Thank You Natural History
Museum Docents.
Dear Friends,

I thought nothing could top the experience of opening *Fossil Mysteries* in the summer of 2006, but hold on to your hats because 2006–07 was an amazing year. I probably should say that it was an “ancient, authentic, amazing” year since we were caught up in the complex preparations for the opening of the *Dead Sea Scrolls* exhibition on June 29, 2007, just as the fiscal year was winding down. The exhibition opened to an astonishing rush of media coverage and enthusiastic crowds. As most of this exhibition run will occur during 2007–08, I will report on the overall numbers of visitors in next year’s report, but the story of the exhibition preparations is contained herein.

A real home run for the Education Department was the *Global Climate Change: Perspectives and Solutions* lecture series presented under the Climate Smart Initiative. The seven speakers addressing a packed theater plus simulcast to additional crowds in the Sefton Atrium convinced us that we needed to place these lectures with accompanying slide shows on our website. You can already see that technology on our website, and it will continue for the next Global Climate Change lecture series.

This has been a great year for our Museum scientists, who have published a total of 66 manuscripts, making it one of our most productive years ever. Be sure to take a look at the breadth of topics being explored. This year, hundreds of volunteers involved in biological atlases and other volunteer-based research projects continued our well-earned reputation as a leader in citizen science and community-based collaborative research.

Finally, none of the work you see in the following pages would have been possible without the generosity of our donors. This year we received over 1000 gifts, a record for the Museum. Gifts, grants, and contracts supported not only the work within the Museum’s walls, but also field work and cross-border education programs. To these contributors we are deeply grateful.

Best wishes,

Michael W. Hager, Ph.D.
President and CEO
Museum by the Numbers

Membership saw a spike in July 2006: 500 new members joined (as compared to 96 in July 2005). This is due to the tremendous popularity of Fossil Mysteries, the permanent exhibition that opened July 1, 2006.

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<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>2005–06</th>
<th>2006–07</th>
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<tr>
<td>New Members</td>
<td>1,254</td>
<td>3,264</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Members</td>
<td>5,112</td>
<td>7,358</td>
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Donors
Fiscal year 2005–2006
638
Fiscal year 2006–2007
818

Attendance (not including special events or public programs)
Fiscal year 2005–2006
246,350
Fiscal year 2006–2007
314,802

After the opening of Fossil Mysteries, attendance in July 2006 was 36,063. This compares to 27,203 in July 2005. During the last two days of the fiscal year, the Museum experienced record attendance—over 5000—thanks to Dead Sea Scrolls, which opened on June 29, 2007.

Volunteer hours
Volunteers served 51,767 hours at the San Diego Natural History Museum, equal to almost 25 full-time staff members! These volunteers extended the Museum’s reach by educating school children, interpreting exhibitions, organizing collections, and much more.

Specimens added to the Scientific Collection
- 475 new bird specimens
- 120 new mammal specimens
- 8164 new plant specimens
- 86,277 new fossil specimens
- 956 new reptile and amphibian specimens
- 1800 new insect specimens

On March 29, 2007, the Museum staff rallied in the Sefton Atrium to congratulate the McGlothlin family. Unbeknownst to the family, the McGlothlins represented the $1 million admission sale of the year. The Museum awarded this family of seven a special membership package. This was the first time that admission sales had ever reached $1 million in a fiscal year—and it happened in the 9th month. George Brooks-Gonyer (Vice President, CFO and COO), Eowyn Bates (Director of Annual Fund and Membership Programs) and Joanne Furer (Visitor Services Manager) flank the family.

Museum visitors in Fossil Mysteries on the first Free Tuesday after Fossil Mysteries opened.
The Museum is filling in its own shoes and the building’s expanded footprint. With the success of the permanent exhibition *Fossil Mysteries* and collaborations on national projects, the Museum launched itself onto the national scene. Scientists and artists from around the world were enlisted to work in partnership with SDNHM experts to create *Fossil Mysteries*. As the first part of the permanent exhibitions plan, *Fossil Mysteries* set the bar high for future exhibitions.

Recognized for their expertise, Museum staff members were solicited to collaborate on national exhibitions this past year. Dr. Bradford Hollingsworth, Curator of Herpetology, worked in partnership with the American Museum of Natural History and Fernbank Museum of Natural History to develop *Lizards & Snakes: Alive*, an exhibition that will travel to SDNHM in 2010. Museum Provost Dr. Exequiel Ezcurra was recruited to consult on *Water*, an exhibition that explores our most precious resource. *Water* comes to the Museum in the summer of 2008. Drs. Hollingsworth and Ezcurra will respectively serve as curators for the exhibitions in San Diego.

Exhibitions

**Dead Sea Scrolls**

“I do believe this is indeed one of our best Dead Sea Scrolls exhibitions.” Coming from Pnina Shor, head of the Department for the Treatment and Conservation of Artifacts at the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA), the government agency that cares for the majority of the scrolls, this statement means a lot.

Echoing Shor’s sentiment, Dead Sea Scrolls scholar Dr. Shalom Paul, who has lectured at exhibitions around the country, calls *Dead Sea Scrolls* “...a magnificent exhibition expertly designed and presented which contains more scrolls than ever have been at any other exhibition, including a remarkable co-existence of Israeli and Jordanian scrolls. A must-see for all who are interested in the Hebrew Bible, early Judaism and early Christianity.”

“The best Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition” reflects three years of planning and one year of design and development carefully and daringly undertaken by the San Diego Natural History Museum. From the inception of the idea, the Museum’s aim has been to approach...
This exhibition marks the first time these scrolls have reunited since they changed hands during the Six Day War in 1967.

Having a curator in place helped the Museum’s bid for other important manuscripts from other museums, libraries, government organizations, and universities. In addition to 24 scrolls from Israel, the Department of Antiquities of Jordan agreed to lend the Museum three Dead Sea Scrolls including the Copper Scroll (the only Dead Sea Scroll written on copper). This exhibition marks the first time these scrolls have reunited since they changed hands during the Six Day War in 1967.

Dead Sea Scrolls also features rarely seen and little-studied ancient Hebrew codices from the National Library of Russia, medieval manuscripts from the British National Library, and stunning modern hand-scribed texts and art. Tracing the words in the scrolls through time and different cultures, the exhibition connects the ancient world to the modern.

Nancy Owens Renner, Exhibit Developer, speaks about the forming of a “story” for the exhibition: “We know that people will come here to see the authentic objects, so making the exhibit started there. We know that meaningful exhibitions give visitors a different perspective, perhaps about something they are already familiar with. Such exhibitions make people connect and empathize with others, and transport visitors to other times and places. We tried to hit all those criteria, while offering a variety of ways for our visitors to engage with the content.”

“This exhibition is an integration of the big picture and the little details. A successful exhibition works on multiple levels: it should be understandable at first glance, and also be rich enough to explore in depth,” says Owens Renner.

The scroll room feels like a quiet inner sanctuary—the curved indigo walls lead visitors onward in their exploration. While the first section of the exhibition, Journey to the Dead Sea, features more vibrant colors and sounds, muting the scroll room allowed the scrolls to shine. Duke Windsor, Exhibit Designer, says, “We want people to notice objects more than the walls, for the installation not to be overpowering. There’s a lot of information to soak up in a certain period of time. Visually, the ambition is to create surroundings that complement what you see rather than steal the show… to create an experience that is sharply focused but not imposing.”

Michael Field, Senior Exhibit Designer, helped create that environment. An expert in exhibition lighting and design, he says, “Must of the effort is spent on things you don’t see.” As part of the agreement to exhibit the scrolls, designers had to accommodate exacting temperature, humidity, and lighting requirements. As a result, after much experimentation, each scroll case has its own air-conditioning unit and light exposure is monitored hourly.

When it came to installing the exhibition, Tim Murray, Director of Exhibitions, employed the expertise of Director of the Research Library Margaret Dykens and former Curator of Collections Paisley Caro, Ph.D. The handling of the delicate Dead Sea Scrolls was left to the IAA, but Dykens’ familiarity with rare-book handling was put into practice while installing precious manuscripts from Russia, Ethiopia, and even San Diego. Dykens describes the experience: “Meeting the curators who came with their precious, irreplaceable objects from around the world—Jordan, Russia, England, and Israel—gave me a new personalized view of the exhibition; these were not merely objects of great antiquity, but objects intimately connected with people, people who care passionately about them and their historical and cultural significance.”

“Working together to coordinate the safe transport, receipt, and installation of so many irreplaceable antiquities was definitely nerve-wracking and challenging, but very exciting also. I remember Risa turning to the group at one point when we were preparing to unpack another crate and saying, This is like Christmas morning, but even better!”

On Friday, June 29, the exhibition opened to more than 1800 people. The numbers for opening weekend shot up to 3100 per day. Not a bad way to end one fiscal year and start another!
Citizen Science

“Citizen Scientist” is the new turn of phrase ascribed to volunteers, with or without scientific backgrounds, who contribute to scientific research. These people actively produce tangible, relevant, and important research. While the term may be new, researchers at the Biodiversity Research Center of the Californias (BRCRC) have welcomed citizen science for 133 years.

Dr. Thomas Deméré, Curator of Paleontology and Director of PaleoServices, explains, “As a natural history museum we serve a unique, two-way purpose. We distill knowledge and deliver it to the general public. On the other hand, we invite scientists. Each one is credited in the atlases. Some of the Museum’s more prominent citizen science research projects are the Entomology Atlas already. The Museum’s Botany Department staff has trained over 550 “parabotanists” for the Plant Atlas project. While the Bird Atlas, spearheaded by Curator Philip Unitt, is based on data collected by Unitt and over 400 volunteers who devoted some 55,000 hours to observation and record keeping. The massive amount of data collection, covering all of San Diego County, would never have been possible without this active group of citizen scientists. Each one is credited in the San Diego County Bird Atlas.

“We are undertaking incredibly important research,” says Curator of Entomology Dr. Jon Rebman. “Right now, if someone asked ‘What areas in San Diego County are the richest in biodiversity?’ no one would have an answer to that critical question, which could affect land-use decisions, habitat health, and myriad other things. We need to know the basic, fundamental information—the ‘what’—in order to be able to evaluate change due to climate, habitat destruction, and more. That’s the ‘when, where, why, how’.”

The Museum’s Botany Department has an active group of “parabotanists” for the Plant Atlas project. While the Bird Atlas was an enormous effort (there are approximately 500 species of birds in San Diego County), the Plant Atlas exceeds it: there are 2400 plant taxa, 600 non-native weeds alone! Volunteer Mary Ann Brooks-Gonyer’s collection area is north of Escondido. After six months of training and practice, she could identify 70% of the specimens she collected. Brooks-Gonyer’s contributions to the herbarium will serve the botanists of the next century, right alongside the specimens collected in the 1800s.

Over 200 new records and one completely new subspecies of fern have been discovered through the Plant Atlas already. Dick Schwenkmeyer got involved with the Museum when he was in his early teens—he was a member of “The Specialists Club,” a group of high school students interested in science created by Charles “Harbie” Harbison, the Curator of Entomology at the time. “To me, science is about seeking and discovering fundamental truths to explain Earth’s natural wonders, through observation, curiosity, research, and enthusiasm for learning,” says Schwenkmeyer. “I developed interest in science while roaming local canyons as a kid and by attending classes at the San Diego Natural History Museum under the tutelage of Harbie.” Schwenkmeyer shared this love of San Diego’s natural world with high school and college students in 22 years of teaching, infecting more than 2200 with the “biology bug.” He continues to volunteer for Dr. Bradford Hollingsworth, Curator of Herpetology. As voracious enthusiasts for life, eager to share that enthusiasm, perhaps biologists are predisposed to accept and benefit from citizen science. In so doing, they enable ordinary citizens in our community to enrich their personal scientific knowledge while becoming active and committed stakeholders in local conservation issues.
In June 2007, Museum paleontologists discovered a mastodon in Carlsbad. Only the second mastodon found in San Diego County, this animal lived 120,000 to 220,000 years ago. Here Maggie Carrino cleans the fossil remains.

This year Dr. Exequiel Ezcurra, Provost and Director of BRCC, served as a Juror for the Volkswagen Conservation Award; acted as an external advisor for the ALCOA Foundation’s Conservation and Sustainability Fellowship Program; and accepted the national Peacemaker Award, along with Dr. Michael Hager, for efforts that gained UNESCO World Heritage Site status for the Sea of Cortés.

Curator of Entomology Dr. Michael Wall has described 24 new species this year—no small feat.

May 2007 marked Dick Schwenkmeyer’s 60th year volunteering with the Museum. He is dedicated to the renovation of the amphibian and reptile collection, caring for the collection he helped build. Here he is examining SDSNH 38310, a Crotophytus vestigium (Baja California Collared Lizard)—the same specimen, in fact, that he collected in May 1947! His dedication has helped build the Museum’s herpetological collection, used by scientists from all over the world.

Professional support for BRCC given by individuals appointed to Emeritus positions or to two-year volunteer positions as Research Associates, Departmental Associates, or Field Associates:

Birds and Mammals
Ms. Suzanne Bond
Ms. Susan Arter
Dr. James E. Diffendorfer
Dr. Eric Mellink
Dr. Michael A. Patten
Dr. Matt Rahn
Dr. Amadeo M. Rea
Dr. Wayne D. Spencer

Botany
Dr. Reid Moran
Dr. Anne Fege
Dr. José Luis León de la Luz
Dr. Michael S. Mayer
Dr. José Delgadillo Rodríguez
Dr. Michael G. Simpson
Ms. Jim Dice
Mr. Roderick Bossey
Ms. Annette Winner
Ms. Suzanne Bell
Mr. Larry Hendrickson
Ms. Jerilyn Hirshberg
Mr. Andrew Pigniolo
Dr. Robert C. Vinton

Entomology
Dr. John Brown
Dr. Robert C. Ogdenlish
Mr. David K. Faulkner
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Dr. Tomas M. Mustelini
Ms. Jim Berrigan
Mr. Ron McPeak
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Dr. Charles Cumuly
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Library
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Marine Invertebrates
Dr. Joel Martin
Mrs. Carole M. Hertz
Mr. Larry Lovett
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Mineralogy
Dr. Mike Walawender
Ms. Pamela Bruder

Paleontology
Dr. David Archibald
Dr. Annalisa Bertta
Dr. Michelangelo Bisconti
Dr. Robert M. Chandler
Dr. Paul Murphey
Dr. Donald R. Prothero
Dr. Hugh Wagner
Ms. Pat DonVito

Research Librarian Margaret Dykens and Collections Care Assistant Wendy Strohmeyer unpack the donation by Karen Clements of over 700 valuable ornithology and scientific books from the private collection of the late Dr. James F. Clements, long-time Museum trustee emeritus.
Education

Climate Smart Initiative

Global Climate Change: Perspectives and Solutions, a popular Museum lecture series, won 1st place in the San Diego’s Climate Champions Awards. Supported by the Hattie Ettinger Conservation Fund, the H. William Kuni Fund, Eleanor and Jerry Navarra, and the Mission Valley Rotary Club, this series addressed the issues that climate change presents on a global and local scale. Over 2800 people attended these free lectures. Lecturers included Dr. Jonathan Overpeck of the University of Arizona; Dr. Mark Thiemens of University of California, San Diego (also a member of the Museum’s Board of Directors); Ron Sims, County Executive of King County, Washington; and Dr. Michael Oppenheimer of Princeton University who is a lead author of the most recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Global Climate Change: Perspectives and Solutions is part of the Museum’s contribution to Climate Smart, an initiative that raises public awareness about the local implications of climate change and catalyzes regional action on global warming. Along with SDNHM, The San Diego Foundation, Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, San Diego Regional Energy Office, and the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center bring together philanthropy, research, public education, and financial incentives to spur government, business, and individuals to slow global warming.

In addition to the lecture series, the Museum screened HBO’s Too Hot Not to Handle and Academy Award-winner An Inconvenient Truth.

Venturing into the field of professional education, the Museum offered a workshop for real estate, construction, and insurance professionals on protecting homes and property from wildfires. Participants received Continuing Education Units. Here Cliff Hunter, Chief of the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District, speaks at one of the seminars which were held throughout the County.

Dave Massey joined the Museum as Director of Education in April 2007. After a career in public education, he brings with him a wealth of experience and connections within the science and environmental-education realms.

Over 3200 children enjoyed Ms. Frizzle’s™ free magical science performances on Sundays this year. Ms. Frizzle also does school assemblies and children’s workshops.

Beautify Nature Walks, a new program this year, uses student volunteers to clean up Balboa Park and nearby Florida Canyon. Museum Canyoneers—trained volunteer naturalists who lead hikes for the public—take these volunteers on mini-nature tours as they clean up the environment.

This year, 5637 students came to the Museum free of charge thanks to the Museum Access Fund, which is supported by our Natural Partners, foundations, and individual donors.

Nature, Mommy, and Me is a storytime in exhibition areas for budding naturalists. Held every second Thursday, it is free with Museum admission.
Volunteer Officers

Canyoneers
Anne McCammon, President
Suzanne Bond, Vice President

The Covey
Betsy Olsen, Co-President
Ellen Smothers, Co-President

Docents
Georganne Hoorst, President
Betty Ball, Co-Vice President

Elizabeth Smith, Co-Vice President

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Superintendent of Schools, San Diego County (Retired)
The San Diego Society of Natural History
Statement of Activities Year Ended June 30, 2007

Notes to Audited Financial Statements

1. The above audited financial statements are prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principals (GAAP) for the years ended June 30, 2007 and 2006. GAAP sets a standard of reporting which we must follow; however, GAAP reporting may not always be the best way to understand our results because it is detached from the multi-year nature of our significant projects.

2. Included in the results for 2007 and 2006 is $1.5 million and $1.4 million respectively of "depreciation expense." Depreciation is a non-cash expense that primarily amortizes the cost of the building addition. We do not write out a check for this amount, yet it is reflected as an annual expense in our audited results. Excluding the non-cash depreciation expense noted above, the Museum incurred deficits of $942,450 and $276,610 in 2007 and 2006 respectively. Both of these deficits were planned and were primarily due to the timing of two major exhibits. In 2007, the Museum was preparing for the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition which opened on June 29, 2007. The Museum incurred approximately $3.7 million of expenses prior to the opening. We expect this exhibit to be a great success. However, most of the revenue will not be realized for GAAP reporting until next year.

In 2006, the Museum incurred approximately $4 million of expenses related to the installation of the Fossil Mysteries exhibit which opened in July 2006. These expenditures were funded by contributions received in a prior year and grants. This great exhibit will benefit the Museum for years to come.

3. Program Expenses: In 2007, our program expenditures constituted 79% of all our spending. Generally, any ratio 75% or above is considered to be excellent in judging the efficiency of delivery of our programs. Our ratio is truly outstanding.

Thus, based on all of the above, we are very pleased and proud of our results for the past two years.

Development

In the lists that follow, the Museum has tried to accurately identify all the individuals, corporations, foundations, government agencies, and other organizations whose donations made it possible to offer a wide range of educational programs, carry out environmentally sensitive research and create enjoyable visitor experiences. Five donors are highlighted to provide a sense of what drives their generosity. Several made key gifts to the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition. Their donations made it possible for the San Diego Natural History Museum to develop and host an exhibition that drew rave reviews when it opened and continues to delight visitors and break attendance records.

In the past three years, the number of gifts, the number of members, and the number of President’s Circle members have all steadily increased.

Gifts and grants allowed 5637 school children to visit the Museum through the Museum Access Fund; provided funding for the Fossil Mysteries Teacher Guide; enabled Ms. Frizzle™ to visit each Sunday; underwrote research projects, including two on-going, county-wide aftas; supported the wildly popular Global Climate Change lecture series; and funded the development of the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition.

The San Diego Natural History Museum is grateful for the support of all its investors.

Dear Friends of the Museum,

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for paying for our second grade students to enter your museum at no charge. Most of the students in my class had not ever been to a museum! […] Our students will never forget their field trip to see the real fossils. [The fossils] were even more special because they were from our local area, not from a traveling exhibit from a far away place.

Sincerely,

Madeline Antreras, De Anza Elementary School
Dead Sea Scrolls Donors

The exhibition Dead Sea Scrolls was made possible through generous private and public support. We are most grateful for the vision, leadership, and generosity of these major donors and all who participated.

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Carol Wilson, a volunteer for 12 years, is unique because she is active in the Museum both on an administrative level and in very hands-on ways. She began borrowing specimens from the Nature to You Loan Library in the 1990s, a role she depended on in her teaching days. Carol co-leads the intensive six-month Docent training program and has trained more than 50 Museum Docents. This year, Carol joined the Museum’s Board of Directors and sits on the public programs committee. “Now I see the Museum from a different vantage, and I’m glad to be serving in a new capacity.”

In addition to being a Docent, a Docent officer, and a board member, Carol and her husband, Dennis, have been President’s Circle members for 11 years. “Dennis grew up here and spent a lot of time in the Museum—he even took classes with Dick Schwenkmeyer (see page 10). We feel a deep connection to the Museum. Permanent exhibitions are especially important to us—we want to see the Museum’s plan for full representation of regional habitats finished in our lifetime.”

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As a presenting sponsor of Dead Sea Scrolls, the Barona Band of Mission Indians underwrote two major elements of Dead Sea Scrolls—the opening gallery, Journey to the Dead Sea, and the audio tour. Previously, the Museum featured items on loan from the Barona Tribal Museum in the Earth, Wind & WILDFIRE exhibition. Respect for the land and all that inhabit it are common themes for both organizations.

Rhonda Welch-Scalco, Chairwoman of Barona Band of Mission Indians explains, "We believe that this will be one of the most unforgettable and enriching exhibitions ever to reach our city. As a long-time supporter of cultural and arts programs, Barona is extremely honored to have the opportunity to help share this important piece of history with the San Diego community. We applaud the San Diego Natural History Museum and all the other museums and attractions in Balboa Park for providing our community with such an exciting and ongoing lesson in history, science, nature, and culture."

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To interpret the natural world through research, education and exhibits; to promote understanding of the evolution and diversity of southern California and the peninsula of Baja California; and to inspire in all a respect for nature and the environment.

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