



FIE
MUSEUM
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2023 ANNUAL REPORT TO DONORS

DEAR FRIENDS,

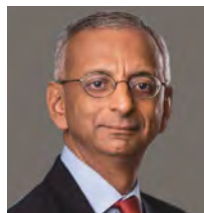
We are pleased to present this 2023 Annual Report to Donors on the 130th Anniversary of the founding of the Field Museum. Your museum has its origins in the 1893 World's Fair—and in a significant commitment by civic leaders to leave a legacy for Chicago. Today, the Field Museum is a global research center and visitor destination, inviting discovery at every level.

As you will read, we are making important strides in implementing the strategic plan ratified by the Field Museum Board of Trustees in 2022. It calls for new levels of focus and investment in uplifting the visitor experience, broader and deeper community engagement beyond the walls of the Museum, greater accomplishments in research and collections care, and in our application of scientific resources in service of environmental conservation. Together, our strategic initiatives position the Field Museum for greatest present and future impact.

One of the highlights of 2023 was the announcement of a \$20 million education endowment commitment from the Sue Ling Gin Foundation Trust. It honors the memory of our long-time Trustee, an entrepreneur and civic leader who reshaped opportunities for women in Chicago for decades. To recognize this historic gift, the Museum has named the Sue Ling Gin Center for Education and Public Programs. This new commitment will help advance our strategic objective to broaden access so that every child in Chicago schools can enjoy discovery at the Field Museum.

Your investment is the foundation for the Field Museum's mission: *to connect all of us to nature and the human story*. Thank you for supporting and furthering our work.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Siddharth Mehta".

Siddharth (Bobby) Mehta
Board Chair



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julian Siggers".

Julian Siggers, PhD
President and CEO



02 DISCOVERY



22 HONOR ROLL

ON THE COVER

Richly decorated bronze sword from the Bronze Age (1700-1600BC), Hajdúsámson, Hungary. This sword was part of an intentionally buried hoard, perhaps to commemorate a battle or honor a fallen comrade.

12 IMPACT

DISCOVERY

150 Field Museum scientists fuel discovery for the global scientific community. Your support enables them to explore the Earth and its people and care for the Museum's 40 million objects and specimens.

SCIENTISTS DISCOVER AN OCTOPUS NURSERY

In July, Associate Curator of Invertebrate Zoology Janet Voight, PhD, and her colleagues led an expedition via remotely operated vehicle (ROV) to explore why hundreds of octopods were brooding their eggs at 3100 meters depth, where warm fluids waft up from the Earth's crust. They tested a few different hypotheses from microbe presence to water temperature to the octopods' microbiomes. In addition, four distinct species of octopus were collected—all of which are likely new to science! More research is needed to determine the true cause of this octopus nursery phenomenon, but the data collected during this voyage will help scientists unlock some of the mysteries of the deep sea.

(Opposite) Part of the octopus nursery seen at El Dorado outcrop by the Remotely Operated Vehicle SuBastion at 3005 meters depth off Costa Rica's Pacific coast. Courtesy Schmidt Ocean Institute.

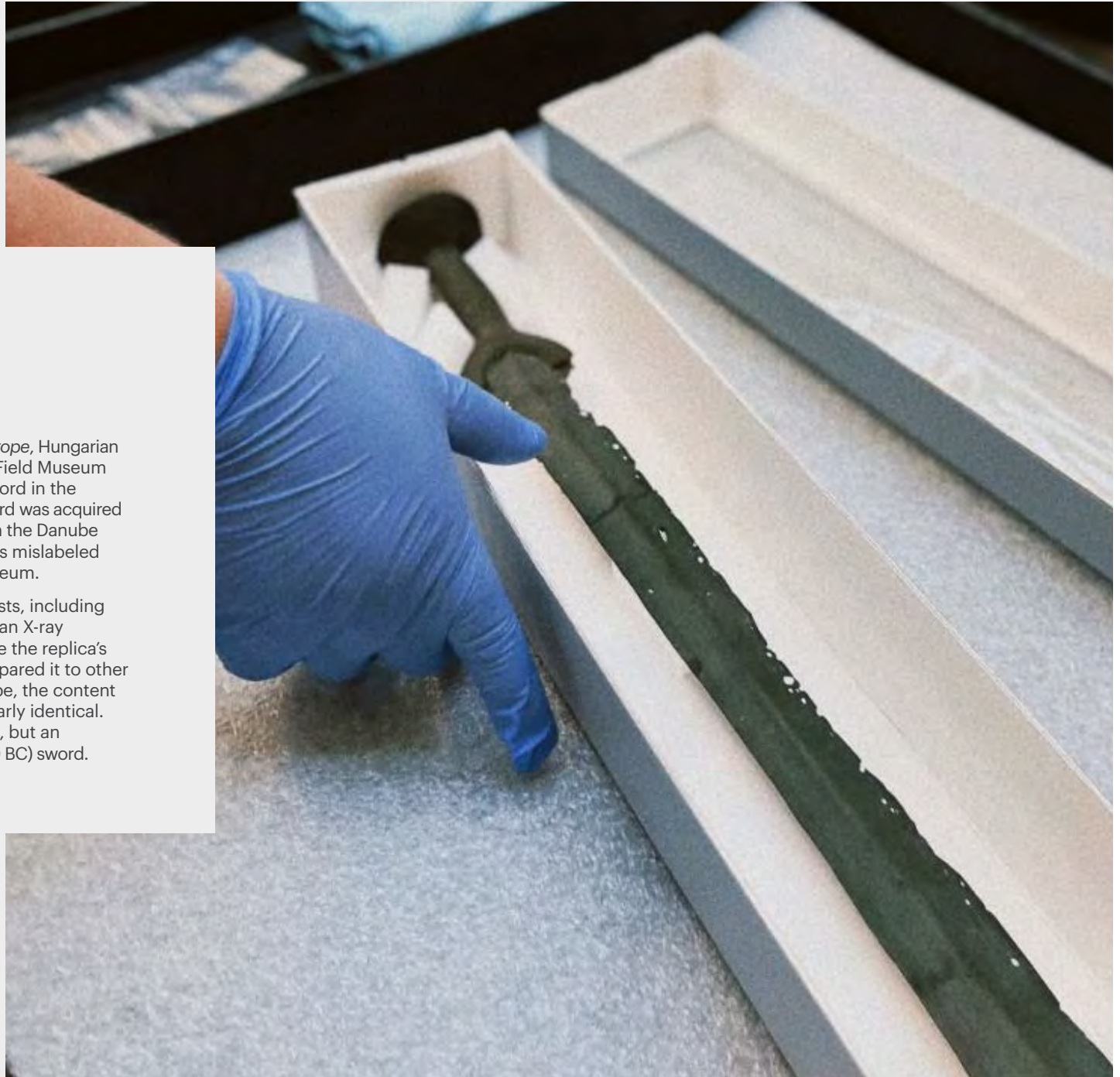
(Left) Arm of the ROV manipulator positions hose for fluid sampler near brooding female octopus and a large male (upper left).



BRONZE AGE REPLICA TURNS OUT TO BE REAL

While preparing for *First Kings of Europe*, Hungarian archaeologists working alongside Field Museum scientists asked to see a replica sword in the Field Museum's collections. The sword was acquired nearly one-hundred years ago from the Danube River in Budapest, Hungary, and was mislabeled as a replica upon arrival at the Museum.

The group of Field Museum scientists, including a chemist, and archeologists used an X-ray fluorescence detector to determine the replica's chemical makeup. When they compared it to other known Bronze Age swords in Europe, the content of bronze, copper, and tin were nearly identical. This proved it wasn't a replica at all, but an authentic Bronze Age (3300 to 1200 BC) sword.



4,438,471 NEW RECORDS ADDED TO OUR
COLLECTIONS DATABASE

45,438 SPECIMENS AND ITEMS PACKAGED AND DIGITIZED
THROUGH COLLECTIONS CLUB AND WeDigBio EVENTS

FIELD MUSEUM JOINS GLOBAL EFFORT TO INVENTORY COLLECTIONS

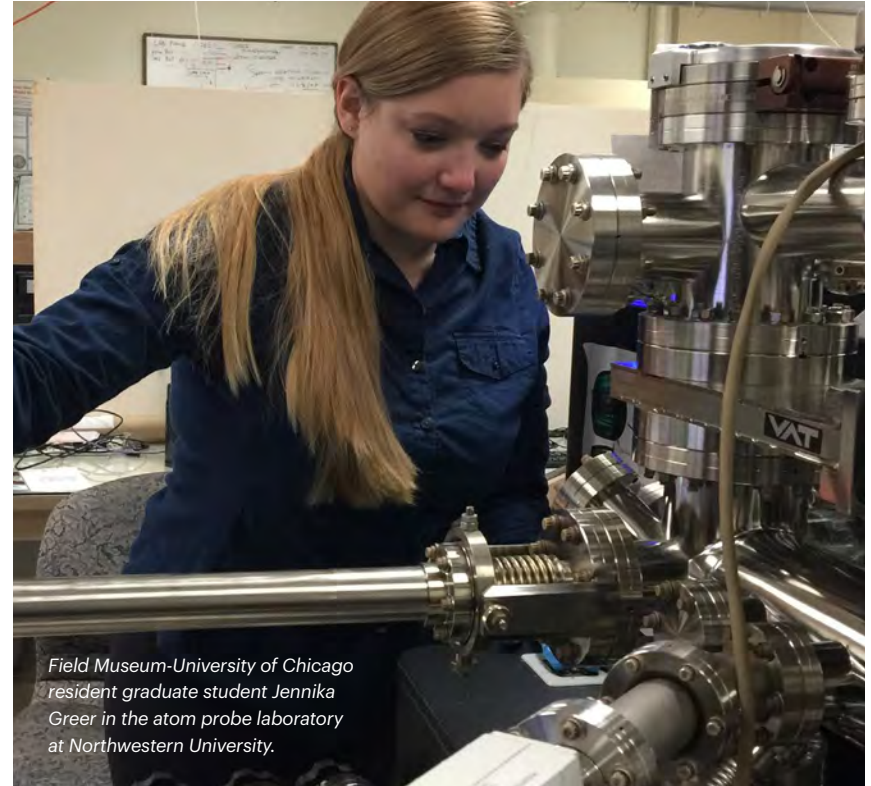
The Field Museum has joined 72 of the largest natural history museums in inventorying our collections. A paper published in the journal *Science* details these organizations' work on inventorying their collective holdings, in hopes of making this global network's scientific material more accessible to researchers—work that is increasingly vital in light of the climate crisis.

The museums' and herbaria's goal is to help scientists and decision-makers find solutions to urgent, wide-ranging issues such as climate change, food insecurity, human health, pandemic preparedness, and wildlife conservation.

The Collections Club at the Field Museum works to compile large biodiversity datasets for scientists. Volunteers help in improving and enhancing data associated with scientific specimens and objects.



(Above) Jewel Scarab Beetles
displayed at Members' Nights.



Field Museum-University of Chicago
resident graduate student Jennika
Greer in the atom probe laboratory
at Northwestern University.

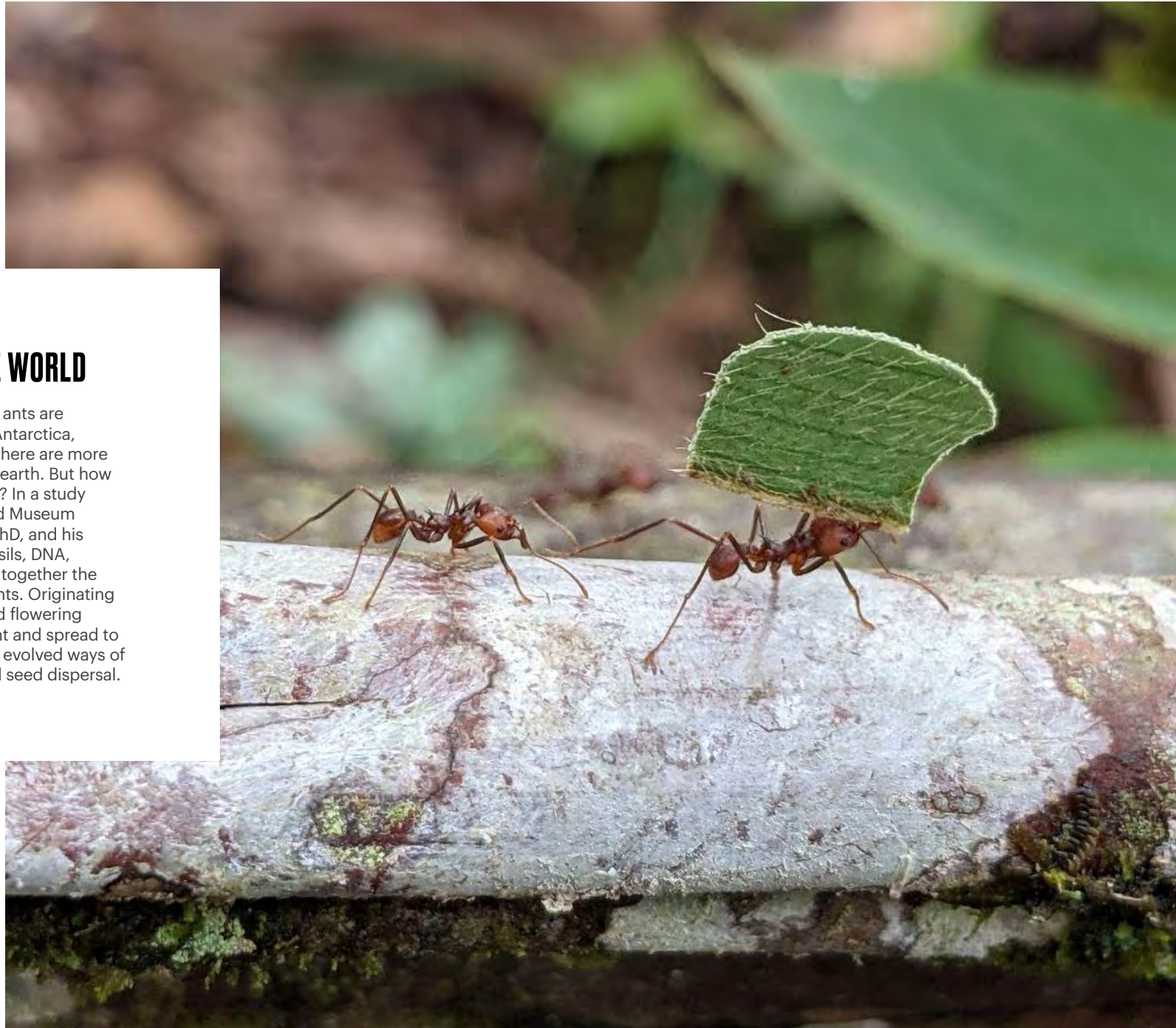
HOW OLD IS THE MOON?

Field Museum scientists and their colleagues from the University of Bayreuth (Germany), University of California, Los Angeles, and Northwestern University recently studied material brought back from the last Apollo mission to the Moon. The Earth's Moon was formed by a giant impact that transformed Earth into a disk of gas and dust, which eventually formed a molten Moon and reformed Earth. Scientists thought the "lunar magma ocean" that followed lasted almost 90 million years. However, through chemical analysis, the Museum-led team determined that the Moon became solid 40 million years earlier than previously hypothesized. This also means the Earth's crust had 40 million extra years to form and could have become habitable much earlier.

HOW ANTS TOOK OVER THE WORLD

More than 14,000 different species of ants are spread over every continent, except Antarctica, and researchers have estimated that there are more than 20 quadrillion individual ants on earth. But how did they evolve to take over the world? In a study published in *Evolutionary Letters*, Field Museum Research Scientist Matthew Nelsen, PhD, and his colleagues used a combination of fossils, DNA, and data on modern species to piece together the coevolution of ants and flowering plants. Originating around 140 million years ago, ants and flowering plants subsequently became prevalent and spread to new habitats together as these plants evolved ways of making food for ants that encouraged seed dispersal.

(Right) A leaf cutter ant, one of the more than 14,000 species alive today.



242 ARTICLES PUBLISHED BY
FIELD MUSEUM SCIENTISTS

18,891 CITATIONS OF WORK CONDUCTED
BY FIELD MUSEUM SCIENTISTS

MEET OUR NEW CURATORS



ANDERSON FEIJÓ, PHD

Anderson Feijó, PhD, joined the Field Museum as Assistant Curator of Mammals in 2023. Originally from Brazil, his broad expertise includes evolutionary biology, mammal systematics, animal diversity, and ecological interactions. Dr. Feijó also studies the impact of climate change on biodiversity and conservation biogeography. He has extensive fieldwork experience that spans diverse biomes and mammalian groups, from collecting bats in the Amazon Forest to surveying pikas in the Tibetan Plateau. Prior to joining the Field Museum, Dr. Feijó worked as an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, and has an impressive publication record of 110 peer-reviewed works.



CHRISTINA FRIBERG, PHD

Christina Friberg, PhD, joined the Field Museum in the fall as Assistant Curator of North American Anthropology, in a joint appointment with the Department of Anthropology at the University of Illinois Chicago. Recently holding a research position at the Indiana University Museum of Archaeology, she is the author of the book *The Making of Mississippian Tradition* (University Press of Florida, 2020) and has been published extensively in several scientific journals. Dr. Friberg's research focuses on Midwestern archaeology, particularly the Mississippian Period (1050-1450 CE) of the Illinois and Ohio River valleys. In addition to her extensive museum and research experience, Dr. Friberg also has a long history of collaborating with Native communities.

SCRAMBLE FOR DOMINANCE AFTER EXTINCTIONS

The mass extinction event known as “The Great Dying,” which occurred over a quarter of a billion years ago, is becoming increasingly important for understanding our current climate crisis. Massive volcanic eruptions in South Africa caused a runaway greenhouse effect and catastrophic climate change that killed nine out of ten species on the planet. A study done by Field Museum Research Scientist, Pia Viglietti, PhD showed that this “great dying” set in motion a scramble for dominance as species fought for stability in their changing environments. One such animal, known as *Inostrancevia*, took advantage of Siberia’s loss of apex predators to expand its range more than 7,000 miles across the pangean supercontinent, before it too went extinct. Studies like this demonstrate that the species which survive extinction events do so narrowly.



(Above) Giant gorgonopsian *Inostrancevia* with its dicynodont prey, scaring off the much smaller African species *Cyonosaurus*.

85

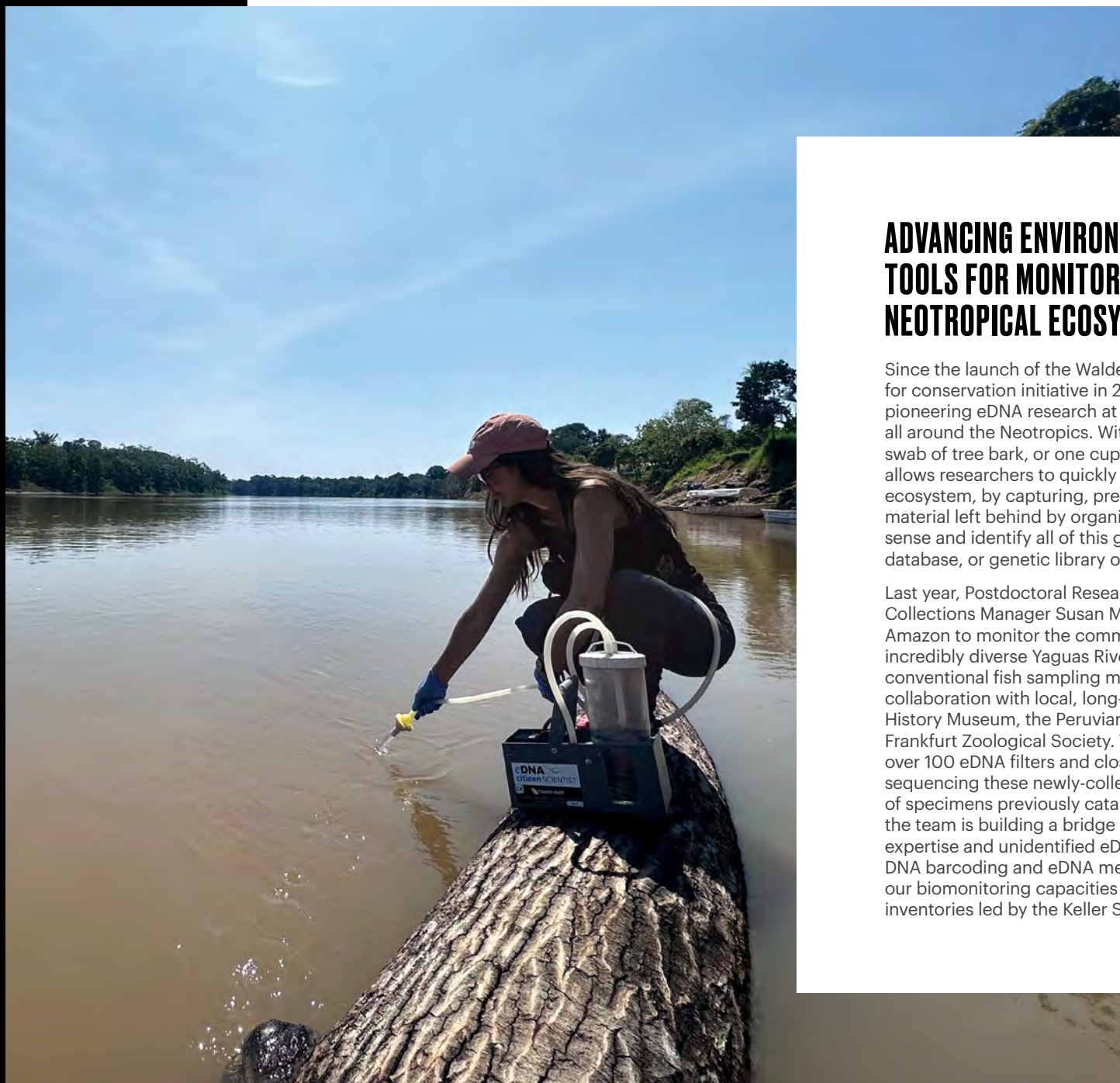
GRADUATE STUDENTS
ADVISED

23

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH
SCIENTISTS ON STAFF

UNSUNG HEROES OF POLLINATION

Negaunee Assistant Curator of Pollinating Insects Bruno de Medeiros, PhD, collaborated with colleagues from France to compile everything scientists know about weevils, including more than 60,000 species of small beetles, as pollinators. These insects have been interacting with pollen producing plants before flowers even evolved and they remain a major group of pollinators today. For instance, the study showed that at least 2,000 species of plants rely on weevils for pollination. Many of these interactions have gone undiscovered because current pollinator studies focus on diurnal insects that fly among flowers—such as bees and butterflies. Dr. de Medeiros’ work revises assumptions about pollinators and shows there is a much larger diversity than previously thought.



ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL DNA (eDNA) TOOLS FOR MONITORING HYPER-DIVERSE NEOTROPICAL ECOSYSTEMS

Since the launch of the Walder Foundation-funded DNA barcoding for conservation initiative in 2022, the Field Museum has been pioneering eDNA research at remote and hyper-diverse sites all around the Neotropics. With one scoop of river water, one swab of tree bark, or one cup of soil, this innovative technology allows researchers to quickly catalog the entire biodiversity of an ecosystem, by capturing, preserving, and sequencing the genetic material left behind by organisms in their environment. To make sense and identify all of this genetic information, a reference database, or genetic library of life, is necessary.

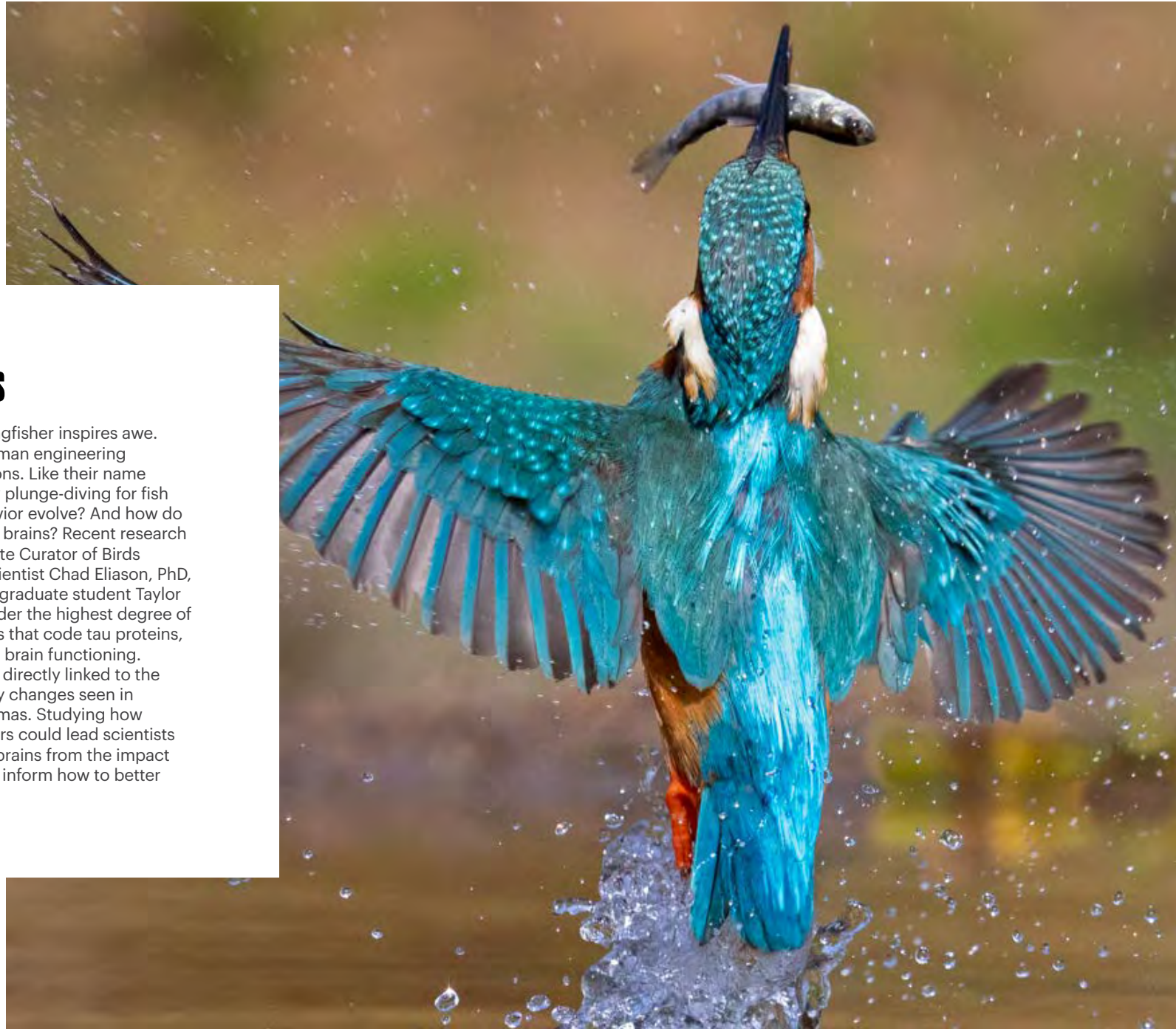
Last year, Postdoctoral Researcher Sophie Picq, PhD, and Assistant Collections Manager Susan Mochel traveled to the heart of the Amazon to monitor the community of vertebrates along the incredibly diverse Yaguas River, using a combination of eDNA and conventional fish sampling methods. The fieldwork in Peru was in collaboration with local, long-term partners at the Lima Natural History Museum, the Peruvian National Park Services, and the Frankfurt Zoological Society. Together, the researchers collected over 100 eDNA filters and close to 5,000 fish specimens. By sequencing these newly-collected specimens as well as hundreds of specimens previously cataloged in the Museum Collections, the team is building a bridge between centuries of natural history expertise and unidentified eDNA fragments. These developing DNA barcoding and eDNA methodologies will help scale up our biomonitoring capacities and will be applied in future rapid inventories led by the Keller Science Action Center.

(Left) Dr. Sophie Picq filtering water to capture environmental DNA in the Peruvian Amazon.

A FEAT OF BIOMECHANICS

One look at the brightly colored kingfisher inspires awe. These birds serve as models for human engineering because of their dynamic adaptations. Like their name suggests, many kingfishers hunt by plunge-diving for fish in the water. But how did this behavior evolve? And how do the birds do it without hurting their brains? Recent research by Richard and Jill Chaifetz Associate Curator of Birds Shannon Hackett, PhD, research scientist Chad Eliason, PhD, and University of Chicago resident graduate student Taylor Hans discovered that the genes under the highest degree of selection in kingfishers are the ones that code tau proteins, which keep the microtubules in the brain functioning. The breakdown of these proteins is directly linked to the characteristics of brain morphology changes seen in athletes who experience head traumas. Studying how these proteins function in kingfishers could lead scientists to discover how they protect their brains from the impact of plunge-diving and perhaps even inform how to better protect human brains.

(Right) A Kingfisher breaks the surface of the water with a fish after diving to catch prey.



160 ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS
BY FIELD MUSEUM SCIENTISTS

39 NEW SPECIES TO SCIENCE
DESCRIBED IN 2023

NEW TECH TO STUDY MAMMAL DIVERSITY

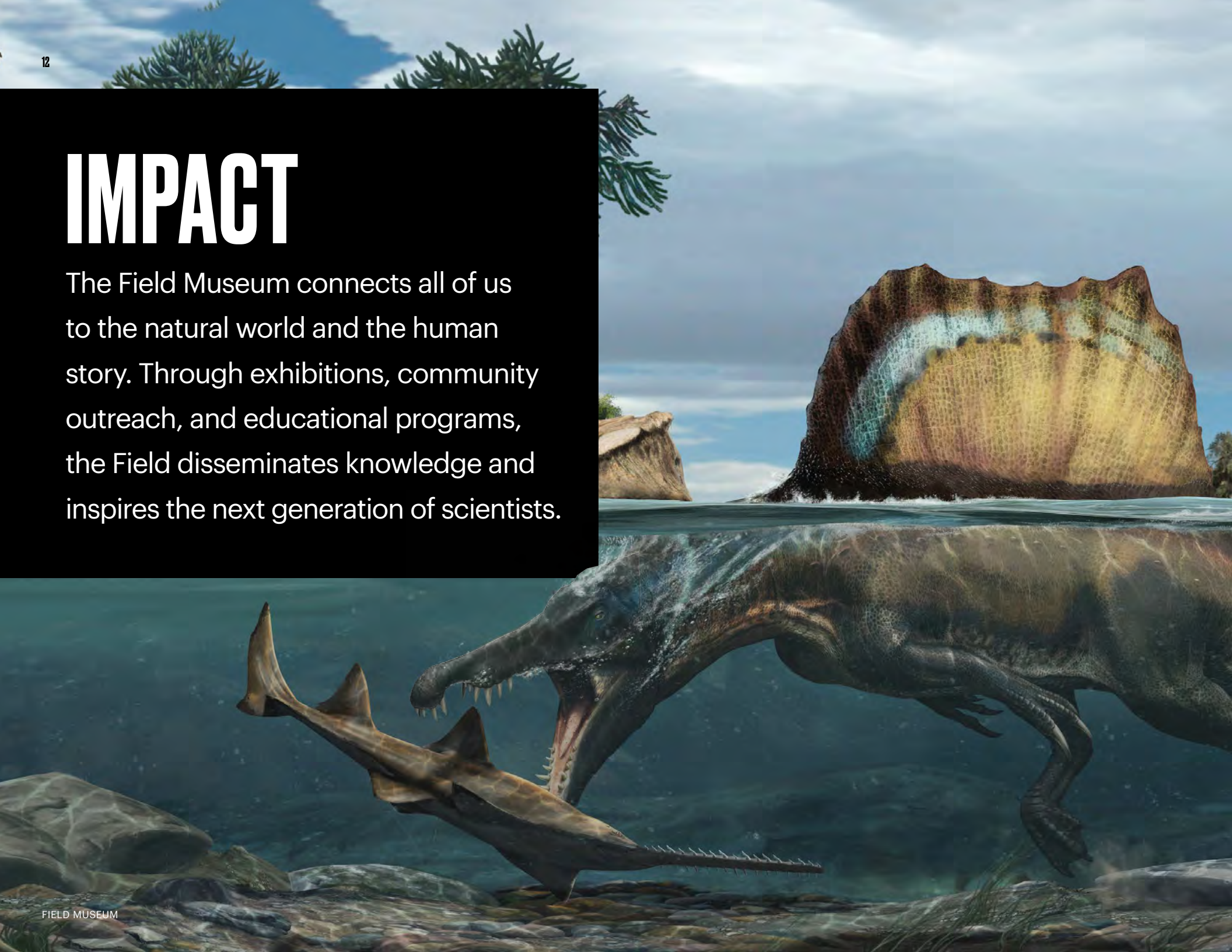
A new Field Museum initiative to document small mammals' diversity across Chicagoland took flight in 2023. Museum staff expanded their monitoring to include bioacoustics—the study of animal sounds. Special monitoring systems set up by Field scientists record bat echolocations and visualize them using a built-in spectrogram. These data help scientists determine which bats are present and how they are foraging for food. As bat populations continue to decline due to disease and habitat loss, monitoring Chicago's native bats is becoming increasingly important for the health of our local ecosystems.

(Below) Assistant Collections Manager Lauren Johnson in the field showcasing the Wildlife Acoustics Echo Meter Touch 2 Pro microphone.



IMPACT

The Field Museum connects all of us to the natural world and the human story. Through exhibitions, community outreach, and educational programs, the Field disseminates knowledge and inspires the next generation of scientists.



MEET SOBEK THE SPINOSAURUS

In summer 2023, the Field Museum introduced its newest dinosaur, a 47-foot-long *Spinosaurus*—the largest carnivorous dinosaur ever discovered. This apex predator swam in the Cretaceous rivers of North Africa thanks to its crocodile-shaped body and paddle-like tail. Named “Sobek” through an online community competition, the fossil cast was mounted in Stanley Field Hall, inviting visitors to discover how this water-loving dinosaur reigned throughout the Cretaceous Period and how scientists discovered its semi-aquatic hunting habits.

(Opposite) An illustration of *Spinosaurus* by Davide Bonadonna in its Cretaceous habitat.

(Left) This *Spinosaurus* cast is based on a partial skeleton discovered in Morocco and housed at Hassan II University of Casablanca.



FIRST KINGS OF EUROPE

An ambitious international collaboration between the Field Museum and institutions in southeastern Europe and North America, *First Kings of Europe* brought together some of the most compelling archaeological finds from the Neolithic through the Iron Age. Visitors to *First Kings* explored the emergence of leadership, inequality, and hierarchy within prehistoric farming communities of southeastern Europe. With artifacts from 26 museums and 11 countries, the exhibition invited guests to investigate how power was acquired by means of technology, trade, warfare, and ceremonies. In addition, *First Kings of Europe* marked the first time these artifacts were presented together, providing a unique opportunity for North American descendant communities to celebrate their common cultural heritage.

First Kings of Europe was organized by the Field Museum. The exhibition has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom.



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

Field Museum
Major Sponsor:

DISCOVER

Generous foundation
support provided by:

**AMERICA FOR
BULGARIA
FOUNDATION**



Bronze helmet, 500–400 BC

This elite warrior's bronze helmet was found in what is now Albania.

Courtesy of the National Archaeological Museum in Tirana, Albania

117,635 VISITORS ENGAGED IN THE
GRAINGER SCIENCE HUB



UP CLOSE WITH THE FIELD'S LARGEST SNAKE

The *Grainger Science Hub* is known for its hands-on activities and touchable specimens—including a 17-foot-long green anaconda skin. This specimen is the largest snake in the Field's collection and represents its only frozen anaconda tissue sample. The skin was preserved through a special tanning process that ensures the specimen can be displayed in open air and safely touched in education and outreach programs. While preparing to display this special specimen in the *Grainger Science Hub*, Coordinators Esther Chavira and Gilleece Thorson and Public Learning Experiences Director Rudy Albsmeyer collaborated with the Shedd Aquarium and their green anaconda, Beatrix, to learn more about anaconda handling and borrowed tools for the display.

(Above) Beatrix, the Shedd Aquarium's green anaconda, exploring her habitat in the Amazon Rising exhibition.

(Right) Josh Mata carefully unfurling the tanned anaconda skin at the Field Museum.



CELEBRATING A NEW GATHERING SPACE AT BEAUBIEN WOODS

Building on the Field's success in creating gathering spaces in the Burnham Wildlife Corridor, Keller Science Action Center staff collaborated with the Forest Preserves of Cook County, local artists and organizations, and nearby residents to create a new Gathering Space in Beaubien Woods Forest Preserve on Chicago's far South Side. A community curatorial committee made up of artists, educators, and civic leaders chose Christine Perri's "Prairie Boat" design from a number of submissions. Perri collaborated with local artist Roman Villareal and youth artists, who are part of Trinity Church of Christ's Imani Village initiative, to complete the Gathering Space with its theme of traveling by water to freedom from enslavement. "Prairie Boat" was unveiled in June, and is already being used by families as a place of respite and connection. It will be programmed by Imani Village and others to help more of Chicago's residents feel like they have a place in urban nature. This multi-year activation project was funded by grants from Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Coastal Management Program, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Walder Foundation.



BLOODSUCKERS: LEGENDS TO LEECHES

Blood sustains a number of birds, mammals, invertebrates, and fish. In turn, these species inspire our legends, medicine, and pop culture. *Bloodsuckers: Legends to Leeches* opened at the Field Museum in October and showcased the great diversity of bloodfeeding species. Through specimen models, interactives, and even live animals, the exhibition explored the evolution of bloodfeeders as well as a cultural impact that has led to scientific and creative innovation.

Field Museum Major Sponsors: Abbott and Magellan Corporation



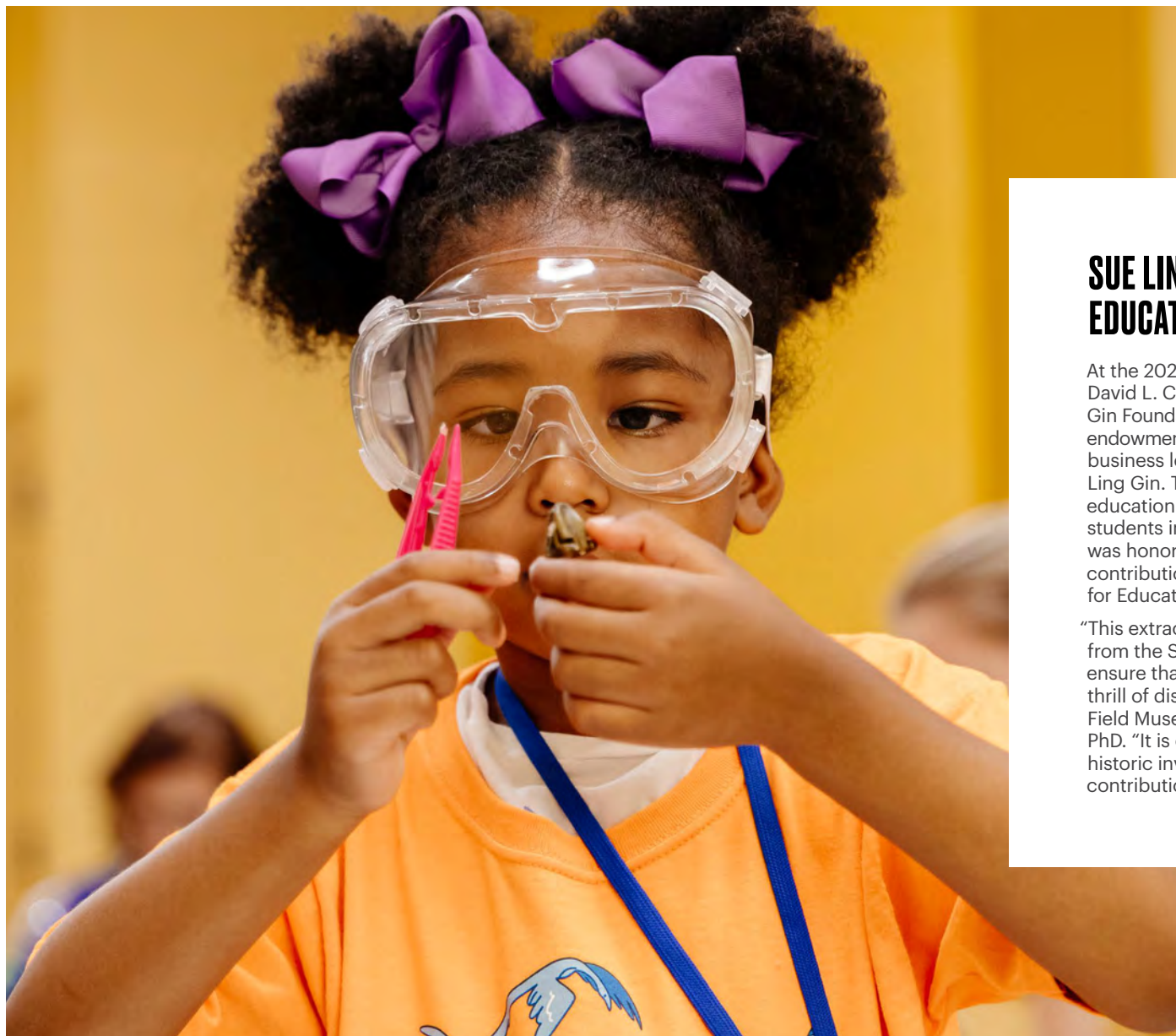
Bloodsuckers: Legends to Leeches is produced and circulated by ROM (Royal Ontario Museum), Toronto, Canada.

848,550

STUDENTS AND FAMILIES SERVED BY
SUE LING GIN CENTER PROGRAMS

112,764

STUDENTS VISITING THE MUSEUM
AS PART OF FIELD TRIPS IN 2023



SUE LING GIN CENTER FOR EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

At the 2023 Women's Board Gala, Trustee David L. Cotton, on behalf of the Sue Ling Gin Foundation Trust, announced a \$20 million endowment gift in memory of pioneering business leader and longtime Field Trustee Sue Ling Gin. The gift will help sustain the Museum's education initiatives to serve thousands of students in the city and beyond. The Museum was honored to recognize this extraordinary contribution by naming the Sue Ling Gin Center for Education and Public Programs.

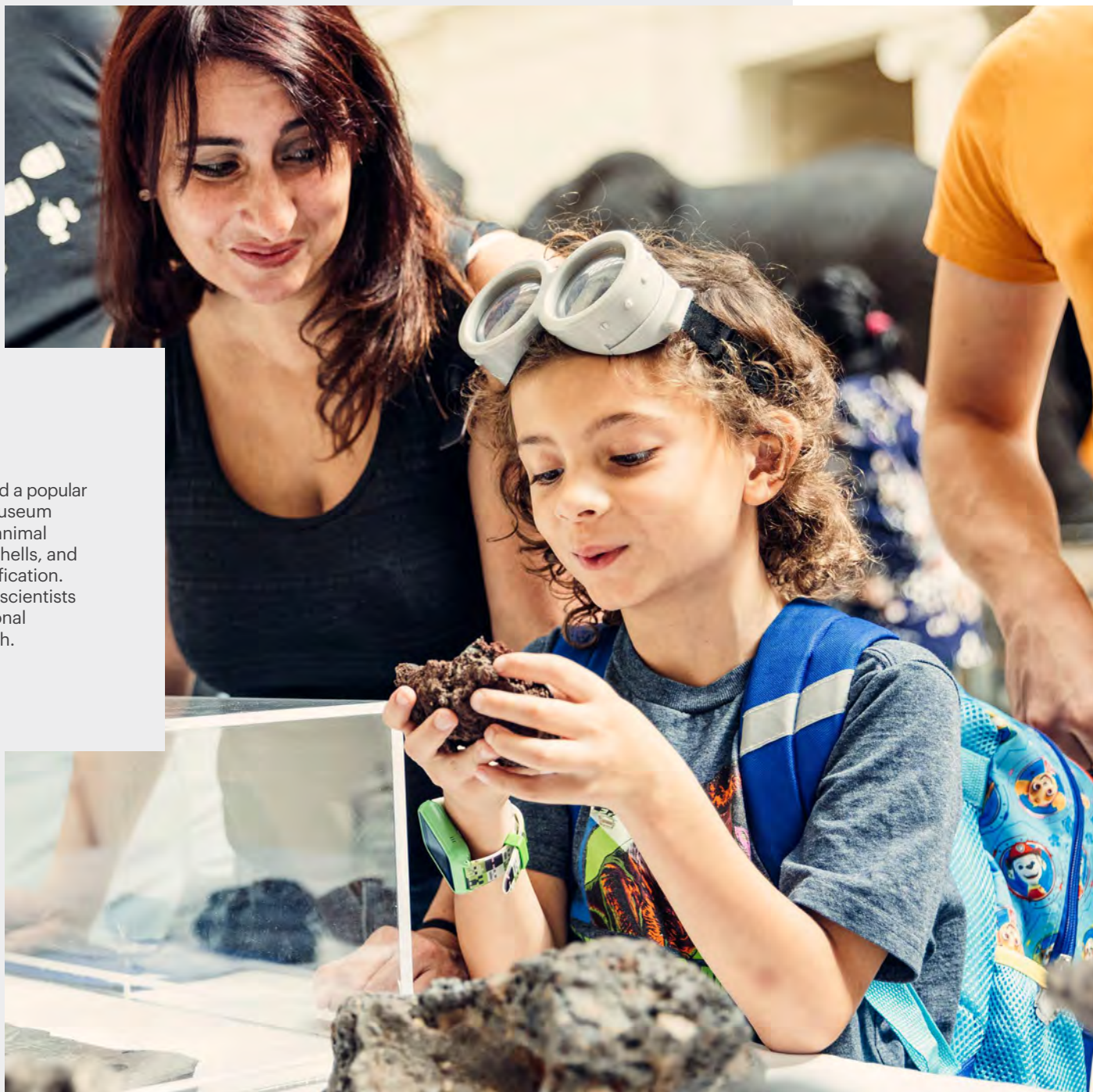
"This extraordinary demonstration of generosity from the Sue Ling Gin Foundation Trust will help ensure that every Chicago child experiences the thrill of discovery with the Field Museum," said Field Museum President and CEO Julian Siggers, PhD. "It is our distinct honor to recognize this historic investment as we remember the many contributions of our friend Sue Ling Gin."

(Left) Kids and families explore science at PlayLab Playdates hosted in the Crown Family PlayLab.

ID DAY IS BACK!

In September, the Field Museum revived a popular community science event—ID Day! Museum visitors were encouraged to bring in animal bones, fossils, rocks, meteorites, seashells, and photographs of live animals for identification. The event was facilitated by Museum scientists and educators who came with additional specimens for guests to see and touch.

(Right) Families get hands on with the collections as they explore scientist tables at ID Day.



3,354 NATIVE PLANTS DISTRIBUTED
TO COMMUNITY GARDENS

37,837 CPS STUDENTS SERVED THROUGH
ONSITE AND OFFSITE PROGRAMS

TRANSFORMING A CORPORATE CAMPUS

In 2015, Field Museum conservation staff helped ArcelorMittal transform its lawn into an 11-acre prairie. Four years later, in 2019, Mark Bouman (Chicago Region Program Director) and ArcelorMittal's Vice President Bill Steers told the story of how the plantings benefitted nature, the general public, and the company at Corporate Sustainability Leadership meetings chaired by Field Trustee Adele Simmons. Inspired by this successful story, Brian Kane, S&C Electric's Senior Safety & Environmental Affairs Manager, visited Mark Bouman and colleagues in the Museum's Rice Native Gardens to discuss S&C's Rogers Park campus transformation. On July 20, 2023, S&C Electric unveiled the new Arlys Conrad Memorial Park and Native Pollinator Garden. The Keller Science Action Center developed a field guide entitled *S&C Electric Company: Arlys Conrad Memorial Park*, highlighting 16 of the 45 plant species found on the company's 46-acre campus. The field guide helps show the company's commitment to supporting wildlife, connecting the local community to nature, and fostering environmental stewardship.



NASCAR PARTNERS WITH THE FIELD MUSEUM

In conjunction with Chicago's first-ever Street Race Weekend in July 2023, the Field Museum partnered with NASCAR and Chicago Public Schools on a competition designed to engage more than 22,000 students with racing-themed STEAM learning experiences.

The competition involved CPS students from all 43 Chicago STEM and STEAM schools, who first participated in an in-school challenge to design their own racing helmets. This culminated in the first "STEAM Fest" hosted by the Field Museum where 500 finalists built and tested small scale safety barriers alongside NASCAR engineers and other industry STEAM professionals.

(Left) Field Museum scientists and their partners at ArcelorMittal survey the newly installed native garden at the ArcelorMittal corporate campus.

(Above) CPS students and NASCAR driver Daniel Suárez at the first STEAM Fest hosted by the Field Museum and NASCAR.

N.W. HARRIS LEARNING COLLECTION GETS A NEW LOOK

2023 was a year of new developments for the *N.W. Harris Learning Collection*. The collection got a makeover of its branding, marketing materials, and signage. Beautiful new boxes will engage Chicagoland classrooms in all the Field Museum has to offer. Additionally, Field educators began a process to renew and rehabilitate the *N.W. Harris Learning Collection's* mammal and bird exhibition cases thanks to a generous gift from Trustee Ken O'Keefe. Many of the 400 cases that are part of the program date back to the 1920's and 30's. To ensure continuity for the 112-year-old collection, Field educators are working closely with experts across the Museum and external partners to develop new cases that feature a wide variety of specimens.

"Over the past century, the *N.W. Harris Learning Collection* has touched the lives of more than a million students and we're delighted to ensure this legacy continues for generations to come." – Aimee Davis, Senior Director, Sue Ling Gin Center for Education and Public Programs

Significant enhancements to the N.W. Harris Learning Collection have been made possible through the generosity of Kenneth O'Keefe and Jason Stephens.

(Right) Join this quilled porcupine in his trek into the treetops, where he spends his time feasting on bark, twigs, and leaves.





CHICAGO'S LEGACY HULA

In spring of 2023, the Field Museum debuted *Chicago's Legacy Hula*, the first exhibition to explore the migration of Kānaka Maoli (Native Hawaiians) to Chicago. This untold story highlights and celebrates four Kumu Hula (Master Teachers of Hula) who made monumental contributions to the future development of the Native Hawaiian and Hula communities in Chicago and the Midwest.

Featuring a variety of cultural items from the Field's collection that span the past century, this intimate exhibition includes a selection of kāhili (feathered royal standards), regalia, and Hula percussion implements, as well as video and historical and contemporary photographs.

This exhibition was developed by the Aloha Center Chicago (ACC) and the Field Museum.

(Right) A kāhili—a royal standard of the Hawaiian monarchy—is made of wood and feathers. In 1949, Kulamanu Nash, a Chicagoan and relative of the Hawaiian royal family, donated 35 kāhili to the Field Museum.





HONOR ROLL

The accomplishments of the Field Museum are made possible by a dedicated community of philanthropists. We gratefully acknowledge these donors for their generosity in 2023.

CYRUS TANG FOUNDATION AWARDS MAJOR GRANT FOR ASIAN HISTORY STUDIES

The Cyrus Tang Foundation announced a \$1 million, three-year grant to develop a suite of K-12 classroom and virtual lessons on Asian history. This collaboration among the Field, Chicago Public Schools, and the Cyrus Tang Foundation serves the Teaching Equitable Asian American Community History (TEEACH) Act passed in Illinois in 2021. The Field will partner with four local and six national organizations in target states (California, Connecticut, Florida, New Jersey, Ohio, and Rhode Island) to create curricula, student workshops, professional development opportunities, virtual programs, and field trip lessons. In the Chicago region, these programs will take a more robust approach through in-classroom instruction focused on the Museum's *Cyrus Tang Hall of China* and other related exhibitions.

(Opposite) Visitors to the Cyrus Tang Hall of China learn about the Java Sea Shipwreck.

(Left) Visitors explore neolithic China through miniature dioramas.

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Members of the Board of Trustees offer leadership and philanthropy to make the Field Museum an extraordinary force for science and learning.

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On April 20 & 21, the Field Museum hosted its annual Members' Nights. Over 5,000 members, donors, and guests enjoyed special, after-hours access to the Museum and many behind the scenes areas (for the first time since 2019). Members were able to see the real life inspirations for Pokémon, learn about the history of Chinese shadow puppetry, and watch our fossil preparation team open "The Beast." They also explored invertebrates from around the world, saw fossils from the La Brea Tar Pits, and discovered which mammals glow in the dark.

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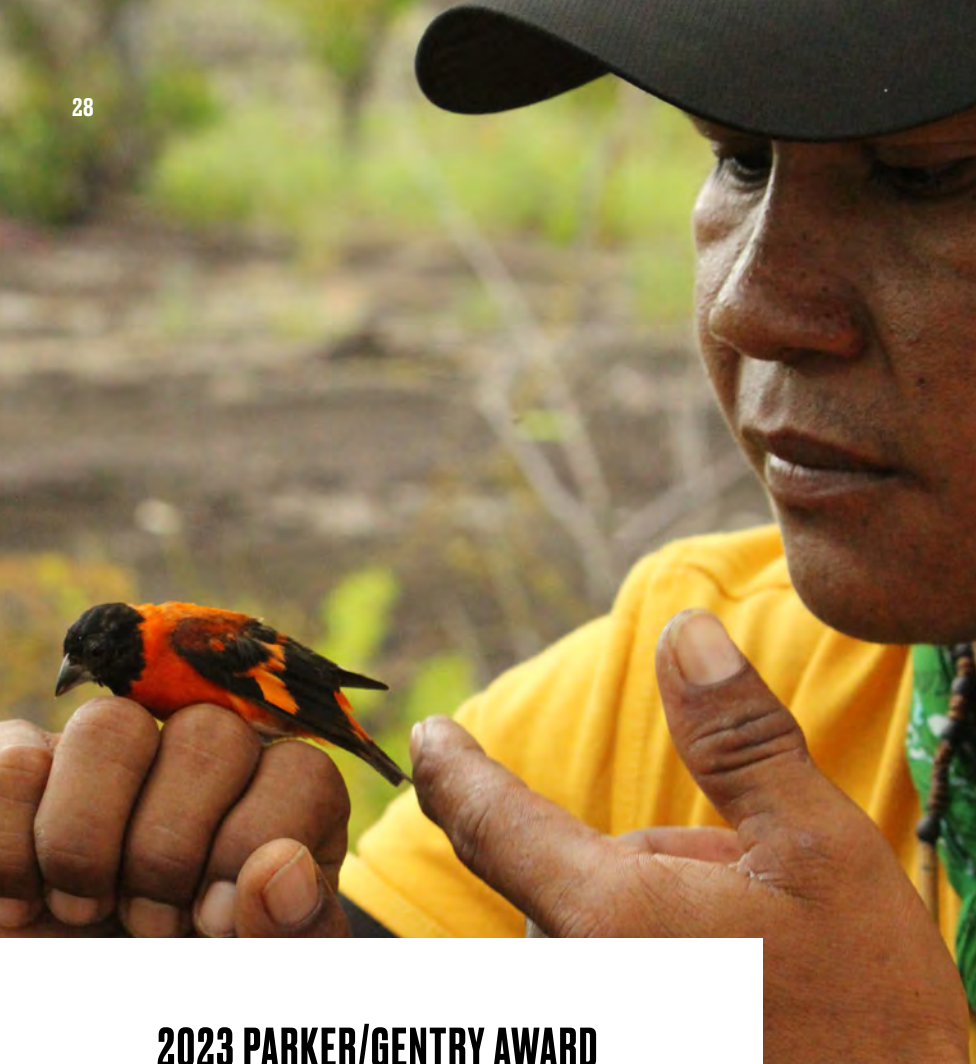
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The Field Museum awarded the South Rupununi Conservation Society (SRCS) with the 2023 Parker/Gentry Award. This award celebrates an individual or group who have made remarkable contributions to conservation. SRCS focuses on environmental and wildlife conservation and community engagement in the megadiverse South American country of Guyana. Their work is rooted in the forests, savannas, and wetlands of the Rupununi region, working closely with the large number of indigenous communities who call the region home.

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CAPTURE ADVENTURE WITH RIVIAN

Rivian—an Illinois-based electric vehicle manufacturer with a mission to help our planet transition to carbon neutral transportation—partnered with the Museum to loan an R1T fully electric pick-up truck for Dr. Adam Ferguson's CAPTURE Project. The R1T transports Adam and his team to local forest preserves, where they perform fieldwork related to small mammals that are brought back to the Museum for further research. This important study now has its own, more reliable, and comfortable mode of transportation in alignment with the Museum's conservation and sustainability goals.

\$1,000 – \$2,499

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FIELD ASSOCIATES EVOLVE FUNDRAISER

On Saturday, November 4, the Field Associates young professionals board hosted its annual fundraising event EVOLVE.

The benefit raised \$120,000 and featured Field Museum scientists, a silent auction, and more.

The Field Associates is a group of dynamic, science-loving professionals (ages 21-40) who are passionate about the Field Museum's mission. Since 1997, the group has supported the institution through fundraising, service networking, and programming.

The EVOLVE fundraiser supports community programs, exhibitions, leading-edge scientific discovery, and more.

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2023 FIELD FORWARD SYMPOSIUM

The 2023 Field Forward Symposium explored how evolving technology changes what we learn from our collections and how we share it. Today, natural history museums strive to expand knowledge of the world through DNA sequencing, CT scanning, and more. With digital tools, we provide visitors with dynamic, immersive experiences.

The Symposium featured a series of behind-the-scenes tours and programs including *Is It Real or Science Fiction? Technology and 21st Century Museums*—a luncheon highlighting the Field Museum scientists and several community partners.

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The 2023 Field Museum Gala raised \$2.2 million for research, conservation, education, and collections work in Chicago and beyond. Hosted by the Women's Board and Board of Trustees, the event celebrated the Museum community's passion for science and welcomed more than 420 attendees to Stanley Field Hall.

The Sue Ling Gin Foundation Trust was honored with the *Marshall Field V Award for Distinguished Leadership*. The award was accepted by Museum Trustee David L. Cotton who announced a \$20 million endowment gift that electrified the Trustees, donors, and guests in attendance.

ITW received the *Corporate Philanthropy Award*, accepted by President and Field Trustee Chris O'Herlihy, in recognition of the firm's extraordinary leadership over decades.

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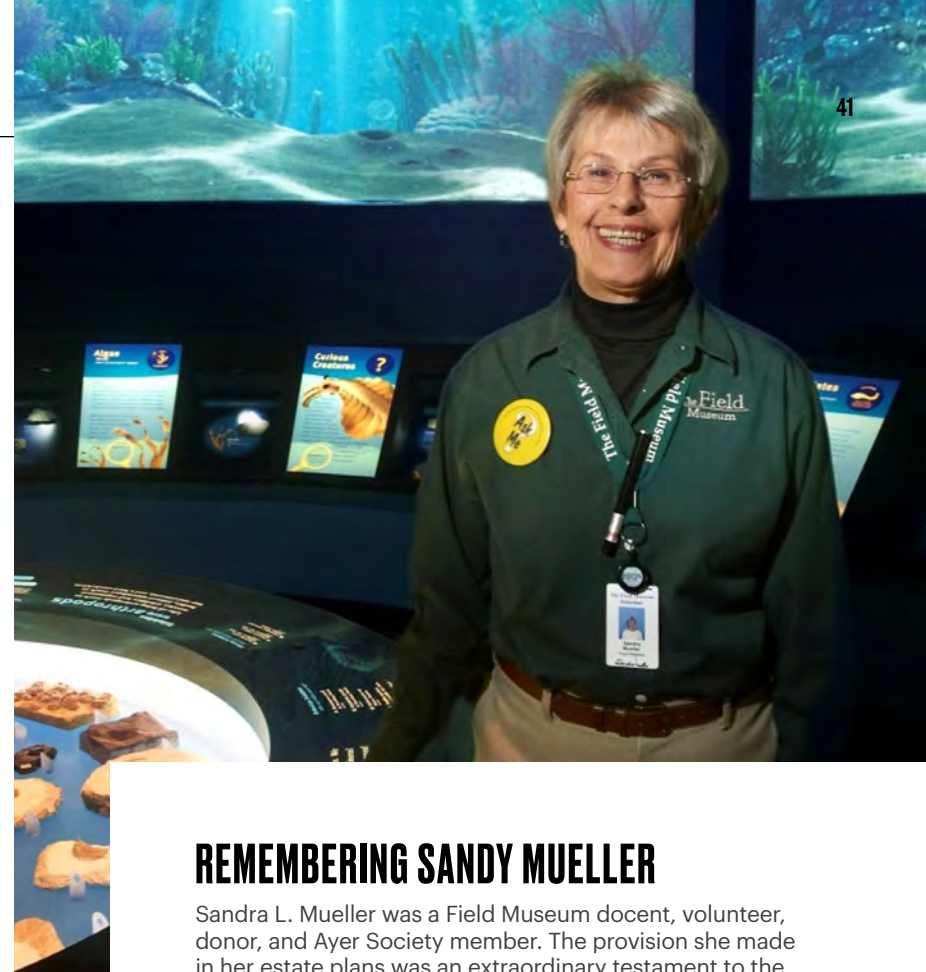
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Sandra L. Mueller was a Field Museum docent, volunteer, donor, and Ayer Society member. The provision she made in her estate plans was an extraordinary testament to the love she had for the people and mission of the Museum.

By profession, Sandy was a chemist and researcher for Abbott where she worked for 29 years. At the Field, she served as a docent and as a volunteer in Paleontology. Her love of travel took her to such places as the Adriatic Sea, Egypt, Borneo, the Sea of Cortez, as well as to Tanzania with Field Museum scientists Bill Stanley, PhD and Mary Anne Rogers, PhD in 2011.

She was married for 38 years to the late Dr. Richard A. Mueller, also a chemist. He was a retired Senior Fellow and Section Head of the Chemistry Research Department at GD Searle where he was granted more than 100 patents.

Sandy will be missed at the Field, but forever remembered!

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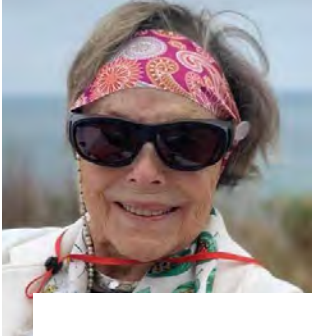
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IN MEMORIAM



JEAN BROWN

Jean Brown served as a member of the Field Museum's Women's Board for 45 years and was a friend to many across the Museum.

Jean was passionate about ancient civilizations (especially Egypt), voting, volunteering, and traveling.

She was married for forty-seven years to Cameron Brown, who preceded her in death on March 7, 2013.



JAMES J. GLASSER

The Field Museum was greatly saddened by the passing of Trustee James J. (Jim) Glasser, retired Chairman and CEO of GATX Corporation. He was deeply engaged in the cultural and civic leadership of Chicago and Tucson, AZ. Jim and his wife, Louise, who is also a Trustee, supported the collections of the Museum's Marie Louise Rosenthal Library over many years. As co-founders of the Collections Committee, they shared their passion for ethnographic art and objects from cultures around the world.

The Field Museum is grateful for Jim Glasser's friendship and counsel, his service as a National Trustee, and the enduring philanthropy of the Glasser and Rosenthal Families for more than 50 years.



MARJORIE HINES

Marjorie Hines joined the Women's Board in 1985, serving as a member for 38 years.

Marjorie was the director of fashion and publicity for Bonwit Teller. After that, she became head of corporate gifts at Tiffany & Co.

She was the beloved wife of John L. Hines to whom she was married for 57 years.

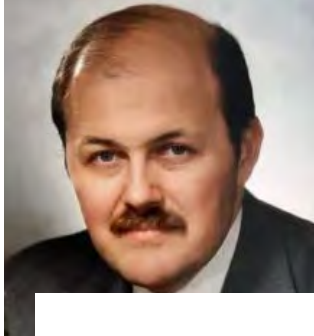


LOIS G. MELVOIN

Lois G. Melvoin served on the Women's Board for 45 years and was married to the late Life Trustee, Hugo Melvoin, who passed away in 2013.

She was a case manager at the North Shore Senior Center, where she and Hugo created a fund to help clients pay for medications, eyeglasses, and other expenses.

She leaves two sons, their wives, five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and innumerable friends.



SCOTT P. MARKS

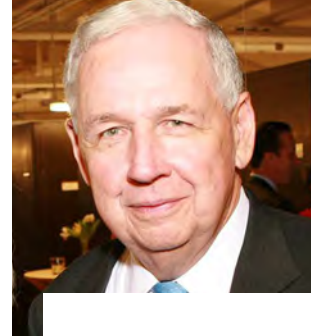
Scott Marks joined the Field Museum Board in 1996, and was elected Life Trustee in 2005. In 1999, he served as part-time Director of Information Technology at the Field.

He will be missed by his loving wife of 58 years, Pamela R. Marks, a Women's Board member, and his family.



DR. CHARLES NADLER

Dr. Charles (Chuck) Nadler, a long-time supporter of the Field Museum, passed away on January 10, 2023. A native Chicagoan, Chuck received his M.D. from Northwestern, and in 1961 began his 54-year career in Internal Medicine at Northwestern Medical School. His wife Nancy joined the Women's Board in 1966 and served as its president. They were members of the Founders' Council and Anthropology Alliance. Chuck served on the Collections and Research Committee of the Board starting in the 1990s, and joined the Science Action Committee in 2009. Over 25 years, he published approximately 100 scientific papers, and was a long-time member of the American Society of Mammalogists.



JAMES J. O'CONNOR, SR.

Life Trustee James J. O'Connor, Sr. passed away in July 2023. Former CEO of ComEd, he joined the Field Museum Board in 1975 and served as Chairman from 1982 to 1986. He served as a guiding light as a member of the Governance Committee, offering valuable insights about corporate and philanthropic leaders in Chicago.

During his term as Board Chair, Jim oversaw the creation of the Founders' Council, the Field's premier annual giving donor society. He and his wife Ellen, a past president of the Women's Board, are also Field Benefactors. Their son, Jim O'Connor, Jr. served as a Trustee for 18 years and their daughter Elizabeth O'Connor is a member of the Women's Board. We are grateful for the life of Jim O'Connor and for the many ways he served and enriched the mission of the Field Museum.



JAMES L. PHILLIPS

James L. Phillips, Adjunct Curator, passed away on February 9, 2023. Jim joined the Field as a Research Associate in 1992, and was appointed Adjunct Curator in 1995 as a member of the newly formed joint UIC-FMNH Anthropology Ph.D. program. Jim was an expert in, and published extensively on Upper Paleolithic archaeology of the Levant. His research focused on why human populations settled down near the end of the Pleistocene, and the development and relationship between modern human populations and the latest archaic humans, the Neanderthals.



W. ROCKWELL (ROCKY) WIRTZ

The Field Museum mourns the loss of Trustee W. Rockwell (Rocky) Wirtz, president of the Wirtz Corporation, Chairman of the Chicago Blackhawks, and past Field Museum Board Chair. His transformational impact on the Field began when he became a Trustee in 2009. After chairing the Museum's marketing committee, he was unanimously selected to serve as Board Chair in March 2021. As a Campaign Co-Chair for the \$316 million Because Earth Campaign, he helped secure funds that will sustain the Field for future generations. He and his wife, Marilyn, generously supported the Museum's outreach programs and Women's Board initiatives. They are Field Museum Benefactors, a community of our most generous donors.



SAM ZELL

Sam Zell was an entrepreneur and philanthropist whose primary business interests focused on real estate investment. His career launched while attending the University of Michigan where he partnered on the acquisition and management of an extensive portfolio of properties before selling them and moving to Chicago. During his life, Sam and his wife Helen, offered major support to the University of Michigan, the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, Northwestern University, and An Ounce of Prevention in addition to being distinguished benefactors of the Field Museum, where Sam was a Trustee from 2001-2005.

FRIENDS WE REMEMBER

The Field Museum remembers the following donors and friends who passed away in 2023.

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REMEMBERING JUDY BLOCK



Judy Stofer Block began five decades of leadership at the Field Museum in 1975, when she joined the Women's Board, serving as President from 1984 to 1986. She was elected as a Trustee in 1985 and was an early chair of the *Connecting Campaign*. In 1997 Judy became the first woman to chair one of Chicago's major cultural organizations when she was Board Chair of the Field

Museum. In 2011, Judy was elected Life Trustee of the Museum, though she seemed to become even more active, serving at one point on seven board committees.

As well as being an active volunteer and serving on multiple boards, she was a teacher, a Court Appointed Special Advocate in the Juvenile Court and a former President of the Chicago Child Care Society (now Family Focus).

Judy and her late husband Philip D. Block III ("P.D."), a past chair of the Chicago History Museum and John G. Shedd Aquarium, were immensely popular civic leaders. Their daughter Margie Block Stineman and her husband Kevin Stineman are past Trustees and co-chairs of the Founders' Council. Their son Philip D. Block IV ("Flip") and his wife Susanna ("Susu") are Founders' Council members; Susu is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Field Museum Women's Board.

In 2019 at the Annual Field Museum Gala, Judy received the Marshall Field V Award for Distinguished Leadership, our highest recognition.



(Left) Left to Right: Judy Block, Donna La Pietra, Karen Gray-Krehbiel, Liz Martinez, and Laura Front at a Women's Board event for the exhibition *Art of the Motorcycle* in 1998.

(Below) Judy Block accepts the Marshall Field V Award at the Field Museum Gala in 2019.



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Cover: Bronze sword - Déri Museum, Hungary | Ádám Vágó. **Discovery:** Octopus Nursery - Schmidt Ocean Institute, ROV Manipulator and octopus - Schmidt Ocean Institute, Bronze sword unpacking - Field Museum, Scarab beetles - Field Museum, University of Chicago student - Dieter Isheim, Northwestern University, Leafcutter ant - Matthew Nelsen, Anderson Feijó - Jefferson Mikalauskas, Christina Friberg - Matthew Lobiondo, Inostrancevia - Matt Celeskey, Weevils - Bruno de Medeiros, Sophie Picq - Field Museum, Kingfisher - Richard Towell, Lauren Johnson - Field Museum. **Impact:** Spinosaurus illustration - Davide Bonadonna, Bronze helmet - Archaeological Museum, Tirana, Albania, Beatrix the Anaconda - Shedd Aquarium, Anaconda snake skin - Field Museum, Gathering space - Lauren Milkert, Bloodsuckers: Legends to Leeches - Kyle Flubacker Photography, Playlab - Kyle Flubacker Photography, ID day - Field Museum, Native pollinator garden - Field Museum, NASCAR STEAMFest - NASCAR, N.W. Harris Learning Collection Porcupine - Kyle Flubacker Photography, Kāhili standard - Field Museum. **Honor Roll:** Guests looking at model boat - Field Museum, Guests looking at diorama - Field Museum, Members Nights - Kyle Flubacker Photography, Parker Gentry award - Chung Liu, Rivian vehicle - Field Museum, EVOLVE - Kyle Flubacker Photography, Field Forward - Field Museum, Gala - Kyle Flubacker Photography, Sandy Mueller - Field Museum.

To view donors to the collections, Field Museum research associates, and Field Museum volunteers, visit the digital edition of this report at fieldmuseum.org/about/annual-reports.

(Opposite) This Bronze Age hoard was found in 1847 by a cowherd after heavy rain exposed the objects, which were lying on the surface of the ground. The original assemblage consisted of several kilograms of gold, but because the collection was looted, many objects ended up in private collections. A significant part, however, was confiscated by the Treasury of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Currently, the remaining objects are divided between the Hungarian National Museum and the National History Museum of Romania. The collection is reunited here for the first time. The hoard is believed to have been an ornament set worn and deposited by the local elite.





THANK YOU!

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