



Monte L. Bean Life Science Museum Brigham Young University

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BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

Museum Newsletter

Museum to Expand!

The University has announced the expansion of the museum to be an important priority. The expansion will significantly increase the size of the Museum.

In 1978 the M.L. Bean Life Science Museum was completed and dedicated and now 30 years later we are preparing for an exciting expansion. This new space will allow us to significantly enhance the three-fold mission of the museum— 1) promote world class

research with our remarkable research collections; 2) provide our patrons with informative and engaging exhibits; and 3) strengthen the educational experience of our students while blessing the literally



Monte L. Bean Life Science Museum
Photo by Randy Baker

thousands of public school children that visit the Museum every year. This expansion and remodel of the Museum will bring us into the 21st century with the most current technological options, state-of-the-art specimen processing and storage methods, and critical additional education space designed to inspire the scientists of the future with the dream of blessing and enriching life on earth! It is a truly exciting time!

2009 Photography Exhibit & Competition Announced

The Annual Photography Exhibit and Competition for 2009 has been announced. The exhibit will run from February 13, 2009 to March 21, 2009. Both amateur and professional photographers are invited to participate. All photos must be taken from natural outdoor settings.

Everyone is invited to enter. Entries must be submitted on

Saturday, February 7, 2009 between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm in room 290 of the M. L. Bean Life Science Museum. There are several categories with cash awards for first, second, and third places in each category.

Visit the Museum website for an entry form and additional information.

www.mlbean.byu.edu



2008 Photography
Competition and Exhibition
First Place Wildlife Category

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Visit the Museum Store

Need a great place to shop for wonderful Christmas gifts? Check out our extensive selection of educational books, insect collection kits and supplies, a wide variety of stuffed animals and more! Let us help you make this holiday fun and educational!

Education News

SATURDAY SAFARI

Kids ages 5-12 can spend from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm on Saturdays learning about animals from all over the world! Cost is \$12 for the first child, \$10 for each additional child in the same immediate family. Upcoming Safaris include:

Sep 20—Creatures of the Deep

Sep 27—Down Under

Oct 4—Coral Reefs

Oct 11—Desert Dwellers

Oct 25—Highlands of Asia

Nov 1—Halloween Animals

Nov 15—Island Dwellers

Nov 22—Care of Magical Creatures

DISCOVERY READING

Come and hear stories about animals and nature read by a professional story teller! Discovery Reading is held every Wednesday at 11:00 am in the Children's Room of the Museum and is free to all!

NATURE EXPERIENCESHIPS

Nature Experienceships scheduled this fall are:

Oct 18—Fish, with Dr. Jerry Johnson

Nov 8—Mammals, with Amanda Owen

Spend a Saturday morning with an expert learning about nature. This program is open to ages 12 and up. Cost is \$10.

LIVE ANIMAL SHOWS

Regularly scheduled evening live animal shows are:

Mon— 6:30pm and 7:30pm, Reptiles

Tue— 7:30pm, Adaptations

Wed— 7:30pm, Utah Animals & Plant

Thurs— 7:30pm, Ecosystems

Fri— 7:30pm, Invertebrates

Sat— 1:00pm, Reptiles

Check our website for more information www.mlbean.byu.edu



“Halloween Night at the Museum”

Following a very successful Halloween night last year, the museum will be hosting its second annual ‘Halloween Night at the Museum’ on Monday, October 27th from 6:00—9:00 pm.

Join us for an evening of spooky Halloween fun for the entire family. Come in costume and enjoy games, crafts, stories, and more. Watch our creepy Halloween live animal show and then at 9pm, join us for a special after-hours tour

of the museum by flashlight for a hair-raising look at some creatures involved



Children celebrate Halloween Night!

in real ghost stories. This event is free!

Check our website for more details. www.mlbean.byu.edu

Do you want to know what is happening at the Bean Life Science Museum? Sign up for our mailing list by emailing patty_jones@byu.edu or katy_knight@byu.edu

Museum Education Professional Appointment Announced

The Monte L. Bean Life Science Museum and the College of Life Sciences are happy to announce the appointment of Katy B. Knight as the Museum Education Professional.

Katy graduated from BYU with a BS in Biology Composite Teaching, and an MS in Botany (Lichenology). She is currently working on a PhD in Instructional Psychology and Technology. Professionally, Katy serves as Associate Editor of *Evansia*, a publication of the American Bryological and Lichenological Society. She taught science at American Fork Junior High School, and zoology at Provo

High School.

She provides day-to-day oversight for the museum's education programs. Katy is a member of the Museum's executive education and exhibits committees. She also provides IT support for the museum and manages the museum's website. Katy is also in charge of the museum's environmental monitoring program and is chair of the museum's re-accreditation committee.

Katy loves basketball and helps coach the Lady Caveman basketball team at American Fork High School. Other interests include video editing and computers.



*Katy B. Knight
Museum Education Professional*

Curators Secure Funding for Collections

The museum receives financial support from the university as well as from endowment earnings based on gifts from donors who support the research and public education initiatives of the museum. To provide the level and breadth of services available, however, external funding is critical—and this is most apparent in the research collections where scientific study and student training is actively pursued generally beyond the public view. Field and curatorial supplies, as well as travel funds to obtain new specimens are essential expenses for the day-to-day operations of the museum's research collections. These funds make the collections available to the university community as well as an international clientele of scholars. In 2008, the curators and collection

managers collectively secured more than \$953,000 for collections-related research through 10 grants that ranged from \$5,000 – \$404,000 dollars. While much of this money funds research directly, all of

the grants contribute to the collections through

In 2008, curators and collections managers collectively secured more than \$953,000 for collections-related research.

the acquisition of new specimens and the purchase of supplies for specimen accessioning and curating specimens. Notably, among the three museum-affiliated proposals submitted in 2007 for funding in 2008 to the National Science Foundation, one focused exclusively on support for collection improvement; Professor Duke Rogers was successful in obtaining substantial funds for the mammal collection. These

funds are being used to support “hands-on” student training as well as curation of an invaluable collection abandoned by another institution. Other externally-funded research is enhancing the quality and

availability of specimen collection information (date, locality, etc.) on the internet both by the

Bean Life Science Museum and through important partnerships with international institutions such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). The Bean Life Science Museum is truly fortunate to have a dedicated group of curators and collection managers who consistently commit their time and energy to preserving and enhancing our world-class research collections.

Student Employees Mentored at Museum

The Museum employs over 35 students with duties ranging from cashiering at the Museum Store, to secretarial work, to research work in the collections to work with our education department to handling live animals.

The Museum offers a unique opportunity for students to work and also be mentored in a wide range of subjects. Beka Buckman, a senior from New Mexico majoring in Integrative Biology, has worked at the Museum for 2 1/2 years.

She has worked as a Museum Educator and currently works as a research assistant in the Mammology Lab under the direction of Dr. Duke Rogers. She helps prep research specimens and is in charge of the domestic beetle colony. “I have gained knowledge working in the Museum that I apply to all my biology classes. I love the Museum. It is my second home,” says Buckman. Megan Monn Fuller is another student currently working at the Museum. She works as a research assistant in the Herpatology Lab with Dr. Jack Sites.

“The mentored research program is especially nice because it is a way to give students occupational experience before they graduate and go into a field—it gives them an edge”. Megan is a senior from Indiana majoring in Biology. She also works as a Museum Educator.

Megan Monn Fuller presents a live animal reptile show to a group of children.



Director's Corner-Dr. Larry St. Clair



*Dr. Larry St. Clair
Museum Director*

Exciting things continue to happen with the Museum! We are now in the process of preparing for the on-site visit in connection with our re-accreditation efforts with the American Association of Museums. Accreditation by AAM is a singular accomplishment achieved by only a very limited number of museums.

Planning for the museum expansion continues to be our first priority as we work closely with our donors to raise the funds required to begin construction.

The education staff is currently working

on some truly exciting plans—including the ongoing work with aligning their in-house and outreach programs with the Utah State Science Core Curriculum standards.

We are now wrapping up the Museum's 2007 annual report. This will be a remarkable, full color record documenting the progress of the Museum during this all-important year!

Finally, once again the Museum was selected by our patrons as the “**Best Museum in Utah County!**” Thank you for your wonderful support!



Monte L. Bean
**Life Science
Museum**
Brigham Young University

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

645 East 1430 North
Provo, UT 84602
East of the Marriott Center
Admission is **FREE**
Check out our website!

[www.mlbean.byu.edu]



“Best Museum in Utah County”

Once again the Monte L. Bean Life Science Museum has been voted the “Best Museum in Utah County” in an annual reader’s poll sponsored by [The Daily Herald](#).

“We consider this one of the highest honors we could receive”, stated Patty Jones, Administrative Assistant to the Director. “One of our missions here at the Museum is to provide our patrons with informative and engaging exhibits. Receiving the public’s vote is a validation that we are heading in that direction. We are very grateful for their support.” Ken Packer, Exhibits Coordinator for the Museum states “We attribute this award to the fact that when the Museum was originally built, Monte L Bean, original donor for the Museum, was insistent that it be free of charge to the visiting public. Over the years, the Museum has tried to maintain his desires and wishes to have it accessible to all.” Packer continues, “We have also tried to have the Museum open in the evenings to accommodate families. We change our exhibits as much as possible to keep interest high among the repeat visitors. We appreciate the University for allowing us to have close, assessable parking for the



Monte L. Bean and wife Birdie, look over a model for the original construction of the Museum in 1978.

public”.

[The Daily Herald](#) conducts their “Best of Utah County” survey each year by asking readers to vote for the “best of” in several categories. The Bean Life Science Museum has been fortunate to be voted as the “Best Museum in Utah County” numerous times since the survey began.

“It is important to note that due to the

philanthropic efforts of Monte L. Bean, the Museum can continue to offer free admission,” commented Jones. “The Museum is a wonderful resource for the University and general community as well. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Bean family, donors, and the University who all help support the Museum.”

Hours for the Museum are 10am-9pm daily, Saturday 10am-5pm, closed Sunday.

Visit online www.mlbean.byu.edu



The Museum today with Squaw Peak in the background. Photo by Randy Baker