

### Letter from the Director



Summer has been anything but lazy at the museum. Six camps exploring fossils, dinosaurs, archaeology, and art, along with our first-ever dino sleepover had the museum jumping. Dinosaurs are always a draw, and the current exhibition *Dinosaur Discoveries: Ancient Fossils, New Ideas*, which closes August 28, is no exception. Summer is also when researchers and students from other universities visit our nationally renowned archaeological, archaeobotanical, and freshwater mussel collections.

This last fiscal year has been a good one. Attendance exceeded 62,000—a 20 percent increase over last year and the largest in our history. Financial support has been solid; the addition of monthly sponsorships was well received. About 3,400 faculty and students visited the museum for object-based learning, a 28 percent jump that shows the museum's contribution to UT's initiative to more thoroughly integrate experiential learning into the curriculum. Thanks to a talented staff and a supportive community, this next year looks to be equally as strong.

Jefferson Chapman, Director

## Special Exhibition

*Knoxville Unearthed: Archaeology in the Heart of the Valley* opens on September 17 and runs through January 8, 2017.

Knoxville Unearthed celebrates Knoxville's 225th anniversary by exploring the city's heritage through archaeological discoveries buried below the city's parking lots and alleyways. Artifacts unearthed in and around Knoxville will be presented with historic images, maps, and documents to show visitors the everyday people that transformed this frontier town into the largest urban center in East Tennessee.

Historical archaeology provides unique access to the unwritten history of the working-class, women, children, ethnic groups, and enslaved citizens using the food remains, broken dishes, and foundations they left behind. Excavations at local historic house museums and industrial sites, like the Weaver Pottery site, are highlighted. The exhibit concludes by stressing the importance of historic preservation and learning from our past in order to guide Knoxville's future as the "Heart of the Valley."

Free public programs in conjunction with *Knoxville Unearthed* include an exhibition talk by curators Tim Baumann and Charlie Faulker on September 20. A free stroller tour, Down and Around Knoxville, will be held on October 3 for parents, caregivers, and young ones. The museum will hold its annual Can You Dig It? celebration of Archaeology and Fossil Day on October 16 with a special focus on Knoxville.

Writer and local historian Jack Neely will present the lecture "Subterranean Knoxville" on October 30, and Kim Trent of Knox Heritage will give a lecture on historic preservation on November 6. Knoxville Unearthed is presented by Visit Knoxville, the City of Knoxville, and McCarty Holsaple McCarty.

For more information, visit tiny.utk.edu/knoxvilleunearthed.





# Student-Curated Exhibitions at the McClung

This past spring, the museum initiated a student-curated mini-exhibition space in a case on the museum's bottom floor. Mentored by museum staff, students research and select objects to exhibit, write descriptive labels, collaborate with staff to design the installation, and give a public gallery talk. The mini-exhibitions give students valuable curatorial experience, allow the public to see unique objects and ideas that might not otherwise be on view at McClung, and help museum staff flesh out research on important objects in our collections.

Academic Programs Graduate Assistant Robert Rennie kicked off the new exhibition space in March with *The First World War and Knoxville: Through the Eyes of Harry Moreland*, which explored the war through the personal military memorabilia of Moreland (1899–1969), a Knoxvillian and UT Law School alumnus (1922).

Museum volunteer, former curatorial assistant, and recent UT graduate Christine Dano Johnson curated the current mini-exhibition *Land*, *Sea*, *and Spirit: Alaska Native Art from the 19th and 20th Centuries*, which explores a sampling of Iñupiat and Yup'ik objects from the McClung Museum's permanent collections.

This fall, recent UT graduate and former curatorial assistant Melinda Narro, will present *Selling Egypt: Imagery in Victorian Advertising*, which examines nineteenth-century trade cards and advertisements and their role in shaping stereotypical views of the Middle East in the West.

The museum looks forward to continuing the mini-exhibitions, which provide students the rare chance to create their own installation.



## Community Engagement



#### Girl Scout Patch Launched at McClung Museum

McClung Museum is one of several local institutions that designed the new Girl Scout patch "Exploring Knoxville." To earn the patch, scouts must visit one or more Knoxville museums and sites, learn about them, and perform an action, such as volunteering for the museum. All levels of Girl Scouts can participate in the activities. The

patch launched on April 30, when Troop 20651's Daisies explored the museum with educator Debbie Woodiel.

#### **New UT 'Religion in Museums' Class**

Professor Sarah Dees, lecturer in UT's Department of Religious Studies, taught the May mini session course "Religion in Museums" at McClung. The course introduces students to the ways museums have historically represented religions. It is the first UT course in recent memory to use the museum as the basis for its entire curriculum. Students used the galleries for class discussion, viewed religious objects in the Object Study Room, and curated digital galleries of objects from the museum's collections for their final projects.

#### **New Summer Camps a Success**

This summer the museum incorporated toddler, pre-K, and kindergarten camps into its family programming. The camps highlighted the museum's decorative and fine arts collections, allowing campers to interact with objects not typically on display, and also focused on the special exhibition *Dinosaur Discoveries: Ancient Fossils, New Ideas*. The museum designed the new programs to foster curiosity at an early age and actively engage the campers' families in the process. Junior campers, as young as two, and their caregivers enjoyed a shared experience of education, entertainment, and discovery. The museum hopes to continue these camps next year.

### New Acquisition

The museum recently acquired twenty-one pieces of Guatemalan clothing, which reflect the important tradition of weaving in Maya culture. The textiles are a gift from Elizabeth Etnier, whose father collected them in Guatemala in the 1970s.

Representing both old and new techniques, the collection includes the elements of *traje*, or women and men's customary dress: the *tzute* (head or carrying cloth), *huipil* (shirt/blouse), and *corte* (skirt). Many of the pieces were created using the ancient technology of the backstrap loom and traditional dyes; others incorporate modern treadle/floor loom weaving and modern materials like aniline dyes.

These textiles not only bring important income to their makers, but also serve as markers of cultural pride and identity for the wearer. The symbols that appear on the textiles—jaguars, birds, and deer, for example—represent important figures in Maya religion.

This collection communicates the important social, economic, political, and spiritual functions of cloth and clothing for the Maya and will be a valuable resource for teaching and display in the museum.







## In the Spotlight

Jen Bauer, doctoral candidate in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences (EPS), is the department's coordinator for education volunteers in the *Geology and Fossil History of Tennessee* exhibition. Bauer joins the 150 students from EPS who have served the museum over the last twenty years.

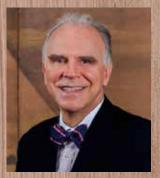


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## Unexpected Treasures:

An Evening with Lark Mason

Sunday, October 9, 2016 5:30-9:00p.m.



Join UT alumnus and *Antiques Roadshow* appraiser, Lark Mason, for a special evening at the McClung Museum. Attendees will be treated to cocktails, live music, elegant dinner stations, and a presentation by Mason entitled "Unexpected Treasures and How to Find Them: Why Great Works of Art Turn Up in Odd Locations."

#### Tickets

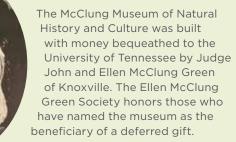
- **Connoisseur Package**: \$800 includes two tickets, one private in-home visit, and verbal object evaluation with Mason (12 available)
- Collector Package: \$350 includes two tickets and expert verbal evaluation with an expert for up to three objects during event (30 available)
- Individual tickets: \$150 each

Visit *tiny.utk.edu/unexpectedtreasures* for more information or to purchase tickets online.



#### LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY TO McCLUNG MUSEUM

#### JOIN THE ELLEN McCLUNG GREEN SOCIETY



You are eligible for membership in the Green Society if you:

- Include the McClung Museum in your will or living trust
- Designate the McClung Museum as beneficiary of your retirement plan or insurance policy
- Establish a charitable remainder trust or charitable gift annuity to benefit the McClung Museum

If you would like to learn more about planned giving, please fill out the enclosed postcard or contact Stacy Palado at spalado@utk.edu or 865-974-2143.











## People and Events

**A. Mother's Day Family Fun Day at Museum.** Young visitors enjoy free face painting with their mother at the Family Fun Day on Mother's Day weekend.

**B. Night at McClung Family Sleepover.** New museum members Sebastian, Chris, and Hayden Goode at the June 17–18 event.

**C. UT History Class in Museum.** Coordinator of Academic Programs, Lindsey Wainwright, teaches Robin Pariser's World Civilization class on June 10 in the Ancient Egypt gallery.

**D. McClung Summer Camp.** A camper "digs" for fossils and dinosaurs at the museum's June Jurassic Kids Camp.

**E.** *Dinosaur Discoveries* **Members Opening.** Director Jeff Chapman and museum members Lezah Pinnell and Cheryl Massingale enjoy the June 3 opening reception for *Dinosaur Discoveries*.



## Looking For a Unique Tailgating Experience?

It's almost football time in Tennessee! Did you know the museum lobby and patio can be reserved for an upscale tailgating experience four hours prior to kickoff? Be a part of the Circle Park action but with added amenities: cover from the elements, air conditioning, indoor restrooms, and elegant catering and cocktail options. For more information, visit tiny.utk.edu/mcclungtailgate. Contact Stacy Palado at 865-974-2143 or spalado@utk.edu for pricing and availability.



McClung Museum of Natural History & Culture 1327 Circle Park Drive Knoxville, TN 37996

mcclungmuseum.utk.edu

#### Event Calendar

#### August

8/15, 10 a.m.: Stroller Tour: Stories from the Cave 8/27, 1-4 p.m.: Family Fun Day: Sailing Along the Nile

#### September

9/10, 1-4 p.m.: Family Fun Day: History and Rhythm 9/12, 10 a.m.: Stroller Tour: Trading in the New World 9/16, 5-7 p.m.: *Knoxville Unearthed* Members Opening 9/20, 7 p.m.: Lecture, "Knoxville Unearthed: Archaeology in the Heart of the Valley"

#### October

10/3, 10 a.m.: Stroller Tour: Down and Around Knoxville 10/9, 5:30-9 p.m.: *Unexpected Treasures* Fundraiser 10/16, 1:30-5 p.m.: Can You Dig It? National Archaeology and Fossil Day

10/23, 2-4 p.m.: Civil War Bus Tour: Forgotten Memorials 10/30, 2 p.m.: Jack Neely Lecture, "Subterranean

Knoxville: The Buried Narrative of a Distracted City"

#### Upcoming Museum Closures

Reminder: The museum will be closed on Monday, September 5, for Labor Day.



#### Last Chance to Visit Dino Discoveries

Don't miss out on your last chance to visit *Dino Discoveries*, which closes on Sunday, August 28.