



Quest

A Newsletter for friends and supporters of The Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology



Renovated Hall of Footprints to Open Alumni/Parents Weekend 2002

Many years ago just before the school year ended, master teacher and museum founder Raymond Alf would lead the senior boys on their trip to the Grand Canyon. The hike to the bottom of the Grand Canyon was a favorite of Alf's and one that he would accomplish 50 times by the time he was 64. Before Alf and his students made their descent into the canyon, the group would stop in Seligman, Arizona, to collect a large slab of the Coconino Sandstone, a rock formation known to yield tracks of 250 million-year-old reptiles and insects. After locating a slab with tracks, the boys

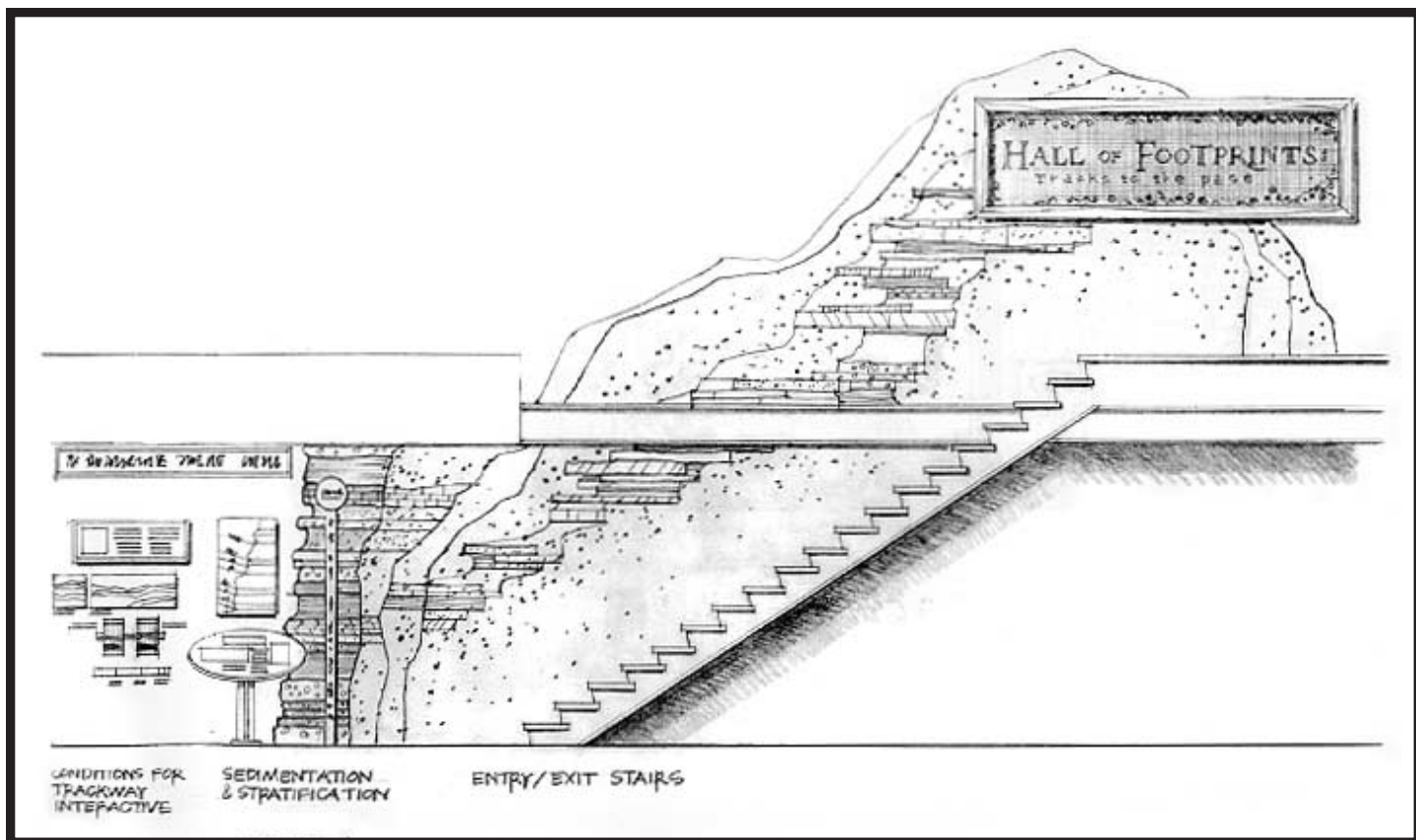
and Alf would load it for transport back to the museum, after which they went on to hike the Grand Canyon.

These slabs from the Grand Canyon trips became part of the museum's unique collection of fossil footprints and track-ways, one of the best in the world. But in the early years, Ray Alf's classroom in Thomas Jackson Library was only large enough to display a few big specimens. Once the current museum building was opened in 1968, the Coconino slabs were displayed in the then newly designed Hall of Footprints along with all the wonderful track-ways that had been collected by Alf and students from Barstow, Kanab, Avawatz, Glendale, Tecopa, and other

areas. By the mid 1970s, the Hall of Footprints was widely known as the greatest collection of fossilized tracks on exhibit in North America.

Since the early 1970s, the Hall of Footprints has remained virtually unchanged. On display in the Hall of Footprints is a world class collection of specimens collected by Ray Alf and students, but the way the specimens are displayed is outdated, not equal to their scientific and educational importance. Ray did a terrific job with the limited resources he had available in the 1970s, but the exhibits are in need of thematic organization, improved lighting, explanatory text and graphics, and other modifications.

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Renovated Hall of Footprints

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Thus, renovation of the Hall of Footprints was selected as the museum's first capital project since the accreditation drive and, when completed, will greatly enhance the museum's status as a first-rate educational and research facility.

The goal of the renovation is to present exhibit content in a balanced way to appeal to diverse ages and at varied levels of activity. Exhibit components will dynamically engage viewers and offer hands-on activities to captivate younger audiences. Exhibit themes are divided into five sections:

1 Introduction: video and exhibits describing how track-ways are formed and studied and how special the Hall of Footprints collection

is to Webb, the public, and the international scientific community.

- 2 What Tracks Tell Us:** comparison area showing how tracks are analyzed and what one can learn from them, including deciphering how track-makers are identified.
- 3 Student Collecting:** detailing the work of students, including how specimens are collected, prepared, exhibited and studied; facilitating a visitor's understanding that Webb students are actively involved in field research, fossil prep, curation, scientific analysis, and exhibit development. To accent this, there will be a behind-the-scenes exhibit which allows visitors to view student work via windows cut into the fossil preparation lab and a collections storage area.
- 4 Tracks From The Southwest:** exhibits showcasing unique track-ways from the southwestern

Design drawing of the entry to the Hall of Footprints with the addition of stratified or layered rock positioned to draw visitors down the stairs to begin their visit.

United States; *The Extinct Camels of California* (including a camel skeleton that will be mounted over its track-way), *Mastodons and Bear-Dogs from Barstow*, *Bird Tracks from Avawatz*, *Enigmatic Reptile Tracks from Seligman*, and others.

- 5 Children's Corner:** interactive area where kids can apply what they learned at the museum via a simulated dig site along with other activities; touch tables, portable carts with specimens-field notebooks-site photos, and an Alf Expedition Notebook activity (simplified field notebook containing a series of questions that can be answered as one moves through the exhibits).

The museum has retained the firm Think Jacobson & Roth to plan and implement the renovation. A tremendous amount of progress has been made as the Design/Development Phase of the project has already been completed. The fabrication of exhibits and building modification phase of the project is currently in progress. Exhibits will be installed in August with completion and a special unveiling of the renovated Hall of Footprints scheduled for September 27, 2002 at the 10th Annual Peccary Society Dinner.

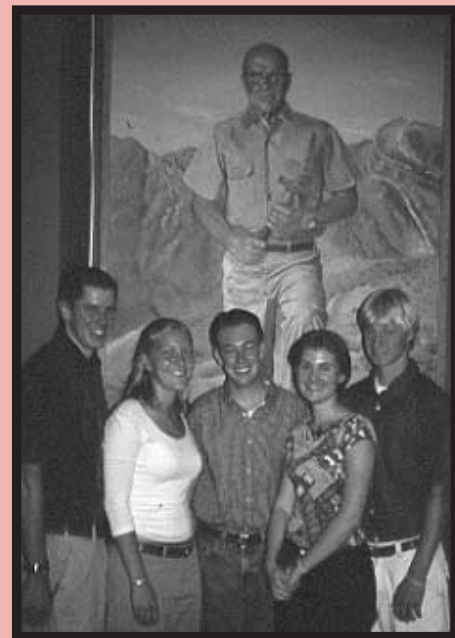
The Alf Museum is dedicated to serving The Webb Schools, educating the public, and acting as a center for paleontological research for the international scientific community. Renovation of the Hall of Footprints insures that the museum is an even greater resource for all, and that the museum is poised for the re-accreditation process, which begins in 2006.

Also, as the project nears completion, it is important to note that funding was provided through generous gifts made by the Weingart Foundation, Heinz Foundation, Zemurray Foundation, and the Fred B. Snite Foundation, and also through the work and support of a great many individuals, some of whom include Marvin Rohrs, Sam Zemurray '61, Lance Williams '97, Katherine Williams, Gerald and Katherine Kron, Steven and Deborah Scherer, Clifford Heinz '37, Edward Mansfield '37, Hartman-Baldwin, William Baldwin, members of the Board of Trustees of The Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology, and students of The Webb Schools (students assisted in removal of old ceiling tile and carpet and helped move heavy track-ways so they are in a safe location once construction begins; their work saved the museum a great deal in labor costs).

The Peccary Society— Alive and Well at Webb

Visiting a museum and viewing spectacular fossil specimens is a rewarding experience for any high school student, but it pales in comparison to the Webb Peccary Society experience of actually being involved in the discovery, excavation, preparation, study, and exhibit of important fossils. What Ray Alf started so many years ago continues to thrive as many Webb students take advantage of the opportunity to partake in scientific exploration and research. The museum offers students weekend peccary trips, the museum after-school class, advanced coursework in paleontology, a paleo research class, the summer research and summer peccary trips, and more. The museum is able to offer these unique programs because of the generous support of trustees, alumni, parents, friends, staff, and others, many of whom had their own peccary experience and dearly cherish it. Endowed funds specifically directed to support these activities were provided by Ceci and Dan Reynolds '63 through the Reynolds Peccary Endowment and Colonel John Rogers '59 through the Raymond M. Alf Peccary Society Chair and Mary Stuart Rogers Peccary Scholars program.

It all starts with fieldwork or peccary trips. Many weekend peccary trips are taken during the school year to sites near campus, Barstow being the most popular. But the summer is where the main action is as there are two trips, the Summer Peccary Trip and the Summer Research Trip. The Summer Peccary Trip is a great outdoor experience that includes camping and hiking in many national parks and monuments combined with some fossil collecting. In 2001, this group was led by Foothill Country Day School science teacher



Rogers Peccary Scholars for 2001–2002 (l-r) Robby Zondervan '03, Erin Smith '03, Paul Côté '02, Emily Carrigan '02, and Ben Scherer '02.

Chris Addy and Webb faculty members Will Zahn '95, Will Allan '94, and Julie Bonner. Students on the trip were Alex Greening, Anna Rachlin '05, Katie Kent '05, Chris Erlinger '05, Sean Minor '05, Joanna Sherif, Marnie Bonner, Barbara Bownds '04, Whitney Hanlon '04, Andrew Burr '04, Michael Glavan '04, and Stephan Lauria '04. They were able to get a taste of fossil collecting for research purposes when they visited briefly with the Summer Research Trip group near Escalante, Utah.

The 2001 Summer Research Trip was led by Museum Director Don Lofgren and included students Danielle Baron '03, Charles "Kit" Clark '04, Robby Zondervan '03, Erin Smith '03, Ben Scherer '02, Emily Carrigan '02, and Paul Côté '02, as well as Duncan Everhart, Dr. Tony Runkel, and Larry Ashton '70. First stop was the North Horn Formation of Utah where the

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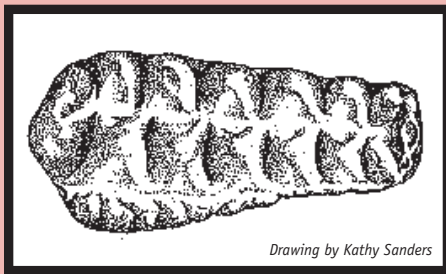
The Peccary Society

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group met up with paleontologists from the University of Oklahoma. Their goal was to find sites that yielded teeth and bones of Cretaceous and Paleocene mammals and other small vertebrates about 63–70 million years old. Although the North Horn Formation has produced some excellent fossils, including partial dinosaur skeletons, many types of vertebrates are only represented by a handful of specimens. In particular, Cretaceous mammals are poorly known.

Last summer two major discoveries were made. At the Paleocene Gas Tank Locality, Kit Clark '04 found an upper molar of the multi-tuberculate mammal *Stygimys* (see drawing), the first record of the genus in the state of Utah. The specimen is currently under study by Don Lofgren and Ben Scherer '02 who are co-authoring a research paper announcing the discovery. Later in the trip, Tony Runkel and Duncan Everhart made a major discovery as they found a Cretaceous site in a remote area that has a large concentration of small sized fossils. About 100 pounds of this rock were screen-washed and lots of tiny bones and teeth were present in the washed matrix. Later, back in the prep lab students sorted the matrix and found many well preserved specimens, some of which represent new records of species in the North Horn Formation.

With this success, the focus of the 2002 Summer Research Trip will be to revisit the site and collect and screen-wash a large amount of fossil-rich rock so



Drawing by Kathy Sanders

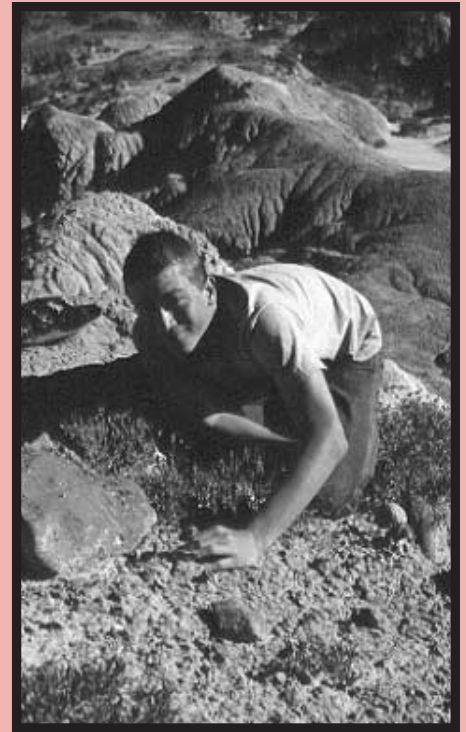
Plan or occlusal view of upper molar of *Stygimys* found by Kit Clark '04. Tooth is about 5 mm in length.

that an abundant sample of vertebrates can be recovered and then studied. Completion of this project will be a great contribution to the knowledge of the Cretaceous vertebrate fauna that existed more than 65 million years ago in what is now Utah. Also, the Alf Museum has applied for a permit to prospect and collect in the Cretaceous Kaipirowits Formation within the Escalante-Grand Staircase National Monument of southern Utah. Thus, the 2002 Summer Research Trip hopes to reinitiate a long-term study of the vertebrate and invertebrate fauna of the Kaipirowits Formation, a project that has been inactive for two years.

Once the fossils collected on peccary trips arrive back at the museum they require preparation (cleaning and removing fossils from rock) and curation (labeling and entering specimens in a computer database). Students in the museum after-school class and the Honors Advanced Study in Paleontology class complete these tasks which can require many hours of exacting work.

Once the fossils are prepared and curated they are ready for study. Research on these scientifically important specimens is conducted by students recognized as Rogers Peccary Scholars based on their previous record of commitment to and excellence in museum programs. Rogers Peccary Scholars are part of the Raymond M. Alf Peccary Society Chair, which was endowed by the Mary Stuart Rogers Foundation. This gift was designed to “develop new and expanded student programs that provide Webb students with unique educational opportunities in paleontology and scientific research. Students would be recognized annually as Mary Stuart Rogers Peccary Scholars.”

Last year, John Enders '01, Matt Lauria '01, and Andrew Raser '01 were recognized as the first Rogers Peccary Scholars. These students made outstanding contributions to museum research efforts with their work in



Kit Clark '04 at the spot where he found the *Stygimys* tooth, the first record of the genus from the Paleocene of Utah.

the field and laboratory. John helped supervise the museum after-school class. Matt studied 60 million-year-old mammals from the Goler Formation of California, which represent California's oldest known fossil mammals. Andrew studied 64 million-year-old mammal specimens he helped collect in 2000 from the North Horn Formation of Utah. As part of his study, Andrew entered the Young Naturalists Awards contest sponsored by the American Museum of Natural History and was recognized as one of six national finalists for the 12th grade. To help in identification of specimens, Matt, Andrew, and Museum Director Don Lofgren visited the Smithsonian in spring 2001 to compare fossils collected by Alf Museum crews from the Goler and North Horn formations to specimens housed at the National Museum. This visit greatly aided the museum's ability to sponsor student research as seeing other specimens first-hand is the best method to use in making taxonomic interpretations.

This year's Rogers Peccary Scholars are seniors Emily Carrigan '02, Paul Côté '02, and Ben Scherer '02, and juniors Erin Smith '03 and Robby Zondervan '03 (photo, page 3). All five were on the Summer Research Trip in 2001. Emily has worked extensively in the museum after-school class. Ben Scherer is doing independent study in paleo research through the science department and is helping Don Lofgren with many research projects; one of which is on the first record of *Stygimys* from the North Horn Formation of Utah. Also, Erin Smith '03, Robby Zondervan '03, Paul Côté '02, and Danielle Baron '03 are accompanying Lofgren on a special research trip to the Goler Formation of California over spring break.

While in the field, they will collect geological and paleontological data and combine this with a progress report on the study of all the Goler mammals found thus far. They will submit this research as an abstract to the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) to be presented as part of a poster session at the SVP's annual meeting in Oklahoma City next October. The students will be co-authors on the research abstract (with Lofgren and Malcolm McKenna '48) and will attend the conference and thus be available to answer questions about their research.

It is extremely rare for high school students to be this actively involved in research and to present their work at an international paleontology conference. But at Webb through the museum, students have the opportunity to work with paleontologists on a daily basis and then contribute to scientific knowledge through their efforts in the field, lab, and classroom. Thus, what Ray Alf started so many years ago continues to thrive. The Peccary Society is alive and well at Webb!

WAVP Conference— A First For The Museum



Where can you listen to research presentations on how one estimates the size of a fossil crocodile or does computer models of the gaits of dinosaurs, or an announcement on the discovery of a new bone bed teeming with shark teeth and the bones of extinct marine mammals? The annual meeting of the Western Association of Vertebrate Paleontologists (WAVP), of course, which was hosted by the Alf Museum February 15–17, 2002. This was the first paleontology conference ever held on the campus of The Webb Schools. The weekend conference included a reception in the museum Friday night, a full day of research talks on Saturday, and a field trip to the Goler Formation on Sunday.

On Friday night, guests were greeted at a reception in the museum's Hall of Life exhibit area. The talks on Saturday were held in the Science Lecture Hall; topics ranged from dinosaurs to fossil whales. Over sixty-five paleontologists attended Saturday's proceedings, a very nice turnout.

On Sunday, 20 hardy souls braved the cold and wind and participated in a field trip to the Goler Formation,

Malcolm McKenna '48 lecturing to the WAVP field trip group at the Laudate Discovery Site (Museum Board Chair Michael Woodburne third from left).

near Ridgecrest, California. The trip was led by Don Lofgren and renowned paleontologist Malcolm McKenna '48 who has worked in the area since the early 1950s. The group visited two sites, the Laudate Discovery Site and the Land of Oz site. After a speech by McKenna on the geologic-paleontologic importance of the Goler Formation in deciphering California's early Cenozoic history, participants searched for fossils. Some important specimens were found, including a crocodile tooth and a mammal jaw.

The WAVP Conference was a huge success and hosting a professional conference was very important because it introduced the museum and its programs to many paleontologists who were new to the museum. Those who attended will spread the word about the museum and what a fine facility it is. A special thanks goes to assistant curator Natalia Wideman for planning and organizing the conference.

Museum Offers New Outreach Programs with Addition Of Paleontologist Heather Moffat

“I think I see something... Yes, I can see the tip of something! Maybe it’s a trilobite...” a third-grader says as he carefully

but quickly chips the matrix away from around the small fossil he is excavating. “Mine’s definitely an invertebrate. I hope it’s an ammonite...” a classmate adds. The two students, along with half a dozen other 2nd and 3rd grade junior paleontologists, sit hunched around their work bench, each focused on extracting their own fossil finds. Later that afternoon, after every child has prepared and cleaned their own fossil, the group learns to identify and document their new discoveries. A busy afternoon’s work but all part of becoming official fossil detectives in the new *Become a Junior Paleontologist!* afternoon enrichment class at The Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology.

“Most of the kids in this class dream of becoming paleontologists and going on dinosaur digs. This program gives them the opportunity to experience some of the exciting jobs paleontologists do while teaching them about the science behind the adventure,” instructor Heather Moffat explains. This course is just one of several new public outreach programs that the museum has begun to offer now that Moffat has joined the museum in the new position of Paleontology Outreach Education Specialist.

Moffat began working at the museum in September of 2001. She has extensive background in both paleontology and education. Moffat earned



her A.B. in geology from Smith College in 1993. At Smith, she began her college career as an education major but quickly changed concentrations to geology after taking a class on dinosaurs during her first year. “I wanted to be a kindergarten teacher and thought I should learn more about every kindergartners’ favorite topic. To my surprise, that class changed my life.”

Following Smith, she went on to earn two M.S. degrees, one in geological sciences from the University of Southern California and one in earth and environmental sciences from the University of Rochester. All three of her degrees involved theses specializing in paleontology. Moffat also studied paleontology in the Ph.D. program at the University of California, Riverside for 2-1/2 years before going on to museum education. Her research projects have taken her

Current museum staff (l-r) Sadie Kingsbury, Natalia Wideman, Don Lofgren, Heather Moffat, Linda Petrone, and Kathy Sanders.

to the Bahamas to study fossil coral reefs, England and Canada to compare ancient marine communities, along the western U.S. coastline to examine large accumulations of fossil sand dollars and sea urchins, and to the western interior of the United States to document some of the oldest clams in North America.

As a graduate student, Moffat gained extensive teaching experience in both introductory and advanced level classes. She has led laboratory and discussion sections in paleontology, sedimentology and stratigraphy, oceanography, physical geology, seismology, and metamorphic petrology. Her position as the head teaching assistant of introductory oceanography laboratories at the University of

Southern California led to her authoring the teacher's solution manual for the widely-used college-level oceanography textbook, Pipkin's *Laboratory Exercises in Oceanography*. "It wasn't until my third year into a Ph.D. that I began to realize that I loved to teach as much as I loved paleontology and that I missed working with children," said Moffat. "I knew that I wanted to find a position that would allow me to teach many age groups instead of only college students. Museum education seemed to be an ideal match... At the Alf Museum, I am lucky enough to teach a variety of paleontological subjects to everyone from kindergartners to senior citizens and am encouraged to be as creative as possible in how I teach a subject that fascinates me."

Since her arrival this past fall, Moffat has been developing and implementing a series of new public programs, including after-school classes for local elementary students, adult education courses, educators' workshops and more. Some of Moffat's recent and upcoming educational outreach projects are:

1 Become a Junior Paleontologist!: afternoon enrichment program for 2nd–4th graders that meets weekly for one month to discuss what fossils are and how paleontologists study them (from discovery to exhibit). Each class includes a short lesson complemented by a number of hands-on activities.

2 Fossil Fundamentals:

An Introduction to Paleontology: adult education course that covers the major groups of fossils and key events in the history of life. Its five sessions include lectures, hands-on exercises with fossil material, and in-depth tours of the museum. The course also includes a field trip to collect fossils.

3 Popular Paleo: Hot Topics in

Paleontology: adult education class that covers interesting topics in paleontology, like mass extinctions, evidence of early life, dinosaurs, and more.

4 Educator's Open House: introduces the museum to local teachers and invites them to use the museum as a classroom resource. Teachers meet the staff, take private tours of the museum, and learn science activities that they can take back to their classrooms.

5 Family Fossil Digs: a day-long field excursion that enables members of The Webb Schools community to become "paleontologists for a day" by prospecting for and collecting fossils.

6 Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology Lecture Series:

a series of evening lectures given by local and visiting paleontologists.

7 New Museum Hours: the museum now opens its doors to the public all-day on Fridays and noon–3pm on Saturday afternoons (closed Saturdays in summer months), which equates to an additional 425 open hours annually. The museum is no longer open on Sundays, but starting in October 2002, the first Saturday of each month will become Family Science Discovery Days featuring science learning stations with hands-on activities for all ages.

8 Expanded Docent Program:

volunteer program for which the museum is currently seeking new members to help with new and ongoing outreach programs. No scientific background is necessary—just an eagerness to contribute time and enthusiasm to this great place. Docent training includes a workshop on museum exhibits and basic paleontology and an in-depth resource manual to ensure a uniform and comfortable level of knowledge amongst docents.

All of these exciting new or expanded outreach programs could not have been offered without the addition of Heather Moffat and the efforts of the museum's current staff of outstanding professionals. Other staff members and brief overviews of their work are listed below. Few, if any, small museums have a staff this knowledgeable and dedicated.

Linda Petrone—Paleontology Outreach Coordinator: organizes, implements, and supervises daily school tours and traveling fossil presentations. Also, acts as administrative assistant for the director.

Kathy Sanders—Outreach Assistant (part-time): implements daily tours and other outreach programs. Assists in museum research as a scientific illustrator.

Sadie Kingsbury—Paleontology Instructor and Museum Scientist: teaches paleontology courses and the museum after-school class for students of The Webb Schools. Also, organizes and leads Peccary trips.

Natalia Wideman—Assistant Curator (part-time): manages both the museum's large collection of fossils and collections documentation databases. Natalia will be starting her Ph.D. studies at UCLA this fall.

Don Lofgren—Director and Curator: in charge of the overall operation of the museum, supervises all staff, works daily with students of The Webb Schools, does research in paleontology, and more.

Zemurray Foundation Grants \$50,000 for Hall of Footprints Renovation

In December, the Zemurray Foundation awarded The Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology a grant of \$50,000 to assist with the significant renovation of its Hall of Footprints. The gift is a direct result of the guidance and generosity of Webb alumnus Samuel Zemurray III '61. The Hall of

Footprints is a 4,000 sq. ft. exhibit area that contains the largest collection of fossil track-ways and footprints on display in the Western United States. The display hall is viewed by thousands annually, including over 7,000 school children. Through the support of the Zemurray Foundation and others, the Alf Museum will continue to improve

and expand its potential as an educational resource for students of The Webb Schools, the general public, and scientists worldwide. "We are excited and appreciative to add the Zemurray Foundation's name to the list of committed and generous museum supporters," says Don Lofgren, director.

Fred B. Snite Foundation Makes \$25,000 Contribution for Renovation Project

In the spring of 2001, the Fred B. Snite Foundation made a very generous donation of \$25,000 to be used to refurbish the *Amphicyon* or bear-dog exhibit as part of the museum's renovation of the Hall of Footprints.

Lance Williams '97 was instrumental in securing the funding as he solicited the foundation board in person at their spring meeting in New York.

The museum's bear-dog trackway is the only known set of fossil footprints that have been discovered of

this very large extinct carnivore. The renovated display will be part of the student collecting section of the exhibit hall when it reopens in September of 2002 (see related story, page 1).

Kron Family Honors Son with Hall of Footprints Gift

Three-time Webb parents, Gerald and Katherine Kron of Sedona, Arizona, made a gift of \$20,000 to the Hall of Footprints renovation project in honor and memory of their son Dr. Donald Kron '66. Donald was a long-time resident of Boulder,

Colorado and a well-respected paleontologist. Known for his humor, his recipes "in the field" and gifted ability to find fossils, Donald worked as a paleontologist and geological consultant and was associated with the University of Colorado. Other Kron family alumni include Richard Kron '68

and Charles Kron '74. "The Kron's gift in honor of Donald was wonderful and I think he would be very proud to be associated with the Alf Museum in perpetuity as this is where he got his start, working with Ray Alf," says Don Lofgren, director.

Scherer Family Makes Donation to Hall of Footprints Project

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Scherer, parents of senior Ben Scherer '02, made a leadership gift of \$10,000 to the Hall of Footprints project in

December. The gift will underwrite the construction of a specific exhibit that highlights Webb students and their important role in gathering, preparing,

studying, and displaying fossils. Ben has been very active in museum programs and currently is recognized as a Roger's Peccary Scholar.

Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology

Fundraising Figures

(Same period—July 1 to February 28)

	2000–01	2001–02
Unrestricted		
Gifts	\$101,137	\$62,602
# of Gifts	106	141
Restricted		
Gifts	\$7,000	\$201,520
# of Gifts	2	7
Total	\$108,137	\$264,122
	108	148

Recent Leadership Gifts and Pledges

(July 1, 2001 to February 28, 2002)

Weingart Foundation	\$ 100,000
Zemurray Foundation (Samuel Zemurray III '61)	\$ 50,000
Fred B. Snite Foundation (Lance Williams '97)	\$ 25,000
Gerald & Katherine Kron	\$ 20,000
Stephen & Deborah Scherer	\$ 10,000
Kimball '67 & Claire McCloud	\$ 5,000
Douglas & Ann Myles	\$ 5,000
Daniel '63 & Ceci Reynolds	\$ 5,000
Marvin Rohrs	\$ 5,000
Peter & Mary Jane Stanley	\$ 5,000
Edward '37 & JoAnn Mansfield	\$ 4,522
Joseph & Gretchen Augustyn	\$ 4,000
R. Larry '70 & Alicia Ashton	\$ 1,500
F. Gard '71 & Florence Jameson	\$ 1,500
Richard G. Kron '68	\$ 1,500
Gary '58 & Bonnie Quiggle	\$ 1,250
Michael '85 & Cathy Heflin	\$ 1,000
Robert A. Johnston '63	\$ 1,000
Wann & Marietta Langston	\$ 1,000
Don & Margaret Lofgren	\$ 1,000
Martha Mullin	\$ 1,000
Florence Sutphen	\$ 1,000
George & Lurline Twist	\$ 1,000
James & Mildred Wickersham	\$ 1,000
Michael & Janice Woodburne	\$ 1,000
Robert & Denise Zondervan	\$ 1,000

Museum Welcomes New Board Member



Gretchen Augustyn was appointed for a three-year term on the museum's Board of Trustees in January. Gretchen and her husband Joseph, Claremont residents since 1972, have four children, one of whom graduated from Vivian Webb School (Jennifer '89). Gretchen's introduction to the museum began in the late 1970s when two of her children went on Summer Peccary Trips with Grant Meyer '53. Later, Jennifer '89 went on the museum's Mongolia-China Peccary Trip in 1995. In the 1990s, Gretchen served two terms on the Board of Trustees of The Webb Schools and was chair of the Building and Grounds Committee. Gretchen and Joseph own Sierra Alloys located in Irwindale, a successful business venture they started in 1974. They are now semi-retired. Gretchen will be working closely with the museum's new Paleontology Education Specialist Heather Moffat on the many new outreach initiatives offered by the museum.

Museum Sponsors Grand Canyon Raft Trip

Last July, twenty-eight adventurers from The Webb Schools community and their friends and relatives rafted 180 miles of the Colorado River through the heart of Grand Canyon National Park. It was a great experience for everyone present to be able to share time with friends and family in a wild and wonderful natural setting, camp under the stars along the river, hike up beautiful slot canyons, and shoot roaring rapids with names like Crystal, Upset, House Rock, and Hermit. After seven days on the river, the group was lifted by helicopter out of the canyon and then flown by plane back to civilization. Participants included Patrick Muffler '54, Doug Myles, Gard Jameson '71 and son Michael, Alicia and Larry Ashton '70, Jody and Mickey Novak '70, Miles Rosedale '69, Marc Wilson '70, Sam McClure '61, Bradley and Sean Hartman '01, John Enders '01, Jen Cotton '01, Gayland and Maria Moffet, Judy Sigars, Bob Milley, Chelsea '04 and Hanna Arnold '02, Kate Walsh '02, Danielle Baron '03, Robby Zondervan '03, Alex Long '03, Webb's Director of Institutional Advancement, Taylor Stockdale, and his brother Stan, and Museum Director Don Lofgren.

The trip was organized by Lofgren and Larry Ashton '70 and outfitted by Hatch Expeditions. The museum plans to offer another Grand Canyon Whitewater Rafting Expedition in the summer of 2003. Contact Don Lofgren at dlofgren@webb.org if you want to receive information about the 2003 trip as it becomes available.



Alf Museum group shoots the rapids in the Grand Canyon.



Alumni on the Colorado River Whitewater Trip (l-r) Marc Wilson '70, Gard Jameson '71, John Enders '01, Sam McClure '61, Sean Hartman '01, Mickey Novak '70, Patrick Muffler '54, Jennifer Cotton '01, Larry Ashton '70, and Miles Rosedale '69.

Over 200 Attend Peccary Dinner

The museum held its annual Peccary Society Dinner on September 28, 2001 with 210 alumni and friends in attendance. After a reception in the museum, dinner was served in Hooper Student Center, followed by a program.

Museum Director Don Lofgren started the program by describing the museum's big project to renovate the Hall of Footprints and to have it completed so that it will be unveiled at the 10th Annual Peccary Society Dinner in September 2002. He also introduced the five students named as Rogers Peccary Scholars for 2001–2002; seniors Ben Scherer '02, Paul Côté '02, and Emily Carrigan '02, and juniors Robby Zondervan '03 and Erin Smith '03. Then in a slide show, Lofgren highlighted recent fieldwork by staff and students including the discovery of a very important Late Cretaceous micro-vertebrate site in the North Horn Formation of central Utah.

Paleontologist Dr. Stuart Sumida from Cal State University–San Bernardino, who was the keynote speaker at the Peccary Dinner in 1999, introduced this year's keynote speaker, Dr. Chris Brochu, from the University of Iowa. In his speech, *The Science of Sue*,



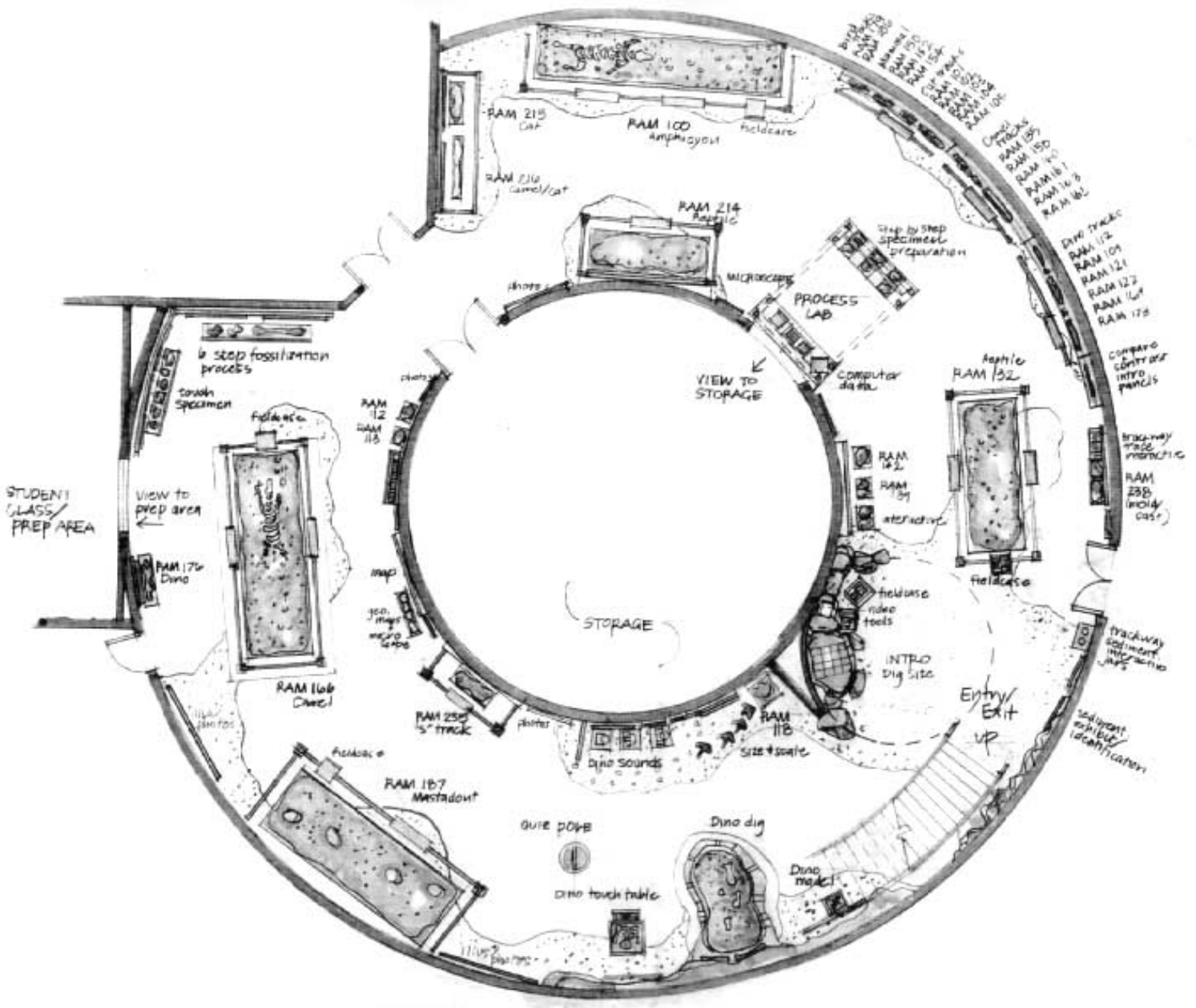
Dr. Brochu described his research on a nearly complete, 65 million-year-old skeleton of a *Tyrannosaurus rex* known as *Sue*. Based on his work using CT-scans of the skull, *Sue* had very large olfactory lobes in its brain and thus probably had an acute sense of smell, unlike its depiction in the movie *Jurassic Park*. Also, the round holes present in the jawbone of *Sue* were

Hank Jones '80 (left) and David Myles '80 enjoy a moment together at the Peccary Dinner Reception.

probably caused by disease, not by bites from another *T. rex*. Overall, it was a very interesting presentation of new information about *Tyrannosaurus rex*, the king of dinosaurs.

Save The Date

The 10th Annual Peccary Society Dinner and unveiling of the newly-renovated Hall of Footprints will be held on September 27, 2002 during Alumni/Parents Weekend, September 27–28, 2002.



Hall of Footprints

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