 chaperones attended.

### PUBLIC PROGRAMS

- Fossil ID Day – held the second Saturday of each month
- History of Life Course – hosted each fall and spring semester
- Museum in the Dark – October 27
- Cecil's Dinosaur Holiday Party – December 3
- Holiday Break Programs – December 26-31
- Darwin Days Family Day –February 18
- Winter Recess/Ithaca Loves Teachers – February 19 -26
- Dino Eggstravaganza—April 7
- Spring Break Programs – April 9-13
- Family Friendly Exhibition Openings – held for each new temporary exhibit in the Museum

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- Randy Olsen – filmmaker and author of *Don't Be Such a Scientist*
- *Greenfire* – documentary film tracing the legacy of environmentalist Aldo Leopold which attracted an audience of over 150 people.
- *Dinosaur Train* – the popular PBS children's show was featured at two events that drew over 500 visitors
- Girl Scout Overnight – this new program brought in 80 scouts and their families



## COMMUNITY ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAM

This program was developed, and continues to grow, based on our community's needs and our capacity to fill them, to ensure that earth science and environmental education are available to everyone, regardless of resources or special needs. Components include:

- Record-breaking attendance at our three "Winter Free Days" and "Community Free Day"
- More than 300 visitors from our Agency Membership Program that provides nonprofit agencies offering human services free admission to their constituents
- 14 full and 5 partial scholarships awarded to community children through the Summer Camp Scholarship Program at the Cayuga Nature Center
- Through a partnership with the FoodBank of the Southern Tier, over 800 families were offered the opportunity to create their own Free Day

## EXHIBITIONS

Public exhibits have been a part of PRI's history for decades, but with the opening of the Museum in 2003, we offered visitors a permanent, dynamic way to learn about the history of life on Earth. Within the Museum, we invite our audience to travel in time, experiencing past worlds through authentic specimens, hands-on interactives, engaging information, recreated environments and more. Exhibits work hand-in-hand with educational programs to reach visitors in complementary ways.

### ON PERMANENT VIEW

In August, we installed a composite trilobite slab from Morocco in our second AV theater. Obtained by long-time PRI volunteer Bill Klose, the impressive Ordovician specimen is a huge attention-grabber. In November, a large slab with a Cambrian jellyfish specimen was mounted in the same theater. "

New signage was installed across from Dino Lab, next to the three *Coelophysis* models, which presents the latest findings in the study of the color of dinosaurs. This is an important component of the Museum's mission to communicate that paleontology is a changing science, where new discoveries and interpretations are made daily.

PRI opened its newly renovated Preparation Laboratory with new signage that provides an overview of what happens to a fossil after it leaves the field and is prepped, and identifiers for tools and equipment.

### TEMPORARY

#### **Cruisin' the Fossil Freeway (June 4-September 5, 2011)**

A delightful blend of art and science based upon 4000 miles of road trips made by Ray Troll and Kirk Johnson.

*Funded in part by the Tompkins County Tourism Fund.*



#### **Treasures of the Collection**

**(September 23, 2011-January 8, 2012)**

The history and people behind PRI collections.

*Funded in part by M & T Bank.*

#### **Whales: From the Depths of the National Geographic Archives (January 23-June 4, 2012)**

32 striking photographs that brought to light the dangers of underwater noise pollution. We collaborated with Cornell's Bioacoustics Research Program at the Lab of Ornithology, who shared content, artifacts, and a sea mammal sound interactive.

*Funded in part by BorgWarner Morse TEC.*

#### **Sanctuary Reef & Sea Monsters**

**(June 22-September 3, 2012)**

Two traveling exhibits from the Mote Marine Laboratory in Florida that featured hands-on activities and live interactive videoconferences with Mote scientists.

*Funded by the Triad Foundation.*

#### **Primordial Imprints, Glasswork by Jon Paul Bennett**

**(July 15, 2011-January 4, 2012)**

Bennett's current body of work reflects his knowledge and fascination with paleontology and the evolution of primordial life.

#### **Devonian Dreams: The Imagery of Art Murphy**

**(September 23, 2011-January 8, 2012)**

An intersection of science featuring captivating photos taken of 380 million year old fossils.



**ROBERT M. ROSS, Ph.D.**  
Associate Director for Outreach

Dr. Ross is responsible for PRI's education and exhibits programs and oversees a wide variety of grant-funded projects. His primary scientific research interests include paleontology, sedimentology, and paleoceanography. He focuses on the diversification and distribution of life in the context of interactions of climate, ocean, and tectonic dynamics.

As an educator, Dr. Ross's STEM education research includes Earth system education, particularly in informal science education and educator professional development. He studies the integration of authentic research into education contexts and the use of place-based real-world examples to improve interest in and understanding of scientific inquiry and science.

Some of his current projects include working with PRI and Cornell colleagues on the use of paleontological research in teaching the nature of science to teachers and their students; reaching rural audiences on climate change; public understanding of energy issues, especially shale gas; and cultural inertia in science concepts such as perceptions of dinosaurs.

He holds an adjunct faculty position at Cornell University in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. He also teaches at Ithaca College.

## CAYUGA NATURE CENTER

The long-term objective of our pending merger with the Nature Center is to transform it into a premier educational center for teaching and learning about the impact of climate change on the fauna and flora of Tompkins County. This year, we established much of the important intellectual and physical infrastructure needed to fulfill this goal.

### HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR INCLUDE:

- We sold the farm property ensuring the integrity of the property will be honored while allowing us to allocate some of the proceeds to address some long deferred maintenance items, and most importantly, to retire all outstanding debt.
- Thanks to the efforts of PRI Trustee Emeritus Phil Bartels, the process of getting final New York State approval for the merger made significant progress.
- Progress was made on planning and fundraising for new programs.
- Significant repairs were made to the main Lodge building and progress was made on plans for the first phase of capital improvements.
- We repaired and installed drainage around the perimeter of the building to help divert water runoff from the back hill. The project was very successful and the building remained dry through spring.

### OUTDOOR AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Post-merger, the goals are to:

- engage school and community groups in collecting data toward ongoing citizen science projects that encompass subjects such as forest ecology, conservation and climate change impacts in Tompkins County;
- create teacher-professional development programs focusing on place based programs that teach the concepts of forest ecology, climate change and evolution; and
- develop an advisory panel comprised of local experts within the fields of forestry and conservation.



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## TEAM CHALLENGE

Each year TEAM Challenge helps hundreds of participants develop cooperative problem-solving skills and accelerate communication skills. We provide group initiatives and challenges on our low and high element ropes course that encourage participants to work together. This year we had 1,586 participants. The KDT(Kids Discover the Trail) and TKED(Trumansburg Kids Explore and Discover) programs continue to be a key component. The upcoming KDT Expansion will double the number of student that the Nature Center serves through our Team Challenge program. Feedback from KDT Evaluations has included the following quotes from local teachers.

*"The activities give the trip a real purpose and allow the students to interact in a meaningful way."*

*"The trip was super. There was team building, trust for others, and personal challenges cheered on by classmates."*

## LIVE ANIMAL COLLECTION

The collection currently includes over 30 live animals. Although we lost a few animals due to old age, we were excited to add some amazing new ones including our Southern Flying Squirrels, a baby Snapping Turtle, a Map Turtle, Eastern Box Turtle, Spotted Salamander, and rats. All of these animals help us to diversify our collection and continue to educate the public about animals and their habitats, resource allocation, our native wildlife and habitat conservation.

This year, staff delivered 52 education programs for school and community groups, 33 animal birthday parties, 52 animal feeding programs, and 32 night hikes.

## CAMPS

Our popular summer camp provides more than 600 campers with a wide variety of themed programs. A successful camp for preschoolers was added this summer. In addition, dozens of participants enjoyed "School's Out" camps on vacation days during the school year.

## EXHIBITS

In FY2012, we designed and installed two new exhibits - *Busy Bee* on the nature of bees and *Facts of Life* that incorporated the taxidermy collection. We re-installed the seasonal exhibit *On the Wing*.



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## NATURE CENTER ON-SITE STAFF

**Ellen Cadigan** Office Manager

**Russ Friedell** Camp Director

**Kevin Lanigan** Maintenance

**Emily McKittrick** Manager of Animal Collections

**Matt Sacco** Manager of TEAM Challenge

**Christine Whitaker** Director of Nature Center Programs



## **WARREN D. ALLMON, Ph.D.**

Director

Hunter R. Rawlings III Professor of Paleontology, Cornell University

As PRI's Director since 1992, Dr. Allmon has led the organization in its ambitious renovation and expansion, including the design and construction of the Museum of the Earth. In addition to his technical research, he writes and speaks frequently on the history of science, evolution and creationism, natural history museums and collections, and Earth science education.

Dr. Allmon's research focuses on macroevolution and evolutionary paleoecology, especially the environmental and ecological context of evolutionary change, particularly in Cenozoic mollusks, and especially the gastropod family Turritellidae, which is nearly ubiquitous in the marine fossil record over the past 130 million years, and also widely distributed in modern oceans.

He also continues to work on theoretical and empirical aspects of speciation—the formation of new species—especially as it relates to patterns of nutrient availability and primary productivity in the oceans.

Since 2008, he has been the Hunter R. Rawlings III Professor of Paleontology at Cornell University in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.

## **CORNELL UNIVERSITY RELATIONS**

PRI continues to interact with Cornell University in numerous and varied ways, from individual staff teaching at undergrad and graduate levels at Cornell, to the Museum serving as a resource for Cornell classes, to collaborations on NSF-funded outreach projects.

### **FORMAL AFFILIATION**

In November 2004, PRI and Cornell signed an agreement of affiliation, formalizing their relationship. The agreement had the full approval and endorsement of the Cornell President and senior administration. The affiliation was renewed for a second five years in 2010.

### **TEACHING**

PRI staff and facilities constitute the great majority of the non-botanical paleontology program for Cornell.

**Dr. Allmon** teaches the equivalent of approx. 1.5 undergraduate courses per year as well as advises graduate students. His student Mary Kosloski graduated in 2012 (his seventh Cornell Ph.D.) and Dana Friend has started her second year. Dr. Allmon has also been supervising three Cornell senior theses, two in Biology (Drew Muscente and Serina Brady) and one in Earth & Atmospheric Sciences (Nadia Pierrehumbert).

**Dr. Dietl** teaches a graduate seminar on Topics in Paleoecology for EAS and supervises one Ph.D. student, Steve Durham, also at the end of his first year. One new Ph.D. student, Jansen Smith, will be starting work under Greg's supervision in fall 2012.

**Dr. Ross** teaches a summer course for EAS called "Earth in the News."

**Dr. Kissel** teaches a one-credit course in EAS on Fossil Preparation.

**Dr. Mikkelsen** gives guest lectures in Cornell classes, most notably Invertebrate Zoology taught every other summer at Cornell's Shoals Marine Lab off the coast of Maine. She is a Visiting Fellow in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. During Summer 2012, she spent a week at Shoals co-mentoring a student research project that was initiated during last summer's Invertebrate course.



Stephen Durham is a Ph.D. student at Cornell University's School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. Steve's research focus is the application of geohistorical data to current problems facing biodiversity conservation, a new field known as conservation paleobiology.

## OUTREACH

PRI serves as a provider of STEM outreach and we currently collaborate with Cornell Cooperative Extension on two NSF-funded public outreach projects, one focused on climate change education with the other focused on educational programming centered around natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale. We also currently are collaborating with EAS Professor Natalie Mahawold on outreach connected to her NSF-funded research on the atmospheric carbon cycle. Dr. Ross is frequently asked to collaborate on other NSF proposals by Cornell faculty.

Research by Cornell faculty and students continues to be highlighted in both temporary and permanent exhibits in the Museum of the Earth, and PRI maintains significant fossil exhibits in EAS's campus home, Snee Hall.

PRI serves as the informal "outreach arm" of Cornell's EAS department. In this role we develop temporary exhibits on research by EAS faculty, staff, and students for display in the Museum, manage fossil exhibits in Snee Hall on campus, design and staff the department's tables at annual campus events for alumni and incoming freshmen, and serve as "Cornell experts" to the media on relevant topics, from the Gulf oil spill and Marcellus Shale to dinosaurs and evolution.

Each year since 2006, PRI has taken the lead in organizing Ithaca's annual Darwin Days celebration, most of which happens on the Cornell campus with Cornell faculty and students. In February 2012 the theme was "Evolution and Climate Change," and more than 700 people – mostly from the Cornell community – participated.

## DONOR SUPPORT

PRI is a national leader in Earth science research and education largely because of a community that generously supports our mission. We deeply appreciate the generosity of all our donors. Gifts and grants contributed to the Annual Fund fueled and funded vitally-important operations and restricted contributions enable specific projects to begin or continue. The following list is for donations made in FY2012 (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012).

### **Darwin Society (10,000+)**

John and Elaine Alexander  
Anonymous  
Philip and Susan Bartels  
James Morin and  
Myra Shulman  
Don and Dolly Wilson

### **Devonian Society (\$5,000-\$9,999)**

Warren Allmon and  
Jennifer Tegan  
Vauda Allmon  
H. Allen and Jane Curran  
Linda Ivany and  
Bruce Wilkinson  
Derek and Leora Kaufman  
Rob and Maggie Mackenzie  
Mack and Carol Travis  
Armour Winslow

### **Cayuga Society (\$2,500-\$4,999)**

Merle Adelman and  
Ron Menner  
Larry and Trudy Baum  
Percy Browning  
Shirley K. Egan  
Harry and Sarah Lee  
Jean F. and  
Elizabeth Rowley  
David and Marisue Taube

### **Gorges Society (\$1,000-\$2,499)**

John Allen and  
Ann Callaghan  
Peter and Ursula Browning  
Bruce Cochrane and  
Alice Kahn  
James and Liskan Cordes  
Dale and Nellie Corson  
Harold Craft  
Verne and Lenore Durkee  
Nancy P. Dutro  
William R. Engles, Jr. and  
Emmeline Chang  
Howard and Erica Evans  
Rodney M. Feldmann and  
Carrie E. Schweitzer  
Joanne V. Florino  
Stuart Grossman  
John Handley and  
Kym Pocius  
David Jones  
Teresa E. Jordan and  
Richard W. Allmendinger

Mary Kane  
Erle and Claudia Kauffman  
Amy McCune and  
David Winkler  
Jean and Daniel McPheeters  
Oros Family  
Edward B. Picou Jr.  
John and Mary Lou Pojeta  
Mel and Jane Richards  
Julian C. Smith  
Margaret Van Houtte  
Michael and  
Catherine Whalen  
Eugene and Jeanne Yarussi  
William Young and  
Wende Logan-Young

### **\$500-\$999**

Richard Allen  
David and  
Mary Lee Banfield  
Michael and  
Elizabeth Brando  
Kenneth Ciriacks  
Timothy Colbert and  
Mary Ann Knight Colbert  
Bill and Audrey Edelman  
Karl Flessa  
Jim and Judy Fogel  
Russell Fuller  
John W. Hermanson and  
Lynn Swisher  
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A generous donation from Julian Smith, Professor Emeritus in Chemical Engineering at Cornell, enabled us to curate and database his earlier-donated collection of Recent terrestrial and freshwater gastropods.. The collection, which is part of the Cornell Malacology Collection (now part of PRI's collection), contains over 200 species from over 100 localities around the world, with particular emphasis on Tompkins County including many locally rare or extinct species.

Ted Goldwyn  
Elizabeth Gordon  
Linda Grace-Kobas and  
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Conrad Istock



Tom Dutro, long-time PRI Trustee and supporter (here with Paul Harnik), was a world-recognized authority on Paleozoic brachiopods and biostratigraphy.

### J. THOMAS DUTRO JR. STUDENT AWARD IN SYSTEMATIC PALEONTOLOGY

J. Thomas “Tom” Dutro, Jr., was a paleontologist in the U.S. Geological Survey at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC and a long-time trustee of PRI who lobbied tirelessly in support of its research programs. Tom passed away in 2010 and generous donations by family, friends and colleagues in his memory allowed us to establish a scholarship fund and name our annual Student Award In Systematic Paleontology in his honor. The award supports a deserving graduate student’s expenses for thesis research.

The first named Dutro Award was presented this year to Edwin Cadena of North Carolina State University for his work on the evolution of sea turtles.

- John and Cheryl Jacobs  
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This year's gala, *An Evening of Feathered Finery*, celebrated the connection between dinosaurs and feathers. We raised \$21,894 which included \$1,250 for camp scholarships and \$1,850 for Dino Lab renovations. Guests had a fabulous feathered time!



Thank you to Elmira Savings Bank, our lead sponsor for three years, and to our other sponsors: Kionix, Inc., Ithaca Cardiology Associates, Sciarabba Walker & Co., Audrey Edelman Realty USA, GreenScene Lawn & Garden, Tripphammer Wines & Spirits and Arnold Printing Corporation. Special recognition to Cornell's Lab of Ornithology and Serendipity Catering.



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## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>		
Grants, contributions, and gifts	708,093	657,245
Programs	27,299	23,003
Publications	39,241	51,750
Dues and memberships	29,137	31,189
Museum admissions	92,187	90,507
Merchandise sales, net cost of goods sold on \$30,394 and \$28,736 respectively	39,780	36,238
Investment Income	311	1,149
Gain on investments	(593)	19,644
Gifts in kind	57,942	103,716
Other	54,341	55,562
	<u>1,047,738</u>	<u>1,070,003</u>
<b>NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS</b>		
Grants	744,365	1,320,834
Specific uses	256,426	70,493
	<u>1,000,791</u>	<u>1,391,327</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>	2,048,529	2,461,330
<b>EXPENSES AND LOSSES</b>		
Payroll and related benefits	1,247,765	1,244,066
Depreciation and amortization	445,980	419,302
Interest expense	171,012	171,967
Professional fees	76,656	70,422
Other	75,316	105,701
Building and maintenance	123,727	146,205
Grant subcontracts	172,370	394,811
Publications and Printing	54,381	43,106
Exhibit expense	16,129	15,182
Supplies	16,547	14,959
Travel and workshops	13,293	8,411
Postage	12,963	16,035
	<u>2,426,139</u>	<u>2,650,167</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES AND LOSSES</b>	2,426,139	2,650,167
<b>CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>	(377,610)	(188,837)
<b>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>		
Grants, contributions and gifts	604,234	782,916
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	(1,000,791)	(1,391,327)
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	(396,557)	(608,411)
Change in Net Assets	(774,167)	(797,248)
Net Assets, beginning of year	5,268,780	6,066,028
	<u>4,494,613</u>	<u>5,268,780</u>
Net Assets, end of year	4,494,613	5,268,780

## VOLUNTEER, INTERNS, AND VOLUNTEER GROUPS

In FY2012, we had 101 volunteers, 21 interns, and varied volunteer groups give 8,814 volunteer hours and shared their knowledge, time, and spirit.

### INTERNS

Kathy Bruce  
Laura D'Amico  
Janessa Douchette  
Nick Hogancamp  
Travis Johnson  
Laura Komor  
Margot Kopache  
Rebecca Mendenz  
Emily Newton  
Sheila Niedziela  
Sarah Oros  
Lauren O'Rourke  
Rebecca Payne  
Sarah Rosemarino  
Vanessa Smalletz  
Sarah Stapperfenne  
Sally Vann  
Erica Weissend  
Jackie Wild  
Nick Wilken  
Xiaohua Yang

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Maria Altier  
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Amy Cusano  
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Welych-Flanagan  
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Hilary Yu  
Rose Zabel  
Carl Zabel

### VOLUNTEER GROUPS

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Developmental  
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Volunteers  
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Alpha Phi Omega  
Ithaca College  
MLK Day of Service  
Ithaca College  
Service Saturday  
POST Volunteers



PRI volunteer Mike Marano delicately prepares 150-million-year-old vertebrae of *Apatosaurus* in the Museum's Prep Lab.

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