



McCLUNG MUSEUM

of Natural History and Culture

QUARTERLY

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A model of a
Protoceratops will be
featured in an upcoming
special exhibition, *Dinosaur
Discoveries*. © American
Museum of Natural History

Letter from the Director



I hope you're enjoying our new quarterly newsletters. They are just one example of how the museum is updating and evolving how we showcase our ongoing achievements.

Speaking of which, the Tennessee Association of Museums recognized the museum's *Drawn from the McClung Museum* exhibition (January 22–May 24, 2015) with an achievement award at its March 2016 conference.

The McClung continues to be an exciting place with K–12 gallery tours; college classes experiencing object-based learning; families and children engaged in activities learning together; inspiring, diverse lectures; and scholars researching in our archaeological, malacological, and archaeobotanical collections. As director, I often stand back and watch with pride our mission and our strategic plan in action.

As I say at every opportunity, this success is made possible by the financial support of individuals, corporations, foundations and endowments, and our committed staff. Thank you for believing in the museum.

Jefferson Chapman, Director

Special Exhibition

Dinosaur Discoveries: Ancient Fossils, New Ideas, our new special exhibition exploring the evolution of theories about dinosaurs, opens on June 4 and runs through August 28, 2016.

Using fossil finds, computer simulations, and life-size models, the exhibition reveals a vivid picture of what living, breathing dinosaurs were really like.

Profiling investigative tools, including bioengineering computer software and CT scans, used by modern scientists at the American Museum of Natural History and by leading paleontologists around the world, the exhibition uncovers what dinosaurs looked like, how they behaved, and how they moved.

Videos, life-size casts, and models of *T. rex* and an *Apatosaurus* help illustrate dinosaur locomotion. Twin life-size models of *Protoceratops* show visitors how dinosaurs behaved and the purposes of the unusual horns, frills, crests, and domes found on many dinosaur skulls. A diorama of a 130-million-year-old forest in China and the fossils found there sheds light on the origins of birds and flowering plants.

The exhibition also explores the evidence for theories on the events that ended the age of dinosaurs and the descendants of dinosaurs among us today.

Dinosaur Discoveries' free public programs include Dino Explorers Summer Camp, Jurassic Kids Summer Camp, a Night at the Museum sleepover, Dig It! Fun with Fossils Summer Camp, Moving Among Dinosaurs Stroller Tour, and a Dinosaurs and Fossils Family Fun Day. The exhibition is sponsored by First Tennessee Foundation and the Keller Group. More information is available at tiny.utk.edu/dinodiscoveries.



Students from a UT World Civilization class join Coordinator of Academic Programs Lindsey Wainwright to study a taxidermy passenger pigeon and natural history prints from the museum's collections. Such experiential learning allows students to make deeper connections with course curricula.



Support University Engagement

Thousands of university students came to the museum for class visits last year. Your support helps fund this important work and enables the use of our collections in teaching and research at the University of Tennessee. Learn more at tiny.utk.edu/mcclungAP.

Current Research

Visiting our *Archaeology and the Native Peoples of Tennessee* gallery, you may have noticed a display installed in the floor that features a dog burial. Although this burial is a recreation of what has been found at archaeological sites, it represents hundreds of Native American dog burials uncovered from prehistoric sites in the southeastern United States. Meagan Dennison, a doctoral candidate in anthropology at UT, researches these burials to find out what roles dogs played in past society as well as their eating habits, health, and whether they were treated as pets.

Dennison began volunteering with the museum's Education Program in 2011, leading tours for school groups in the *Native Peoples* gallery. Since January 2015, she has also worked in the archaeology lab, contributing to the cataloging and rehousing of materials from more than sixty dog burials in our collection. These burials date from between 5,000 BC and AD 400. Each burial is examined by skeletal element and looked over for trauma or modification. Each is measured and sex and age is estimated. The bones are then rebagged in acid-free containers. Proper care of our archaeological collections through the work of Dennison and other students and researchers, as well as through the purchase of appropriate storage materials and cabinets, would not be possible without the generous support of our members and donors.

Dennison's research provides evidence to help us better understand how these ancient dogs lived with past peoples. She has concluded that these dogs helped in foraging and hunting activities and that some also served as pack animals.



Community Engagement

The museum has had a busy winter/spring season of educational programming for public and campus audiences.

Maya Programming a Success

The McClung Museum partnered with a number of local organizations, including the Hispanic Chamber of East Tennessee and HoLa Hora Latina, to bring the special exhibition, *Maya: Lords of Time* (January 23–May 22, 2016) to Knoxville. Despite snow, approximately seventy members attended the exhibition opening. Other exhibition sponsors include: Home Federal Bank, Ann & Steve Bailey, the William B. Stokely Jr. Foundation, and UT's Ready for the World. The museum collaborated with Maya immigrants residing in the Lonsdale community to host a Maya Festival on April 9 at which guests experienced Maya culture through traditional clothing, food, art, and music.

Museum Expands Homeschool Offerings

While homeschool students have always enjoyed access to the museum's free educational programs, this year the museum experimented with developing more intensive programs in collaboration with parents/teachers. The new programs permit detailed and varied activities designed to meet the unique needs of homeschool groups, which typically include different ages and types of learners. The museum offers the programs monthly, requiring pre-registration and a small fee to defray costs. Continuing and expanding programs will enable the museum to serve more homeschooled students in the future. Learn more at tiny.utk.edu/mcclunghomeschool.

Museum Celebrates Darwin's Birthday

What's more fun than birthday cake and a dinosaur in a party hat? Celebrating scientific thought and intellectual curiosity, of course! Culminating a week of lectures and festivities, the McClung Museum's birthday party for Charles Darwin brought together UT students and community members for the second year in a row to honor the evolutionary biologist's contributions to understanding the natural world.

Despite inclement weather, more than one hundred attendees enjoyed traditional party games like pin-the-tooth-on-the-dinosaur, gallery talks in the *Geology* and *Human Origins* galleries, and a visit by a giant puppet of Darwin.

New Acquisition

In early January, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) office in Abingdon, Virginia, donated several thousand specimens of freshwater mussels to the Paul W. Parmalee Malacological Collection. USFWS biologists collected the shells in 1998 while investigating a chemical spill in Tazewell County, Virginia, after a tanker truck accidentally overturned while crossing a bridge over a small, unnamed tributary to the Clinch River. The USFWS estimated that 18,000 mussels perished in the event. Some of the mussels killed were estimated to be more than eighty years old.

Several years ago, USFWS donated several thousand specimens from the investigation to the McClung Museum, and the material donated earlier this year represents the remainder collected after the spill event. Included are hundreds of specimens of several critically endangered species, including the Golden Riffleshell, Purple Bean, Shiny Pigtoe, Slabside Pearlymussel, and Rabbitsfoot.



A student creates a coiled pot during a homeschool visit to the museum



"Darwin" poses with Director Jeff Chapman at Darwin Day celebrations



Maya Festival volunteers pose in traditional attire.



In the Spotlight

Richard O'Brien is the museum's longest-serving docent, having worked in *Ancient Egypt: The Eternal Voice* exhibition for seventeen years. O'Brien is an economist and is retired from the US military. He enjoys the interactions with many students that are part of a docent's job. O'Brien has worked primarily with middle-school students over the years, relating their school-based knowledge to authentic artifacts and Egyptian art.

NEW McCLUNG MUSEUM SUMMER CAMPS

The museum has expanded its summer camp offerings. In addition to new art camps, the museum has new offerings for Pre-K, kindergarten, and toddlers. From fossils and dinosaurs to fine art and ancient history, there's something for everyone!

More information and registration is available online at tiny.utk.edu/mcclungcamps.

Special
Discounts
on
Camps
for
Museum
Members!

Jurassic Kids Camp

Toddlers explore fossils and dinosaurs in our new exhibition, *Dinosaur Discoveries*. Ages 2-3 with caregiver, June 14-15, 9-11 a.m., \$25 per child.

Little Artists Camp

Stories and songs, guided activities, and take-home projects inspired by our art collections. Ages 2-3 with caregiver, July 13-14, 9-11 a.m., \$25 per child.

Dino Explorers

Scientific inquiry in activities, stories, and projects based on our new exhibition *Dinosaur Discoveries*. Ages 4-5, campers only, June 7-9, 9-11 a.m., \$35 per child.

Little Masters Camp

Art projects to take home, stories, and guided activities inspired by our art collections. Ages 4-5, campers only, June 21-23, 9-11 a.m., \$35 per child.

Dig It! Fun with Fossils

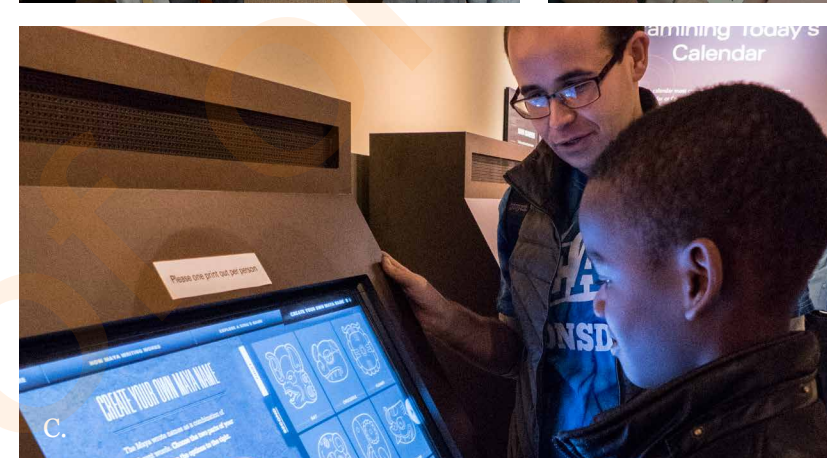
Real fossils, activities, snacks, and "dig" plus our *Dinosaur Discoveries* and *Geology and Fossil History* exhibitions. Ages 9-11 (rising 4th, 5th, and 6th graders), June 20-24, 1-4 p.m., \$110 per child.

Archaeokids: Exploring Ancient Art & Archaeology

Experience archaeology and the art of ancient Egypt and ancient Native Americans through artifacts, crafts, snacks, and a field trip. Ages 9-11 (rising 4th, 5th, and 6th graders), July 11-15, 1-4 p.m., \$110 per child.

Monthly sponsorships provide critical funding for museum operations and maximum exposure for your company. For more details, visit tiny.utk.edu/mcclungsponsorship or contact Stacy Palado at 865-974-2143 or spalado@utk.edu.

People and Events



A. Maya: Lords of Time Opening. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of East Tennessee representative Rosa Mar, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of East Tennessee board member Mike Arms, McClung Museum Director Jeff Chapman, HoLa Hora Latina former Executive Director Karina Cureton, HoLa Hora Latina board member Rebecca Gomez, and McClung Museum Associate Director of External Relations Stacy Palado enjoy the opening reception in January.

B. Civil War Bus Tour. Museum members Hugh and Debby Hyatt enjoy the museum's first Civil War bus tour on April 10.

C. Lonsdale Elementary Field Trip. A Lonsdale Elementary School third-grader and his teacher check out interactives in the *Maya: Lords of Time* exhibition during a school visit.

D. Mysteries at the Museum Host Visits McClung. Travel Channel host, Don Wildman, poses with museum Director Jeff Chapman at the Scripps Networks Interactive event on January 29.

E. Family Day on Sculptor William Edmondson. Families made soap "sculptures" at a free Family Fun Day honoring artist William Edmondson in observance of African American History Month.

Museum Store: Artist Profile

Judith Hodges' butterfly watercolor prints are a welcome reminder that spring is here. A local Knoxville artist, Hodges sees butterflies as "patron saints" of the areas they inhabit. Framed and matted archival prints of her anatomically correct butterfly paintings are now available in the store, ready to hang and brighten any room. Members always receive 10 percent off all purchases in the Museum Store, the proceeds of which help fund our educational programming.





THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

BIG ORANGE. BIG IDEAS.

**McClung Museum of
Natural History & Culture**

1327 Circle Park Drive
Knoxville, TN 37996

mcclungmuseum.utk.edu

Event Calendar

May

5/7, 1-4 p.m., Family Fun Day: Mother's Day Celebration

5/23, 10 a.m., Stroller Tour: Geology Rocks!

June

6/3, 5-7 p.m., *Dinosaur Discoveries* Members Opening

6/7-6/9, Dino Explorers Camp

6/11, 1-4 p.m., Family Fun Day: In the Land of the Dinosaurs

6/14-6/15, Jurassic Kids Camp

6/17-6/18, Night at the Museum Sleepover (tickets at
tiny.utk.edu/nightatmcclung)

6/20-6/24, Dig It! Fun with Fossils Camp

6/21-6/23, Little Masters Camp

6/27, 10 a.m., Stroller Tour: Moving Among Dinosaurs

July

7/9, 1-4 p.m., Family Fun Day: Dinosaurs and Fossils

7/11-7/15, Archaeokids Camp

7/13-7/14, Little Artists Camp

7/18, 10 a.m., Stroller Tour: A Trip to Ancient Rome

Upcoming Museum Closures

Just a reminder that the museum will be closed on Monday, May 30, for Memorial Day and Monday, July 4, for Independence Day.

Newsletter Feedback

What do you think of our new quarterly newsletter? Let us know by filling out a survey online at tiny.utk.edu/newslettersurvey or calling us at 865-974-2144.

With the switch to the quarterly newsletter and monthly e-newsletter format, it is even more important that we have current contact information from our members. Visit tiny.utk.edu/mcclungupdate or call us to update your information.