In celebration of the new Claire M. Hubbard Lecture Series, Seattle-based author and tribal advocate Gyasi Ross delivered the inaugural Hubbard Lecture October 11. A family event featuring Native American activities was held October 12 at Morrill Hall.
The page contains information about the staff of the University of Nebraska State Museum, including contact information, schedule of events, and museum details. It also includes the website www.museum.unl.edu for more event details.
DEAR FRIENDS,

We are delighted to resume publication of the Mammoth now that Mandy Haase has joined our staff as Public Relations Coordinator and Friends Liaison, replacing Dana Ludvik. Mandy comes to us from the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools. She volunteers as a TeamMate mentor and is active in the UNL Alumni Association, so she has the ideal background to enhance Museum public relations and outreach! Mandy already made a major contribution working with Mark Harris to coordinate the three successful "Fright at the Museum" nights in October that attracted 2000 visitors and raised $8600 to support Museum programs.

A lot has happened since our last issue. In June, the Museum and UNL lost Sam Treves, Curator of Geology and Emeritus Professor in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, who passed away at age 87. Because my husband is part of the "Antarctic family" of international expeditioners, Sam Treves was one of the UNL faculty members whom I already knew when I first applied to come to Lincoln from Minnesota as Vice Chancellor for Research. Sam helped me out even before I officially started work in Lincoln in September 1993. In June 1993, Sam loaned me his special Antarctic "good luck" wolverine parka hood to wear when I flew to the ice-drilling camp on the summit of the Greenland Ice Sheet. Wolverine fur is used to trim parka hoods because the fur repels moisture, so ice from the breath won’t build up around the face. We were trying to bring the big Greenland ice core-drilling contract back to UNL from Alaska, and so I went with the UNL team to Greenland for the National Science Foundation “job walk.” Luckily, we were successful and brought PICO (Polar Ice Core Office) back to UNL! Sam first came to UNL in 1958 and devoted over 50 years of his life to the Department and the Museum. His legacy of helping and mentoring others will continue with the Sam Treves Student Travel and Research Fund at the University of Nebraska Foundation. This fund will assist undergraduate and graduate students in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. I hope you will consider joining me in supporting Sam's fund.

This fall we received the wonderful news that Mike Voorhies, Emeritus Professor and Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology, had been chosen to receive the Henry Fonda Award, the state's highest tourism award, presented by the Nebraska Tourism Commission for his decades of work discovering and promoting Ashfall Fossil Beds. Sandy Mosel, who has worked at Ashfall since the Park opened, was also honored with the award for Exceptional Customer Service.

The Museum this year has received a major gift from Anne Hubbard to help us reach underserved audiences. Kathy French will be heading up a new program of two-way video conferencing from Morrill Hall to schools across the state linked on Network Nebraska, and Anne’s fund will also subsidize admission and gallery programs for schools with limited financial means. Anne cares deeply about making science education accessible to all children and youth. Another gift from Anne has endowed an annual Native American lecture at UNL in memory of her mother, and the first inaugural Claire M. Hubbard lecture was given by attorney and author Gyasi Ross at the Sheldon Museum of Art on October 11. Judi gaiashkibos, Executive Director of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs, conducted the question and answer period after the lecture. Judi was the consultant on the First Peoples of the Plains gallery that was funded by Anne in 2011. On October 12 we had a wonderful Native American family event coordinated by Kathy French, which culminated in a traditional round dance in Elephant Hall.

One of the honored guests at the UNL Research Fair in November was Shirley Malcom, Head of Education and Human Resources Programs in the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Dr. Malcom spoke to UNL postdoctoral scholars in the special sessions on “Professional Skills Development for Postdocs.” She is a former member of the National Science Board, where in 1997 she was one of the architects of the “Broader Impact” criterion for ranking of NSF proposals. The State Museum today specializes in helping UNL faculty satisfy this grant criterion through our public outreach programs. I served with Shirley in 1985 and 1986 on NSF’s Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Technology, so at the lunch we were able to testify jointly to the lifelong advantages of the networking advice she was giving to our postdocs!

— Priscilla C. Grew, Director of the University of Nebraska State Museum
This is a very busy season for me – post research season. I’ve been taking data out in the field at the Agricultural Research and Development Center near Mead over a good part of the summer. It’s a distractor to other important things – like the Museum. But the Museum is doing well. During my visits for meetings and to take guests, it seems almost overrun at times with kids excited about the many things to look at. I must admit a little guilt for getting “in line” with a bunch of youngsters to get my turn at the Tree of Life exhibit. It is fun watching how quickly they figure out how the table-size iPad-like display works. Within minutes, they are explaining all the intricacies and implications to those around them – including the old folks like me. If you haven’t been to the Museum lately, take the time, take a kid, or take a good friend, and stop by. There are new things among the old fossils.

I reported last time on the success of the acoustics treatment in Elephant Hall. The estimated cost for the treatment was $31,000. It ends up that the actual construction cost was much less, about $17,000. Of the remaining, $14,000, $2,000 will be used to buy new audio equipment for Elephant Hall – including permanently mounted speakers.

The cost to replace the carpets in the Museum is about $275,000. Of that amount, $225,000 is to be paid with University funds and Museum revenue funds. The Friends had committed $25,000 to help with the remaining $50,000. Thanks to the lower actual costs for the acoustics, we are able to contribute another $12,000 or a total of $37,000 toward carpet replacement. Thanks to all of you, the Museum is going to look (and feel) much better.

Let me introduce a new topic, Museum150. The Museum’s 150th or sesquicentennial anniversary will be in 2021. This is a few years after the Nebraskan sesquicentennial in 2017 -- amazing that the Museum was created only four years after statehood. To celebrate this event, we are working to identify a project or projects that will commemorate the 150 years of service, scientific research, education, enlightenment, and, yes, entertainment that the Museum has given the people of Nebraska. It goes without saying (so why am I saying it?) that the Friends will need to raise money to pay for this. So please stay tuned while projects are discussed and fund-raising events planned. You’ve been generous to the Museum. We could use your help for this very special opportunity. As I’ve often said, we are behind the Museum because it is an institution built for the future, to educate and inspire today and tomorrow. Museum150 will help us leave a Museum that is better than we found it and sure to inspire those who follow us.

For many years, I felt guilty that I hadn’t taken the time to visit the Ashfall Fossil Beds State Historical Park. In the past two years, I made up for that with ten visits. In fact, I made three trips up there in less than two weeks in October. Two were tourist visits, introducing my daughter (from California) and a colleague from Canada to the exhibits. The last was to attend the Ashfall chapter board meeting. For those of you who have been there, you know the magic of the place. The “dig” uncovers fossils of ancient animals who have been preserved, through the quality of the volcanic glass ash that buried them, with bones in their anatomically correct three-dimensional positions. Most fossils found in the world are crushed by the intervening layers of rock and soil. The magic of Ashfall is that the shape of the ash particles acted like packing material (those peanuts we love to hate) and kept things correctly aligned. It tugs at the heart to see a mother rhino and her baby touching each other as they lay dying 12 million years ago. You can see an unborn baby positioned as it was in its mother’s womb. The magic of Ashfall is also that it is an active paleontological dig site that is open for the public to see. You can stand and watch students, professors, and volunteers digging painfully slowly through the hardened ash to uncover the bones of many types of animals. Those who are digging are ready at a moment’s notice to talk with you, explain what they are doing, and why they are doing it. And if you are especially fortunate, you will meet the person who has been at this longest, Dr. Mike Voorhies, the discoverer of the first fossil at Ashfall. Mike is the ultimate teacher. A professor emeritus in the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Department at UNL, he presents the work at Ashfall in a way that enraptles visitors of all ages and makes them “believers.”

The Friends Board has been engaged in strengthening the relationship with the Ashfall Chapter of the Friends. The Ashfall Chapter can now send a representative who will exercise a vote on their behalf during our Board meetings. And we can send a representative to be a voting member during their Board meetings. When you join the Friends or renew your membership, you have an opportunity to become a member of the Ashfall Chapter. The cost is small, $10, to become a member of Ashfall. If you are joining the Friends as an individual ($35), we will send the $10 plus an additional $5 to Ashfall. If you are joining at the family level or above ($50), we send an additional $10 to Ashfall. So here is a chance to help a great part of the Museum. When you renew, please consider checking the Ashfall box. There’s magic to keep afrot.

Being part of the Board of the Friends has been an inspirational experience for me. The knowledge, dedication and skill of the Museum curators and staff are phenomenal. Many of you know that before coming to Nebraska, I worked for part of NASA. I worked with scientists and engineers from universities and research institutions from all over the world. The people in our Museum are second to none of them. Please join me in taking pride in the people as well as the institution.

Dana Ludvik left her position as public relations coordinator for the Museum. She is one of the good people. While she rarely got the limelight she deserved, she steadfastly supported me and the Board for many years. I am pleased to welcome Mandy Haase as the new public relations coordinator. Mandy is starting off running and getting up to speed very quickly. I’m looking forward to working with her.

The Museum is a magic, amazing place. It chronicles our past but builds for our future. Your help is needed. There are many things to be fixed and many things to be made better. I detailed some of the projects in my last article. The Museum offers to inspire the future. One look at the amazement in a small face looking at the Tree of Life exhibit convinces me that our work is vital. This is your chance to invest in our children’s future. It is an opportunity to inspire future Nebraskans to careers in science, engineering, and mathematics. It is an opportunity to inspire future Nebraskans to understand the scientific and technological issues behind the decisions they will be called on to make. Donations may be sent to Mandy Haase, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 307 Morrill Hall, Lincoln, NE 68588-0338.

Please enjoy Winter. It’s good to have you as my Friends.

— Art Zygielbaum, President of the Friends of the University of Nebraska State Museum
At the University of Nebraska State Museum

From historic Morrill Hall – home to “Archie the Mammoth” on the University of Nebraska–Lincoln campus – to Ashfall Fossil Beds near Royal and the Trailside Museum at Fort Robinson, the University of Nebraska State Museum enriches the lives of more than 100,000 visitors and students each year, creating lifelong memories and inspiring a love of science and learning.

The University of Nebraska is involved in a campaign to raise $1.2 billion to support students, faculty, research and programs. You can choose to help the museum by making a contribution to the Friends of the University of Nebraska State Museum Fund.

To learn more about the museum and the campaign, contact Connie Pejsar, cpejsar@nufoundation.org, 402-458-1190 or 800-432-3216.

To give online, go to nufoundation.org/friendsofthectatemuseum

**Morrill Hall Birthday Parties**

Five party themes to choose from!
- Private Party Room
- Guided Museum Activities
- Gifts for Every Child

Book your date now!

For details: www.museum.unl.edu/birthdays/

**BE SURE TO SEE THESE MORRILL HALL EXHIBITS**

**Tree of Life**
Life on Earth

**Weapons Throughout Time**
Remarkable instruments of survival and warfare

**BIZARRE BEASTS**
University of Nebraska State Museum
Morrill Hall
Lincoln, NE
www.museum.unl.edu

An exhibit exploring some of the strangest creatures ever to inhabit the earth.
MORRILL HALL STUDENT WORKER SPOTLIGHT

Morrill Hall’s student staff support the museum year-round working at the front desk greeting visitors and answering questions, in the museum gift shop, presenting birthday party activities and other programs throughout the museum. The student staff also help with special events hosted by the University of Nebraska State Museum. Get to know some of our student workers:

Ashlee Anderson
A history major from Daniel, Wyoming, Ashley has the perfect major for her job, which is why she loves working at Morrill Hall. It’s her dream to work in a museum once she completes school. In her opinion, one of the best parts of her job is interacting with the visitors and expanding their knowledge. Ashley believes people should visit museums in order to learn about the world around them and the history that has shaped our society today.

Josie Simmons
A psychology major from Sargent, Nebraska, Josie’s favorite part about working at the museum is getting to learn new things from all the exhibits. Her favorite exhibit happens to be “Bizarre Beasts”. Josie thinks people should come explore the museum because not only is it extremely interesting, but it’s also fun and demonstrates how much the world has changed from the past.

Bethany Barone
Bethany is an international education major with a minor in child, youth and family services. From Omaha, Nebraska, Bethany loves working at Morrill Hall because the work environment is fun and friendly. Bethany believes people should visit the museum because it’s educational and provides information and hands-on activities that children love.

Safa Salih
Safa Salih is a civil engineering major from Baghdad, Iraq. Even though she is far from home, she says she has found a second home at Morrill Hall because the people she works with are incredible, and she gets to learn while she works. Her favorite exhibit is “Nebraska Wildlife” because it’s a quiet place for her to think, and she loves the paintings and buttons to press to hear the animal sounds.

Colby Smith
From Manley, Nebraska, Colby enjoys working at Morrill Hall because it’s a flexible job for college students and is educational. Colby thinks all families should enjoy the learning experience that Morrill Hall has to offer. Colby’s favorite exhibit is “Weapons Throughout Time”.

Riley Linder
Riley is a business administration major from Aurora, Colorado. Her favorite exhibit is “People of the Plains” because it has a great atmosphere and is interesting to learn about, which is why she thinks it’s an exhibit families should see.

— Compiled by Sarah Lambert, Museum Intern
MUSEUM WELCOMES NEW STAFF

Pam Jelinek-Sniff
Public Service Associate

I started my adventure here at the museum at the end of May and I LOVE IT! It’s a wonderful place to work. I came from working in the banking field for almost five years and was very happy for the change. UNL has a beautiful campus and I have the bonus of getting to work with “Archie” every day. I’ve always loved museums but never imagined that someday I’d actually get to work in one! Yeah, it’s pretty cool. This is only my second year in Nebraska and I have found it to be full of very friendly, down to earth good people.

Sarah Goetsch
Collections Assistant, Anthropology Division

I began working for the Anthropology Division of the University of Nebraska State Museum in February, 2013. As the Collections Assistant, I am responsible for the preservation and management of the Museum’s ethnographic and archaeological objects, as well as aiding visiting researchers, community members, and students who come to Nebraska Hall to tour our collection. I am constantly blown away by the quality, diversity, and sheer number of artifacts held in the Museum’s Anthropology Collection. There is always something interesting to explore in our collection rooms. So few people know about our research collections and I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to learn about cultures from all around the world through my work with these artifacts.

My family and I are from Michigan originally and moved to Nebraska five years ago. I have loved getting to learn about the rich and diverse history of Nebraska through the exhibits and research being done at the University of Nebraska State Museum. In our free time, my husband and I enjoy spending time with our family, friends, and three dogs. We are also expecting our first baby in March!

Mandy Haase
Public Relations Coordinator

I am delighted to be the new Public Relations Coordinator for the museum. I am responsible for the marketing of the museum including coordinating local, statewide, and regional advertising and promotion. Originally from South Dakota, I am a graduate of the University of Nebraska and have called Lincoln home for the past seven years. In my free time I write for Nebraska Foodie, a blog focused on highlighting local restaurants and food-related events.

UNSM CELEBRATES EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

Each year UNL recognizes and honors employees for their years of service at the University. This year’s special recognition went to Brett Ratcliffe for completing 45 years at UNL. Brett is Professor and Curator of Entomology in the Museum. Honored for 25 years of service was Karl Baumgarten, Museum Geological Specialist and Instrumentation Supervisor in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.

— Priscilla C. Grew, Director of the University of Nebraska State Museum

Brett Ratcliffe – 45 years
Karl Baumgarten – 25 years
Priscilla Grew – 20 years
Mark Harris – 15 years
Joel Nielsen – 15 years
Matt Paulsen – 5 years
Gabor Racz – 5 years
Ross Secord – 5 years
NEW BOOK PUBLISHED BY BRETT RATCLIFFE, CURATOR OF ENTOMOLOGY

The Dynastine Scarab Beetles of Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize by Ratcliffe, Cave, and Cano.

The 198 species of dynastine scarab beetles that occur in Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize are comprehensively reviewed. Keys in English and Spanish, descriptions, geographic and temporal distributions, notes on natural history, 885 numbered illustrations, numerous other illustrations, and maps are provided for all species.

Also included are synopses of the habitats in each of the three countries and higher-level taxa, a tabular review of all the Dynastinae occurring in Mesoamerica, a glossary, a species checklist, and extensive references.

The book is hard bound, 666 pages, and in color. This is the third volume in a series of five to be published. The first two volumes dealt with Central America, and the next two volumes cover the West Indies and the USA/Canada.

For more information see: http://museum.unl.edu/research/entomology/monographs.html

JUDY DIAMOND NAMED AAAS FELLOW

Judy Diamond is one of six UNL faculty elected Fellow of AAAS in 2013. She is the second AAAS Fellow in the State Museum; in 1985, Director Priscilla Grew was elected Fellow in the AAAS Section on Geology and Geography.

Dr. Diamond has dedicated her career to creating innovative informal science education programs and conducting research on animal behavior. During the last 15 years alone, she has secured more than $9.3 million in grant funding to support educational outreach projects on human biology, viruses and evolution. Most recently, these projects include Biology of Human; World of Viruses and the Omaha Science Media Project.

“Judy’s work has been exceptionally important to the State Museum,” says Director Priscilla Grew. “Her national prominence in the field of informal science education and her active collaborations with leading institutions such as Harvard University and the California Academy of Sciences are critical to maintaining our Museum’s research reputation as a leading national center for informal science education.” This reputation has been reinforced by Dr. Diamond’s effectiveness in helping UNL science units achieve broader impacts in their research via our Museum programming. Her campus partnerships for the Museum engage faculty in the School of Biological Sciences, the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, the Department of Sociology, NET, the Nebraska Center for Virology and many others. For example, Dr. Diamond assisted faculty member Eileen Hebets in the School of Biological Sciences with the Broader Impact component of a successful NSF proposal that resulted in an “Eight-Legged Encounters” Sunday with a Scientist public event in February 2013. This event drew a record attendance of 847 children and adults to a three-hour program on arachnids, including activity stations, inquiry-based learning and presentations by UNL undergraduate and graduate students.
NOW PLAYING IN MUELLER PLANETARIUM

Two new shows have been added to Nebraska’s first fulldome digital projection theater. The schedule will feature a show on the impact of comets and asteroids on the Earth’s surface and another exploring the deep sea.

“Firefall” explores the history of comets and asteroids shaping earth’s surface. Terrifying and majestic, learn how these invaders from space are capable of both destruction and delivery of organic materials necessary for life. Following the screening, there will be updates on the current night sky.
Total running time: 46 minutes

“Into the Deep” ventures to the lowest point of the Mariana Trench in the South Pacific. Visitors will come face-to-face with rarely seen marine organisms like the bioluminescent frogfish while navigating the evolution of deep-sea diving vessels used to explore the ocean environment.
Total running time: 32 minutes

For more information and current showtimes visit www.spacelaser.com
ASTRONOMY DAY 2013 - LASERS IN ASTRONOMY

Astronomy Day for 2013 had a theme of Lasers In Astronomy. Much of the public knows lasers are a scientific tool as well as a pointer toy to play with their cat. But the actual uses of lasers in the science of Astronomy are not as well known. Through arrangements made by Jack Dunn with Prismatic Magic Lasers – a company located in New Jersey and Texas, the Planetarium was a tester of a new program about Lasers in Astronomy (produced by Prismatic). The founders of this company are laser physicists with Ph.D.’s in laser physics. They are very much interested in education about lasers so they created a program partially funded by the International Society for Optics and Photonics which followed this theme. The program combines both educational pieces on light, solar energy, atmospheric effects on seeing, space-based observatories and adaptive optics with entertaining musical numbers. The Planetarium’s programs for the day were given over to “Lasers In Astronomy” and played to enthusiastic audiences totaling 336 people. Evening entertainment laser shows using the Prismatic projector happened the Friday evening before Astronomy Day and that evening.

A number of supporting organizations both from the UNL and off-campus communities operated stations throughout Morrill Hall. Astronomy Day is an event organized by the Astronomical League of the United States. League member the Prairie Astronomy Club (PAC) brought the event to the Museum in the late 1980’s. PAC was in evidence operating a number of stations relating to the solar system and telescopes. Jack Northrup brought several robotics students from King Middle Magnet School who demonstrated their robots for visitors. The Air Force Association helped launch paper rockets for visitors out front of the museum. The 99s, a group of female pilots, again presented history of women in aviation and also demonstrated a star wheel. From on campus, Geosciences staff displayed and explained meteorites. The UNL NASA Microgravity University team (UNL Engineering) discussed spaceflight and conditions in microgravity. Students from UNL Physics demonstrated principles of light, force of motion and operated the ever-popular hovercraft. UNL’s Nanotechnology research from the Physics Department was also represented. UNL’s chapter of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (more UNL Engineering) presented examples of the rockets they launch and discussed rocket propulsion systems they are researching.

— Jack Dunn, Mueller Planetarium Coordinator
REMEMBERING SAMUEL B. TREVES (1925-2013)

Emeritus Professor and Curator of Geology Samuel B. Treves died June 10, 2013 at the age of 87. Sam earned his doctorate at Ohio State and came to the Department of Geology at the University of Nebraska in 1958. He became full Professor in 1966, and also served as Associate Dean of the UNL College of Arts and Sciences from 1989 to 1996. He retired from the Department in 2004 after 45 years of service, but then continued to teach courses in optical mineralogy and petrology, and remained active in the Museum.

As Curator, he was in charge of the Museum’s collection of rocks, minerals and meteorites. Many readers will remember how Sam in his 80s continued to volunteer faithfully as a regular presenter at our annual public events Dinosaurs and Disasters and Astronomy Day. Sam and Karl Baumgarten ran the station on “Meteorites and Meteor-wrongs,” showing visitors how to identify meteorites and distinguish them from man-made objects or Earth rocks.

In research, Sam was best known for his work in Antarctica, and for his collaborations with UNL’s Marvin Carlson on the billion-year-old Precambrian “basement” crystalline rocks of Nebraska. Sam’s first work in Antarctica was in the 1960-61 and 1961-62 field seasons right after the International Geophysical Year. In the 1970s, he helped lead drilling projects in the Dry Valleys. The successful research outcomes of these projects helped secure the prominent role the University of Nebraska has held in Antarctic scientific drilling ever since, most recently with the National Science Foundation ANDRILL project that has revealed major new findings about Antarctica’s changing climates in the past. For his historic contributions to Antarctic geology, Sam was honored by the Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names with having Treves Butte in the Transantarctic Mountains named after him.

Sam’s geological legacy continues through the establishment at the University of Nebraska Foundation of the new Sam Treves Student Travel and Research Fund that will provide much needed assistance to students in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.

— Priscilla C. Grew, Director of the University of Nebraska State Museum

Sam Treves was an active volunteer presenter for various Museum events. Photo provided by Karl Baumgarten

Retiring from the Department of Geology in 2004 after 45 years of service, Sam Treves continued to teach courses in optical mineralogy and petrology, and remained active in the Museum. Photo provided by Karl Baumgarten
THE STATE MUSEUM AND THE ARTS

Two special events in fall 2013 were opportunities to celebrate how the resources of the State Museum inspire artistic expression. On October 26 was the screening of “Digs,” the short movie produced by students in the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film in the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts. Michael Harthen won the Carson School Screenplay contest in 2011 with his romantic comedy of a struggling actor who is a volunteer campus cop, and the star paleontology student he secretly admires. When rare fossils are discovered on campus and then stolen, the pair have adventures that take them to Morrill Hall’s Toren Gallery and Mesozoic Gallery, and in the Vertebrate Paleontology collection rooms in Nebraska Hall. This project is the second movie production to help Carson School students learn first-hand about all aspects of movie production. Work over two years is conducted in conjunction with classes in the school. Director Donald Petrie and other professionals were brought to campus to work with students on the production.

On November 10, NET hosted a special screening of “Ashfall Unearthed”, an NET half-hour music special with composer Rusty Banks and the Nebraska Chamber Players. Banks says he wanted to take listeners on a musical journey through the events that occurred 12 million years ago in what is now the site of the Ashfall Fossil Beds State Historical Park. Volcanic ash killed rhinos, camels and other prehistoric animals who perished after breathing the extremely fine volcanic dust. Banks, now a resident of Pennsylvania, was a frequent visitor to Ashfall while a student at UNL. The special includes extensive footage of the Hubbard Rhino Barn at Ashfall and interviews with Mike Voorhies, Emeritus Professor and Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology.

— Priscilla C. Grew, Director of the University of Nebraska State Museum

FRIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

The University of Nebraska State Museum invited children and families to “Fright at the Museum” October 24-26, 2013. The three-night Morrill Hall-O-Ween fundraising event was put on with generous support from Sandhills Publishing, Pepsi, EyeCare Specialties, Whole Foods, media sponsors, and 120 volunteers and museum staff. Visitors were scared silly on three floors of Morrill Hall! Activities included a candy catapult, dino disco, a photo booth thanks to Emerald Isle Productions, live creepy creatures thanks to the University of Nebraska Biology Ambassadors and Mentors, and performances by interactive music group The Mighty Magic Pants and more.

The third floor featured “Science Experiments Gone Wrong”. Visitors wandered through a creepy maze of mummies, insects, primates, aliens and dinosaurs. Children were encouraged to show off their costumes and bring their own bags to load up on candy and other goodies. The fundraiser welcomed over 2000 guests and helped raise $8600 that will support the museum through new and enhanced exhibits, events and educational programming.

— Mandy Haase, Public Relations Coordinator
INAUGURAL CLAIRE M. HUBBARD FIRST PEOPLES OF THE PLAINS LECTURE

The University of Nebraska State Museum in cooperation with the Sheldon Museum of Art celebrated the inaugural Claire M. Hubbard First Peoples of the Plains Lecture with campus events on October 11-12, 2013. Thanks to a generous endowment established by Dr. Anne M. Hubbard and the Claire M. Hubbard Foundation, the annual Lecture will help advance the understanding and appreciation of the cultural heritage of the First Peoples of the Plains.

The Hubbard Lecture Committee began meeting in January 2013 to plan the campus events. The Committee includes volunteers representing a wide variety of organizations in addition to the State Museum: the Lied Center for Performing Arts, Sheldon Museum of Art, UNL Visitor Center; Center for Great Plains Studies, UNITE (the University of Nebraska Inter-Tribal Exchange student organization); NET Television; UNL Office of Research and Economic Development, Departments of Anthropology and History; Nebraska State Historical Society; Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs, VisionMaker Media, and the UNO Department of Anthropology and Sociology. Brandon Ruud, Curator of Transnational American Art at the Sheldon coordinated the October 11 events at Sheldon, and Kathy French coordinated the October 12 Morrill Hall program.

A performance in the Sheldon Sculpture Garden by the Kateri Warrior Drum and Dance Group from St. Augustine Indian Mission launched the weekend’s events followed by a public reception in the Sheldon Great Hall and tours of Native American art. The Nebraska Writers Collective from Omaha presented a Poetry Slam in the Sheldon Auditorium. Author, attorney and member of the Blackfeet Nation, Gyassi Ross presented the Hubbard Lecture “The Brilliance of Indigenous Mentorship and the Current Crisis to Native Communities when Mentorship Disappears.” Judi gaiashkibos, Executive Director of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs, assisted with an audience Q&A with the speaker following the talk.

Events continued on Saturday, October 12, 2013 at Morrill Hall for families featuring Native American activities. Storytellers and activity stations encouraged children to learn about Native Americans and to try bead work, play games, watch flint knapping and enjoy art, language and music. Attendees were especially encouraged to visit the First Peoples of the Plains Gallery on the third floor, which was renovated in 2011 with funding from Anne Hubbard and the UNL Class of 1987. Families also explored a real tipi in Elephant Hall, set up by Mark Awakuni-Swetland, and then all visitors were invited to join in a Round Dance.

— Priscilla C. Grew, Director of the University of Nebraska State Museum

For more information regarding the Claire M. Hubbard First Peoples of the Plains Lecture Series, the First Peoples of the Plains exhibit or to see a playback of Gyassi Ross’ lecture visit museum.unl.edu/firstpeoples

Gyassi Ross addresses a crowd in the Sheldon Museum of Arts Auditorium during the Claire M. Hubbard First People’s of the Plains Lecture.
Photo by Craig Chandler/University Communications

Myron Long Soldier, Chairman of the Indian Center, Inc. in Lincoln, teaches young visitors to say “How are you?” in Lakota.
Photo by Craig Chandler/University Communications
'Sunday with a Scientist' events are held the 3rd Sunday of each month from 1:30-4:30 p.m. at Morrill Hall. Join us to interact with scientists and explore new topics!

**BATS**  
**OCTOBER**

On October 20, visitors learned about bats, the most abundant group of mammals after rodents. The program was led by Professor Patricia Freeman, curator of zoology and professor in UNL School of Natural Resources and UNL School of Biological Sciences and her students.

Visitors explored bat behavior and some of the myths surrounding this mysterious species. Specimens used for research in the museum’s zoology collections were on display.

In addition to learning about bats, children were able to create “bat ears” to wear around the museum.

**COMING UP**

- **January 19:** Insects
- **February 23:** Titanoboa

Visit museum.unl.edu for more event information.

**SOLAR ENERGY**

**NOVEMBER**

Led by Jinsong Huang, assistant professor of mechanical and materials engineering at UNL, visitors explored cutting-edge solar cell technology on November 17.

Children and families interacted with flexible solar panels while learning how a flexible solar cell is made. Huang showed how a solar cell was wrapped around a human hair and how solar cells could someday be used to cover clothing or backpacks to power electronic devices.
TRAILSIDE MUSEUM RECAPS 2013

The 2013 season at the Trailside has gone by quickly. The season ended much like it started, snowy and cold. Marcia Kelly came back for the 2013 season and her husband Jim joined the staff this year. Their knowledge of the plants and wildlife in the area has been an asset to the Museum. Visitors enjoy the wildlife in the area, even the rather large bull snake that made repeat appearances on the museum grounds; he was escorted off several times.

The 2013 season began with the Scout tree planting event. About 350 scouts and their leaders visited the museum. This spring the Museum was host to 330 students from area schools. The Trailside Scavenger Hunt remains a popular tool for students to learn about the geological area they come from. A student from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois came with a friend from the Chicago Field Museum to measure the Trailside’s mammoths for her senior inquiry. They spent a day at the Hot Springs, South Dakota Mammoth Site before coming to the Trailside and were headed for the Tate Museum in Casper, WY after leaving Fort Robinson.

Phil Hore, a blogger from Australia, who blogs about various museums from around the world dedicated to natural history, came to the Museum by appointment last winter. He found out about the Trailside at Morrill Hall and began following the Fossil Freeway. He blogged about Morrill Hall, the Trailside and the Mammoth Site. The Crawford Clipper (local newspaper) picked up the Trailside blog and ran it in their summer edition.

The Denver Museum of Nature and Science gave the Trailside a spot in their Mammoths and Mastodons Exhibit, which ran from February 15th through May 27th. Many of the Fort’s Colorado visitors came to the Museum this year especially to see the two Crawford Mammoths.

The President of the New York Paleontological Society, Donald Phillips, stopped at the Trailside. He, along with two other paleontologists are writing a source book about fossil exhibitions in the United States. He enjoyed the Museum and talked about his visit to Morrill Hall and how great the information is at both Museums.

Wal Mart gave the Museum funds for a much needed new television. The big screen TV is a great addition to the balcony, and along with the new lighting has been a wonderful improvement to the Museum. The new lighting in the downstairs gift shop has also brightened things up downstairs. The Travel Channel is still playing reruns of the Mysteries at the Museum segment of the Trailside Mammoths. This has been great publicity for the museum.

In August we say good-bye to the families on vacation and welcome the fall travelers. Several motorcyclists stopped at the Museum on their way to South Dakota. We also begin to see the horse and RV groups that come to Fort Robinson at this time, as well as the people who are traveling Highway 20. The government shut down had a small affect on the museum, losing the people on their way to Mount Rushmore and the Agate Fossil Beds.

— Pattie Norman, Trailside Museum Specialist

TRAILSIDE MUSEUM HOURS (MDT)

Summer (Memorial Day to Labor Day):
Open Daily, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Fall (Sept. 6 to Oct. 31):
Thurs.-Sun., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Winter (Nov.-March): By appointment only

trailside.unl.edu
ASHFALL FOSSIL BEDS WELCOMED NEW SUMMER STAFF IN 2013

Adrienne Stroup
Adrienne spent a second summer as a David B. Jones intern at Ashfall this year. Adrienne is a recent graduate of Syracuse University (in her home state of New York) and was able to help later into the season, doing detail work on skeletons in the barn and helping with exhibit renovations in the visitor center.

Jacob Grimes
A geology student at the University of Missouri in Kansas City, Jacob Grimes was one of Ashfall’s David B. Jones interns this past summer. Jacob’s passion for paleontology was obvious as he enthusiastically shared information about the fossil beds with visitors. His careful excavating in the Hubbard Rhino Barn also revealed a very fine Neohipparion, the three-toed horse seen in this photo.

Tom Gaetano
Tom is a geology student at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, his home state. He was a David B. Jones intern this summer at Ashfall, and he especially enjoyed sorting microfossils in the Discovery Pavilion and working in the Rhino Barn.

Sam Wilton
Ashfall’s Hubbard Intern this summer. The Hubbard internship was offered for the first time this year specifically for a University of Nebraska student, and was provided by the Hubbard Family Foundation. Sam hails from Gresham, Nebraska. His duties included working on jacketed fossils in the prep lab while explaining the process to curious visitors.

Jeremy McMullin
Jeremy, a UNL student from Leigh, Nebraska, was our Skinner/Overcash Fellow this summer. Jeremy is majoring in geology, with the goal of becoming a paleontologist. He demonstrated his aptitude for excavation by carefully detailing an intact rhino skeleton he uncovered early in the summer. Jeremy’s background in geology made him a knowledgeable interpreter.

Michaela Mitchell
Michaela is shown here in the prep lab, piecing together a fragmented lower molar from a rhino. Michaela attends Northern Kentucky University, just across the river from her home in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Kelly Weber
Kelly joined Ashfall as a volunteer early in the summer to gain experience as an interpreter. She is an English major at Wayne State College and visitors appreciated her friendly demeanor and ability to explain the fossil site in clear, understandable terms.

ASHFALL FOSSIL BEDS 2014 SCHEDULE

May 1-May 22:
Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-4 pm
Closed Sunday and Monday

May 23-Sept 1:
Monday-Saturday 9 am-5 pm • Sunday 11 am-5 pm

Sept 2-Oct 12:
Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-4 pm • Sunday 1 pm-4 pm
Closed Monday
ARTIFACT ID DAY AT ASHFALL FOSSIL BEDS

For the past several years, the Ashfall Fossil Beds has held a special day each summer for the public to bring in fossils and rocks they own and have them identified by paleontologist Mike Voorhies. These “Fossil ID Days” are pretty popular as people seek to find out what they really have in their collections. Even those folks who don’t have fossils to bring in themselves seem to enjoy just looking on to find out what interesting items others have. This summer we hosted the ID day on August 10th, and decided it might be fun to include the opportunity for those who have artifacts to get them identified as well. To assist us in that effort, Rob Bozell, archaeologist with the Nebraska State Historical Society, spent the day looking at a variety of stone points, scrapers, and pottery. The artifacts covered a wide range of cultures from Paleo-Indian to recent and it was truly interesting for visitors and staff alike to see what folks had collected over the years. The idea was a hit, and we plan to include artifact identification on ID days in the future.

One of the highlights of the day was when Robert Melcher of Winnetoon drove up with a very large fossil in the box of his pickup. It was a beautiful petrified tree trunk weighing in at about five hundred pounds! There was a lot of excitement when Mr. Melcher said he would like to donate the specimen, which is now on display in the Heritage Center.

It’s hard to predict what neat things will show up on ID Days, and including artifact identification was a great way to expand the discussion of Nebraska’s history and prehistory for park visitors this year. Nebraska has such a rich past, and it’s really fun to see folks get excited about understanding the small piece of it that they have in their possession.

— Sandy Mosel, Museum Assistant, Ashfall Fossil Beds

NEBRASKA TOURISM COMMISSION HONORS VOORHIES AND MOSEL

The state’s highest tourism award, the Henry Fonda Award recognizing leadership, vision and dedication to the tourism industry, was presented by the Nebraska Tourism Commission to University of Nebraska-Lincoln paleontologist Mike Voorhies during the Nebraska Travel Conference in Norfolk, Nebraska on October 24, 2013. Voorhies is Professor Emeritus in the UNL Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, and Curator Emeritus in the University of Nebraska State Museum of Natural History. The prestigious award honors Voorhies for discovering, studying and helping to develop Nebraska’s Ashfall Fossil Beds, one of the premier mammal fossil sites in the world.

Ashfall Fossil Beds State Historical Park Assistant Sandy Mosel was also honored at the Norfolk awards ceremony and received the 2013 Certificate for Exceptional Frontline Customer Service. Mosel has worked at Ashfall ever since the Park opened in 1991. This certificate is given by the Nebraska Tourism Commission to recognize exceptional employees among all those who work or volunteer in tourism attractions of all types across Nebraska. Individuals nominated for this award are recognized for exemplifying true customer service, and for going above the call of duty to give visitors a memorable experience.

— Priscilla C. Grew, Director of the University of Nebraska State Museum
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