

THE MOST IMPORTANT FOSSIL EVER DISCOVERED



FIELD MUSEUM — 2024 ANNUAL REPORT TO DONORS

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share with you the 2024 Annual Report to Donors. The year's wonderful opportunities for the Field Museum and our visitors, scientists, and educators were due in great part to the investment of donors like you. Thank you for your steadfast support.

In 2024, the Field Museum unveiled "the Chicago *Archaeopteryx*," one of only 14 known specimens in the world and described by curator Dr. Jingmai O'Connor as "the most important fossil of all time." The Museum acquired this fascinating specimen in 2022 thanks to the generosity of Trustee Mark Walter and his wife Kimbra, as well as an anonymous major donor and several others. Demonstrating the evolutionary link between dinosaurs and birds, *Archaeopteryx* represents an exceptional opportunity for Field scientists and visitors alike. Dr. O'Connor has garnered global attention for new scholarship in recent months, and the *Archaeopteryx* forms a vital chapter of the story told in our *Griffin Halls of Evolving Planet*.

Philanthropic investment fuels discovery. Last year, our long-time corporate partner ITW, through its subsidiary North Star Imaging, made the tremendous gift of two XCT scanners. The Field is only the second natural history museum in the world to have such technology on-site. Previously, our scientists sought unused capacity in less powerful machines at local hospitals or traveled considerable distances, (the Chicago *Archaeopteryx*, for instance, was initially scanned at the University of Texas at Austin.) These instruments transform the precision and pace of scientific analysis, accelerating our research impact immeasurably. We are deeply grateful to Field Trustee and ITW President & CEO Chris O'Herlihy for championing this historic gift to Museum science.

"The Field Museum will move as the world moves, forever keeping abreast of the times and the changes which they bring."

—Stanley Field, President of the Field Museum (1908–1962)

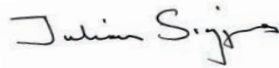
Across the initiatives of our Strategic Plan, we are making progress towards establishing the Field as the world's pre-eminent natural history museum experience. Doing so will expand the influence of our traditional strengths in collections, research, environmental conservation, and public learning. The work of broadening access to science learning in our community and for Chicago schoolchildren has already begun with the dedication of the Sue Ling Gin Center for Education and Public Programs. New signature experiences to come will include fully reimagined halls of Africa and Ancient Egypt and a transformative family learning facility as part of a comprehensive focus on transforming our visitor experience, while digital innovation and broader vectors of community engagement will expand our reach beyond the physical Museum.

In Chicago, the most ambitious plans inspire philanthropic partnership. For the role you have played in connecting all of us to the natural world and the human story, we are immensely grateful.

Sincerely,



Siddharth (Bobby) Mehta
Board Chair



Julian Siggers, PhD
President and CEO





02
discovery

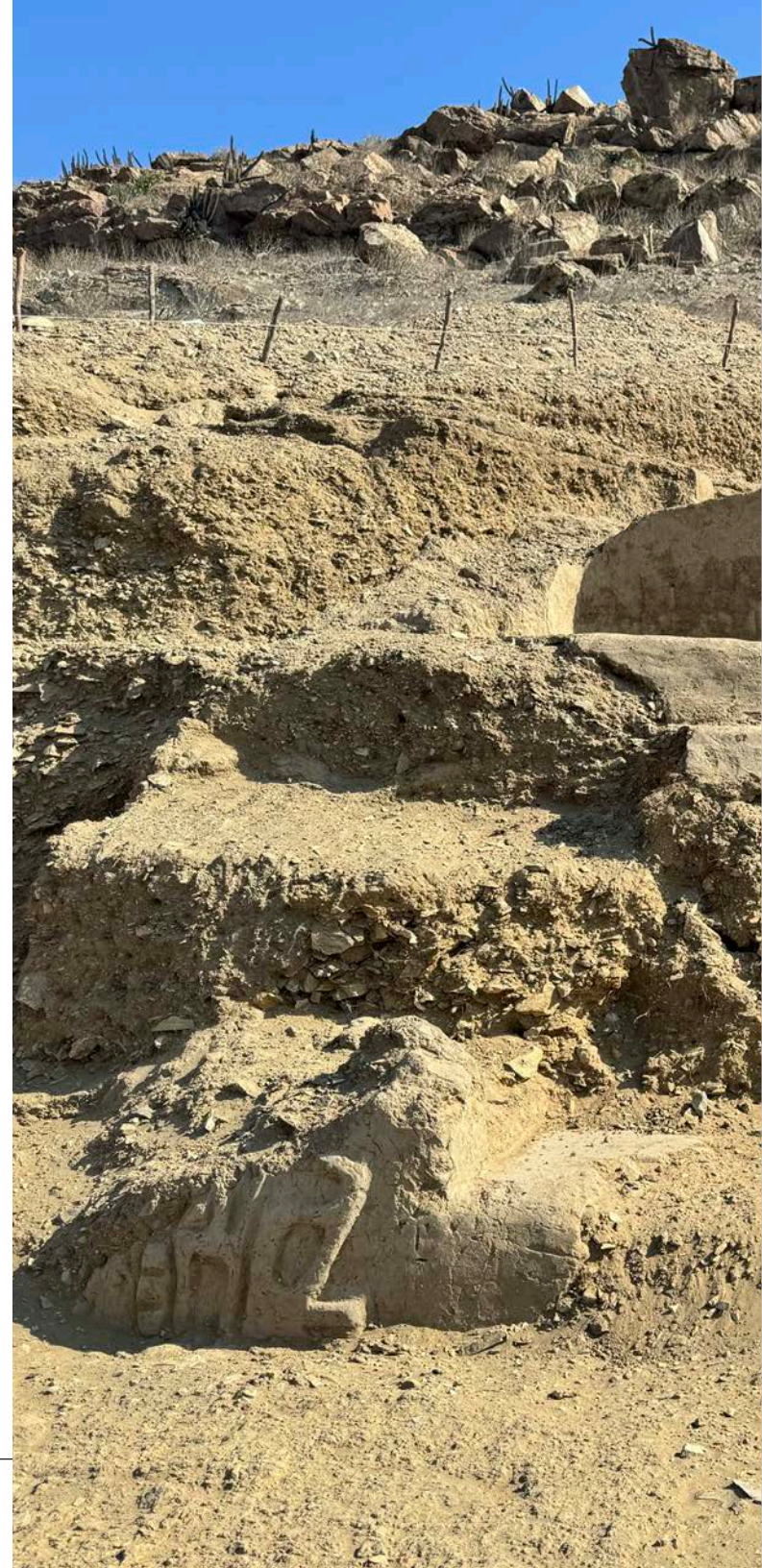
10
impact

20
honor roll

(On the cover) Digital rendering of what Archaeopteryx may have looked like when it was alive.

(Left) A video mural on display in the permanent Chicago Archaeopteryx gallery, showing a flock of Archaeopteryx interacting in a Jurassic landscape.

Your support enables
150 Field Museum scientists
to lead **discovery** in a global
scientific community,
inspire learners of all
ages, and care for a
collection of 40 million
objects and specimens.





(Left) Adobe slab decorated with high-relief designs showing a mythological hybrid creature. Its body is composed of human, bird, and reptile-like attributes. This creature decorated what was once the facade of an Initial Period Temple (BCE 2000–500) in the Zaña Valley, Northern Peru.

Archaeologists Uncover an Ancient Andean Temple

A team of archaeologists, led by Field Museum research scientist Luis Muro Ynoñán, PhD, has unearthed what appears to be a four-thousand-year-old temple and theater in coastal Peru. Their research centers around the mostly unknown archaeological site of Cerro Las Ánimas, La Otra Banda located a few kilometers away from the old colonial town of Zaña. While conducting excavations in the western and northern areas of the site, they discovered that this area had been occupied for a long period of time during Andean prehistory. The team discovered evidence of what appears to be a 4,000 year old religious complex whose walls were decorated with carved designs and frescos. Within it, they found a small theater-like structure featuring a staircase leading to a stage and backrooms for preparation of acts. The complexity of the architectural layout of this temple and its decorations provides new insights into the origin of institutionalized religious practices in this part of the world.

18,000+

CITATIONS OF FIELD MUSEUM
RESEARCH BY OTHER SCIENTISTS

222

JOURNAL ARTICLES
PUBLISHED BY FIELD
MUSEUM SCIENTISTS

157

INTERNS SUPERVISED
BY MUSEUM SCIENTISTS
AND EDUCATORS



(Above) The flight feathers
of Temminck's Lark
(*Eremophila bilopha*).

New Rules for Flight Feathers

In a new study in the journal PNAS, scientists examined hundreds of birds in museum collections and discovered a suite of feather characteristics that all flying birds—including early birds and dinosaurs—have in common. These “rules” provide clues as to how the dinosaur ancestors of modern birds first evolved the ability to fly, and which dinosaurs were capable of flight. Associate Curator of Fossil Reptiles Jingmai O'Connor, PhD, the lead scientist studying *Archaeopteryx*, and Yosef Kiat, PhD, a Field Museum Bass Postdoctoral Researcher and ornithologist, collaborated to examine clues about dinosaur flight. Kiat studied the feathers and wings of 346 preserved bird species from museums worldwide and found many clues about flight in birds including that all flying birds have between 9 and 11 asymmetrical primary feathers, or the feathers toward the tip of the wing. With this information, O'Connor and Kiat were able to look at several fossil birds and determine the likelihood that they were able to fly.

Grapes Tell a Tale of Extinction and Survival

A groundbreaking study by Negaunee Associate Curator of Paleobotany Fabiany Herrera, PhD, reveals nine newly discovered fossils of grape seeds from approximately 60 to 19 million years ago in Colombia, Panama, and Peru. One of the species of seeds represents the earliest known example of plants from the grape family in the Western Hemisphere and are slightly younger in age than the oldest known fossil grapes—which were found in India and date to 66 million years ago. From these specimens, scientists can link the spread of grapes across the world to the changing environments left behind by the mass extinction event that led to the end of the dinosaurs. As forests became more dense in response to a lack of megafauna trampling through groves and toppling trees, climbing plants like grapes thrived.

(Below) Fabiany Herrera at the fossil plant locality, holding the newly-discovered earliest grape from the Western Hemisphere.



(Left) Sara Ruane, PhD, and postdoctoral student Fandresena Rakotoarimalala in Ranomafana, Madagascar with a tree boa.

Genomic-Scale Research for Malagasy Boas Underway

In 2024, Sara Ruane, PhD, Women's Board Associate Curator of Herpetology and Director of Core Laboratories, traveled twice to Madagascar to collect DNA samples from Malagasy ground boas (*Acrantophis*) and tree boas (*Sanzinia*). These large, endemic boas have never been examined using modern genomic-level methods to better understand their distributions, diversity, and biogeography. Thanks to generous funding from longtime supporters and Founders' Council members Mary and Bruce Feay, Ruane and colleagues at the University of Antananarivo successfully collected more than 40 boas from regions across the island, with the first shipment of DNA samples brought back to the United States. Additional fieldwork in Madagascar and sequencing of whole genomes for each species is planned for 2025.

150+

ONGOING RESEARCH
PROJECTS

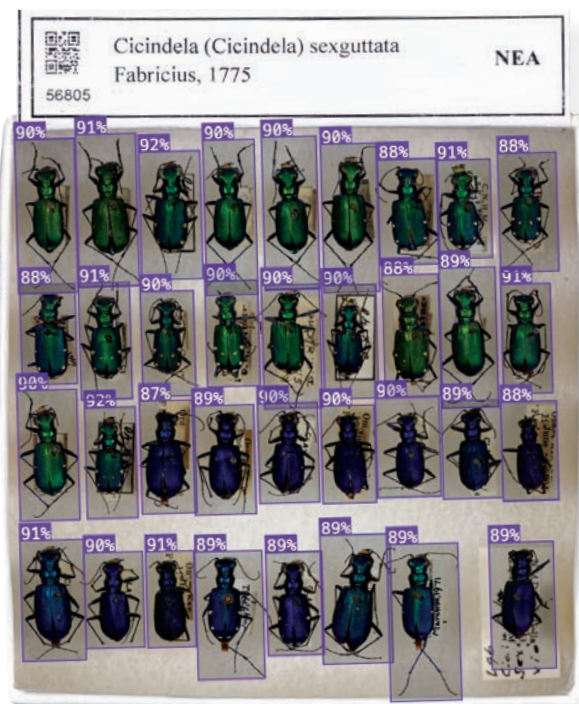
85

GRADUATE STUDENTS
WORKING WITH FIELD
SCIENTISTS

23

POSTDOCTORAL
RESEARCHERS MENTORED





(Far left) A high-resolution image of a single tiger beetle (family: Cicindelidae), cropped from a photograph of an entire insect drawer.

(Left) Computer vision AI models can be trained to detect all the insects in an image. This allows researchers to split up photographs of entire drawers of insects into separate photos of each specimen, which are useful for research, curation, and remote collaboration.



Welcoming New Curator Arjan Mann, PhD

Arjan Mann, PhD, joined the Field in June as the Assistant Curator of Early Tetrapods. Mann studied Devonian fossil fishes from Ontario while pursuing his Master's Degree at the University of Toronto, and received his PhD from Carleton University. Before coming to the Field, he was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C. Mann has a particular passion for the Mazon Creek assemblage, from which the Field Museum has the best collection in the world. He is eager to dive into this collection, envisioning new fieldwork projects and new species yet to be discovered.

Artificial Intelligence in the Collections

The Field Museum collection contains millions of specimens, showcasing the extraordinary diversity of life on Earth over 4.5 billion years. Curating and gathering data from so many specimens is a longstanding challenge. This past spring, Negaunee Assistant Curator of Insects Bruno de Medeiros, PhD, and Negaunee Post Doctoral Researcher Elizabeth Postema, PhD, developed a pipeline driven by artificial intelligence to quickly study insect shapes and colors. They used a new automated rig to scan drawers of pinned insects at high resolution. Next, the AI program found insects in these photographs, extracts morphological traits, and transcribes label text. With an amazing team of interns, over 10,000 insects were photographed and processed in just a few weeks. Digitizing the collections is incredibly important work for researchers at the Museum and around the world. With this data made widely available, global research can be accelerated as it greatly reduces the need for loaning specimens.



Mellon Foundation Grant Brings Talented Young Scientists to the Field

With a generous grant from the Mellon Foundation, the Gantz Family Collections Center welcomed Eiza Capton, Taylor Hummel, Jada Whiterock, and Jasmine Eleck as the new Early Career Fellows for Native Anthropology. The fellowship is for recent college graduates with lived Native American cultural experience pursuing careers in museum collections management, registration, conservation, or curation.


Eiza (not shown) is an enrolled member of the Cayuga Nation and belongs to the Wolf Clan. She graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Syracuse University in 2024 and joined the Field Museum in October.

Taylor (far left) is a citizen of the Tuscarora Nation and belongs to the Bear Clan. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Dartmouth College and graduated with a Masters in Library and Information Systems from San José State University.

Jada (top left) grew up on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona before moving to Kansas. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Art History in 2023 from Wichita State University.

Jasmine (bottom left) earned her Bachelor of Arts in History from Centre College. She is a citizen of the Yurok tribe and a lineal descendant of the Wailaki, Nomlaki, Konkow, Pit River, and Pomo tribes in Northern California.

The Mellon fellowship allows awardees to work directly on conservation and care of the Museum's Native American collections and to collaborate with conservators, collections managers, and Native community members.

A close-up photograph of Anderson Feijó, a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a blue jacket and a grey cap. He is holding a small, brown, furry animal (a plateau pika) in his hands. The background is a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds and a grassy field.

Anderson Feijó, PhD,
holding a plateau
pika that he studied
while working in
China in 2021.

“Since 2017, I have worked with scientists and students from the Chinese Academy of Sciences to better understand how these animals survive at such extreme altitudes and learn about their climate resilience.”

ANDERSON FEIJÓ, PHD

Living on the Roof of the World

Pikas (*genus Ochotona*) are small mammals closely related to rabbits and hares. They can live at altitudes up to 20,000 feet in the Tibetan Plateau, also known as the “roof of the world.” They have low tolerance of warm temperatures, which makes them excellent for studying the effects of climate change on wildlife. Assistant Curator of Mammals Anderson Feijó, PhD, has studied pikas and their genes since 2017 to detect how they have adapted to their distinct environments. In his findings, Feijó has found that high-altitude pikas are better at using oxygen in limited environments, have advanced immune systems, and have better cell repair regulation, which protects them from the inflammation and tissue damage caused by the high UV exposure of extreme elevation.

The Field Museum connects all of us to the natural world and the human story. Exhibitions, community outreach, and educational programs combine to create an **impact** on our visitors and the next generation of scientists.





Archaeopteryx Lands in Chicago

In 2022, the Field Museum acquired an *Archaeopteryx*, or “ancient wing,” the incredibly rare specimen that links dinosaurs to modern birds. Only 14 *Archaeopteryx* specimens have been found, and most of them are in European museums. The only other specimen in the Western Hemisphere is in Thermopolis, WY. The Chicago *Archaeopteryx* arrived at the Field unprepared, providing an opportunity for the Museum’s fossil prep team to uncover invaluable details of the 100% complete specimen. The prep work uncovered more fossilized soft tissues than any other specimen, providing new insights into the biology of this important taxon.

In 2024, the Field unveiled a permanent exhibition around the Chicago *Archaeopteryx*. Complete with illustrations, a touchable replica, and a life-like 3D animation of *Archaeopteryx*, the exhibition lets visitors get up close with the earliest dinosaur that also qualifies as a bird. Introducing this “icon of evolution” to visitors secures the Museum’s position as a global center for dinosaurs.

Acquisition of the **Chicago Archaeopteryx** was made possible through the generosity of the Walter Family Foundation and a challenge grant from an anonymous donor.

Additional support provided by:

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Jessica and Steve Sarowitz

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Lauer Foundation for Paleontology, Science and Education, Bruce Lauer and René Lauer

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Corporate funding provided by:



ARCTERYX
CHICAGO

The Chicago *Archaeopteryx* is part of the *Griffin Dinosaur Experience*, made possible by the generous support of Kenneth C. Griffin.



(Top) Visitors have an opportunity to touch a cast replica of the Chicago *Archaeopteryx*.

(Left) The Chicago *Archaeopteryx* fossil after it was prepared for study and display by Field Museum preparators.

(Right) The Keller Science Action Center team was led by Mellon Senior Conservation Ecologist Nigel Pitman, PhD, with team members including Lead Conservation Scientist Lesley de Souza, PhD, Postdoctoral Scientist Sophie Picq, PhD, and Conservation Ecologist Cameron Rutt, PhD, along with Action Center Honorary Associates Ramiro Melinski, PhD, (ornithologist) and botanists Luis Torres, PhD, and Marcos Rios, PhD.

Field Museum Wins Second Place XPRIZE

Over the past five years, scientists from the Keller Science Action Center participated in the XPRIZE Rainforest competition—a groundbreaking challenge to determine who could most accurately assess rainforest biodiversity without physically being in the forests. The competition concluded in November, announcing its winners and bringing an end to a global challenge that drew nearly 40 teams from around the world.

A remarkable second place was awarded to the Map of Life Rapid Assessments team, composed of scientists from the Field Museum, Yale University, Rutgers University, and Brazil's Universidade Federal do Amazonas. Only six teams advanced to the finals, where they were challenged to accurately assess the biodiversity of a 250-acre section of rainforest during a 72-hour timeframe. The expedition showcased a groundbreaking model of high speed reporting with the team producing a comprehensive report and digital dashboard of their findings in just a few days. These remarkable outcomes are helping transform the Keller Center's data collection and reporting protocols.





(Left) Lesley de Souza, PhD, and Andrew George, PhD, use a seine net to catch specimens in the Kankakee River.

eDNA Collection in Amazon Rivers and Kankakee

Freshwater ecosystems are among the most threatened on the planet. Decline in biodiversity occurs at a faster rate in these ecosystems than scientists can document and study.

Environmental DNA (eDNA) is a tool to inventory biodiversity by taking advantage of organisms releasing DNA wherever they go. Scientists can filter, extract, amplify, and sequence DNA collected from water, soil, and air to get a snapshot in time of what lives in an area.

A team of aquatic Field Museum scientists including Lesley de Souza, PhD; Sophie Picq, PhD; and Caleb McMahan, PhD, recently published a study in the *Journal of Freshwater Ecology* using eDNA as a tool to document vertebrate diversity along the Kankakee River.

Using eDNA, Field scientists documented nearly 150 species in the Kankakee River (85 fishes, amphibians, and reptiles; 38 bird species; and 24 mammals). eDNA sampling detects more species of fish than previous methods and allows Field scientists to show variation of vertebrate communities among different habitats. Information like this can be incredibly important for conservation. Field scientists already have several ongoing eDNA collaborative studies and look forward to sharing results.

“We are excited for the promising use of this tool to inventory aquatic biodiversity, from relic lakes in Mexico to biodiversity hotspots in the Amazon.”

SOPHIE PICQ, PHD
eDNA RESEARCH SCIENTIST

3,157

COMMUNITY MEMBERS
ENGAGED IN KELLER
SCIENCE ACTION CENTER
CONSERVATION WORK IN
THE CHICAGO REGION

2,089

NATIVE PLANTS DISTRIBUTED
TO COMMUNITY GARDENS
IN CHICAGOLAND BY FIELD
CONSERVATION SCIENTISTS

11,352

YOUTH ENGAGED IN FAMILY-
CENTERED ENVIRONMENTAL
LEARNING PROGRAMS

Visitors explore deep sea animals in Unseen Oceans.



“This exhibition focused on extremes of size, from tiny plankton to huge whales. It’s amazing to see how life thrives on the ocean floor in a variety of ways you wouldn’t expect.”

MARIE GEORG
SENIOR EXHIBITION DEVELOPER

Unseen Oceans Dove into the Deep Sea

In 2024, visitors explored the mysterious, rarely-seen world hidden beneath the ocean’s surface. An interactive submersible game let them pilot through the depths and experience the creatures that live at the bottom of the oceans. Guests discovered glow-in-the-dark sea creatures and got up close to live ocean animals. The exhibition also featured research by the Field’s own deep sea expert, Curator Emeritus Janet Voight, PhD, on wood-boring clams and cephalopods.

Unseen Oceans is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York.

**American Museum
of Natural History**

Field Museum Major Sponsor:



Cats: Predators to Pets

What does a tabby cat have in common with a mountain lion? Why can cats leap to astonishing heights and survive dramatic falls? How did cats become our pets, and why do they purr? Visitors pounced into the world of felines in *Cats: Predators to Pets* and uncovered their extraordinary secrets.

Throughout the run of *Cats*, the Field Museum partnered with exhibition sponsor World’s Best Cat Litter to host a series of Cat Café experiences with Anti-Cruelty, a local animal shelter. Guests had the opportunity to meet adoptable cats and learn about felines up close in an innovative sponsor activation.

Cats: Predators to Pets
Field Museum Major Sponsor:

DISCOVER[®]

Exhibition Sponsor:



This exhibition was created by the Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle, France.





Closing Field Museum Exhibitions with a Bang!

In 2024, the Field Museum launched “Last Call,” a new series of programs that offered guests ages 21 and older a final opportunity to see special exhibitions after hours before they concluded. Field Museum scientists and facilitators engaged with guests in a social environment. The casual happy hour-style events help bring adults of all ages to nature and the human story in accessible new ways.

(Above) Last Call promoted casual conversations with Field scientists.





Rapid Inventory 31: Acarai-Corentyne Corridor

The Keller Science Action Center's Rapid Inventory team recently completed the largest ever expedition in the remote forests of southern Guyana. The Acarai-Corentyne Corridor spans nearly 1.3 million hectares located between the Essequibo and New rivers. This remote and largely unexplored region is part of the world's most ecologically intact forests. The expedition was composed of 17 international scientists and 38 Guyanese scientists, partners, and local experts from Indigenous villages in southern Guyana, making it one of the most comprehensive and diverse Field Museum inventories to date.

Over 80 km of trails were generated for the expedition, weaving through a landscape marked by hundreds of rapids, waterfalls, and river islands. The team found extremely clear water without evidence of mining influences, and documented hundreds of plant and vertebrate species during the three weeks in the field. While analysis of data is still ongoing, the team reports 23 potentially new species, at least 21 species newly reported in Guyana, and at least 16 globally threatened species.

Expedition leader Lesley de Souza, PhD, and the fishes team collected specimens both during the day and night, resulting in a total of more than 3,000 fish gathered during the expedition.

(Right) Visitors ages 2–6 and their families explore age appropriate scientific topics with hands-on activities and story time in the Crown Family PlayLab.

(Bottom, right) Guests get hands-on with Field Museum science in the Grainger Science Hub.

(Bottom, middle) Facilitators engage Museum guests with discovery carts containing specimens and learning activities.

(Bottom, far right) Children explore Ancient Egypt through fun, curated experience at Field summer camps.

Sue Ling Gin Center for Education and Public Programs

Education experiences at the Field Museum create lifelong passions. Thousands of students visit every year, coming face-to-face with animals that lived a millennia ago and learning about cultures from all over the world. The future will see industry-leading standards and impact in learning and community engagement at the Field. With the dedication of the Sue Ling Gin Center for Education and Public Programs in 2023, the Museum has already made significant progress by focusing on field trips, summer camps, and learning resources.





Thousands of students from the Chicagoland and the Midwest explore exhibitions and engage with educators on Field Trips every year.



Education by the Numbers

113,837

VISITORS ENGAGED IN
GRAINGER SCIENCE HUB
ACTIVITIES

138,042

STUDENTS VISITED
THE MUSEUM ON
FIELD TRIPS

876,304

STUDENTS AND FAMILIES
SERVED BY THE SUE
LING GIN CENTER FOR
EDUCATION AND PUBLIC
PROGRAMS

47,384

CHICAGO PUBLIC
SCHOOLS STUDENTS
SERVED

7,648

HOURS CONTRIBUTED
BY 149 TEEN VOLUNTEERS

684

STUDENTS PARTICIPATED
IN SUMMER CAMPS

The accomplishments of the Field Museum are made possible by a dedicated community of philanthropists. We gratefully acknowledge these friends for their generosity in this 2024 honor roll.

Stephanie Smith, PhD, XCT Laboratory Manager, examines a Sanguisaurus skull image and live camera footage of the specimen in the XCT scanner, a gift from North Star Imaging, an ITW company.





(Below) The new Scanning Electron Microscope is an important tool used daily at the Field. In addition to taking high resolution images of small specimens, it can also determine the chemical composition of an object using characteristic X-rays coming off the sample when it's scanned with an electron beam.



Core Labs Propel Research

The Field Museum has received multiple generous gifts of new technology to fuel research. In 2024, the Museum received two advanced XCT scanners from ITW's North Star Imaging division. The Grainger Foundation provided a grant to relocate and elevate the existing Grainger Cryogenics Laboratory to accommodate the new scanners. Through grants and gifts, the Museum also acquired and installed a new Scanning Electron Microscope, or SEM, thanks to The Negaunee Foundation and the Grainger Research Technology Fund. Updating equipment ensures that research is done at full capacity. Tools such as high-tech XCT scanners supports in-depth research by allowing scientists to create comprehensive visual aids and perform digital cuts without harming physical specimens.

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\$100,000+

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73rd Annual Members' Nights

In May 2024, the Field celebrated its 73rd annual Members' Nights. The popular tradition allows members to explore three additional floors of the Museum to see specimens and objects in collections. They enjoyed seeing a dissection of a lion, interacting with Rosie the tarantula, and chatting with Field scientists. Family-friendly activities also were the highlight of the night, including an elaborate button quest and crafting *Archaeopteryx* wings.

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The Field Museum presented Urban Rivers with the 2024 Parker/Gentry Award recipient. Established in 1996, the Parker/Gentry Award honors an outstanding individual, team, or organization in the field of environmental conservation whose efforts have had a significant impact on preserving the world's natural heritage and whose approach can serve as a model to others. The Parker/Gentry Award is made possible by a generous gift from an anonymous donor and is presented annually by the Field Museum.

Urban Rivers is revitalizing waterways, particularly the Chicago River, into thriving ecosystems that benefit both people and wildlife. They restore urban habitats by constructing floating gardens and accessible parks directly within Chicago's waterways. Their work has garnered recognition for its significant contributions to restoring aquatic and terrestrial species through hands-on conservation efforts and collaborative research. Urban Rivers also serves a crucial social role in improving the quality of life for city dwellers and fostering a connection between them and their natural surroundings.

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Members Showed Us How They See the World

The Museum held its 2nd annual *In The Field* photography contest. Members were invited to share their photos of nature, animals, and moments at the Museum for a chance to see them printed in *In The Field* magazine. Adults and kids submitted photos to three categories and were judged by Artist-in-Residence Peggy Macnamara along with a council of judges. Winners and runners-up were displayed in the Member Holiday Lounge.

(Above) Five-Week-Old Cooper's Hawk, photographed by Michael Lewis. This Cooper's Hawk was one of five born in a nest in Lewis' backyard.



Symposium Celebrates Collections-Based Research

In September, Field Museum Trustees and philanthropy leaders gathered for the Field Forward Symposium. The event was centered around the theme of “Science on the Frontier: Contemporary Expeditions in the Extreme” and showcased the Museum’s commitment to research and discovery. Since 1893, Field expeditions have documented the wonders of our planet, contributing to our understanding of the world and the 40 million objects and specimens that we hold in our care. Guests enjoyed an afternoon of exploration, including a panel discussion moderated by Trustee and Chicago Tribune Columnist Laura S. Washington, tours with scientists, and a first look at two new research facilities that are pillars of the new Core Labs Initiative.

The highlight of the day was celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the Robert A. Pritzker Center for Meteoritics and Polar Studies. Colonel (IL) Jennifer N. Pritzker, IL ARNG (Retired) (above), who established the Center in honor of her late father, addressed guests, noting that the Museum exemplifies the power and possibility of collections-based research and ensures broad access to scientific knowledge.

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Expanding Corporate Partnerships at the Field

During the run of *Bloodsuckers: Legends to Leeches*, the Field partnered with major sponsor Abbott and Versiti Blood Center of Illinois to host a series of six blood drives in Stanley Field Hall. During the drives, donors had the opportunity to try a first-of-its-kind immersive mixed-reality experience wearing lightweight headsets which layered a digital world onto the Museum around them. This technology was developed to attract younger generations of donors to develop a sustainable blood supply, as well as make the donation process more relaxing for all. Donors received admission to the Museum and *Bloodsuckers* for themselves and up to 4 guests, compliments of Abbott, and were treated to pop-up activations, performances, and giveaways at each event.



(Top) Abbott Chairman & CEO Robert Ford (middle right) accepts the Corporate Philanthropy Award from Field Museum President and CEO Julian Siggers, PhD, ITW President and CEO Chris O'Herlihy, and Field Museum Board Chair Bobby Mehta.

(Bottom) Trustee and Women's Board President Lynda Williams with Gala Chair Amanda Rutledge.

Women's Board Gala Looks to the Future

On Saturday, October 19, 2024, the Field Museum Board of Trustees and Women's Board hosted the annual Gala, the Museum's most important fundraiser. With the theme *Enduring Legacy, Evolving Future*, this year's event was chaired by Women's Board member Amanda Rutledge and raised \$1.92 million in support of Museum programs. Guests enjoyed an immersive cocktail reception in the *Elizabeth Morse Genius Hall of Dinosaurs*. The *Marshall Field V Award for Distinguished Leadership* was presented to the Searle Family by Trustee Marshal Field V, Board Chair Bobby Mehta, and President Julian Siggers, PhD. The award was accepted on behalf of the Searle Family by Ethan Meers (middle photo). The *Corporate Philanthropy Award* was presented to Abbott and accepted by Chairman & CEO Robert Ford.

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The Field Museum remembers the following individuals for their bequests, legacies, and estate gifts in 2024

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The following individuals made gifts of objects and specimens to the Field's collections.

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In Memoriam



Judith S. Block

Judy Block began five decades of leadership at the Field Museum in 1975 by joining the Women's Board and serving as its president from 1984 to 1986. In addition to being elected as a Trustee and an early lead of the Connecting Campaign, in 1997 Judy became the first woman to chair one of Chicago's major cultural organizations as Field Museum Board of Trustees chair. In 2019 at the annual Field Museum Gala, Judy received the Marshall Field V Award for Distinguished Leadership, our highest recognition.

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 and Field Benefactors. 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.



Carolyn Swartz Bucksbaum

Field Museum Benefactor Carolyn ("Kay") Swartz Bucksbaum, 95, died peacefully after a long and full life on Tuesday, October 22, at her home in Chicago.

Mrs. Bucksbaum was the first woman chair of the board of trustees of Grinnell College and also served as chair of the Des Moines Symphony and the Aspen Music Festival and School. She served on the boards of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of Art and Design in New York, and the National Public Radio Foundation. She was a co-founder of the Bucksbaum-Siegler Institute for Clinical Excellence at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, with a special interest in advancing patient-centered care.

She also loved Native American art and was a key donor to the endowment for *Native Truths: Our Voices, Our Stories* at the Field Museum, where her son John Bucksbaum is a current Trustee.



Callie Anne Clark

Callie Anne served on the Field Museum's Women's Board (1986–2013), was a member of the Founders Council (2000–19) and was spouse of Life Trustee Worley "H" Clark, Jr. A Wake Forest University grad (Music and History), she had a passion for education establishing multiple scholarships, and serving her community on several boards. She was loved dearly by family and friends. She was an avid traveler and visited 63 countries during her lifetime.



Margaret Kerwin Crane

Margaret was a 40-year contributor to the Field Museum, a member of the Founders' Council, and the Field Loyalty Club. She graduated from Wellesley College and worked as a translator for The Continental Bank in Chicago where she met her husband, Bill. They were married for 63 years and visited nearly every continent. Margaret taught at Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart, and was a very active volunteer for many non-profit organizations including the Lake Forest Garden Club, the Women's Board of Lake Forest Hospital, and the Founders' Board of the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.



Dr. Morris F. Goodman

Dr. Morris F. Goodman, 91, of Evanston, IL was a Field Museum Benefactor and member of the Chairman's Circle. During his lifetime, he generously supported the Anthropology Scholars Endowment, the Anthropology Lab, and the Charles Benton Research Assistant Endowment. Dr. Goodman was a professor of Linguistics at Northwestern University. Upon his retirement, the Program of African Studies at Northwestern's Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences established the Morris Goodman Awards. The awards support graduate students in their second year or beyond to study an African language outside of Northwestern University. He was also the Founder and President of the Franklin Philanthropic Foundation, which has also contributed generously to the Field Museum. Morris is survived by his nieces and nephews, Stanley David Goodman, Wm. Michael Goodman, Joyce Elsa Goodman, Linda Anne Goodman, Debbie Lee Goodman, and Jenny Louise Goodman, their partners, children and grandchildren.



Carl W. Johnson

Carl W. Johnson, age 56, of Crown Point, IN, passed away suddenly Tuesday, January 21, 2025. His happy place was the Field Museum. Carl began his passion for the museum when he was a teenager. He would drive from Northwest Indiana and spend hours. This is when he began making gifts to the Museum. He was a proud member of the Discovery Circle and one of the first donors to walk through the doors when the Museum reopened after quarantine. Carl was also present for the unveiling of SUE in 2000, and even had the opportunity to meet Sue Hendricks, who discovered SUE, when she noticed he, too, was a lover of amber and fossils. Carl's fond affection for the museum was obvious when Carl was laid to rest, his family asked that in lieu of flowers friends make a gift to the Field Museum in his memory.



John E. Rau

Former Trustee John E. Rau died on April 8, 2025. He was an active member of the corporate and philanthropic community in Chicago, and a respected mentor and business writer. John was a distinguished member of the Board of Trustees of the Field Museum from 2015 through 2023 and served on the Integrative Research and Governance Committees. A passionate supporter and board member of several important cultural, social, and educational institutions, he and his wife, Colette, were active members of the Chairman's Circle. Through his personal gifts and those of Chauncey and Marion D. McCormick Family Foundation and the Chicago Title & Trust Company Foundation, John and Colette supported the Field for a decade, including generous gifts for museum operations, scientific research, and Women's Board Galas.



Maureen Dwyer Smith

Maureen Dwyer Smith was a dynamic force for many of Chicago's leading civic and cultural institutions. A member of the Museum's Women's Board since 1981, and Board of Trustees from 2005 to 2014, Maureen's sense of duty and signature quick wit were part of her every undertaking.

Maureen brought leadership, style, and fundraising success to three Women's Board Galas—The Gem Ball, The Treasures Ball, and the opening of *Jacqueline Kennedy: The White House Years*. Maureen was a loyal friend and Benefactor of the Museum for 45 years. She is survived by her husband, Edward Byron Smith, Jr.

In Memoriam



Dr. Joseph Walder

Dr. Joseph (Yosef) Walder, a former biochemistry professor and founder of IDT (Integrated DNA Technologies), the leading provider of synthetic RNA and DNA for life sciences research, passed away on March 26, 2024. Dr. Walder established IDT in 1987 through a seed grant from Baxter Health Care, which was interested in his work on hemoglobin and sickle cell disease. He held numerous patents for his pioneering breakthrough technologies. By the time he sold the company in 2018, he had grown IDT into the world's leading provider of high-quality, custom synthetic oligonucleotides.

To his loved ones and community, Dr. Walder was known as much for his open-heartedness and generosity as for his scientific and professional achievements. The Walder Foundation, co-founded by Joseph with his wife, Elizabeth, is devoted to the well-being of communities in Chicagoland through its support for science innovation, environmental sustainability, the performing arts, migration and immigrant communities, and Jewish life.



Friends We Remember

The Field Museum remembers the following donors and friends who passed away in 2024.

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Remembering David W. Grainger

1927–2025

David and Juli Grainger supported the Field Museum for more than 60 years. Their impact on the Field extends to every facet of its mission; from research and collections to exhibitions such as the *Grainger Hall of Gems*, *Jacqueline Kennedy: The White House Years*, the *Nature of Diamonds*, and the *Grainger Science Hub*. Through their many philanthropic investments, David and Juli nurtured curiosity in tens of millions of Field Museum visitors.

David was born in 1927, the same year his father William Wallace “Bill” Grainger started the family’s business, W.W. Grainger, Inc. David joined the Company in 1952 and became chairman in 1968. David’s tenure helped establish the Company’s reputation for fair-dealing and customer service. Today, W.W. Grainger, Inc. is one of the world’s largest industrial suppliers.

In 1949, the Grainger family established The Grainger Foundation, a charitable non-profit organization. David headed the Foundation as President and then Chairman from 1979 until 2021. His talented wife, Juli, had a major involvement. Through the years, the Foundation and the Grainger family provided a high level of charitable grants, primarily in support of education, health care and many cultural institutions, focusing on programs and projects that “make a positive difference.”

In addition to their charitable support of the Museum, Juli Grainger served as a Life Trustee of the Field and member of the Women’s Board until her passing in 2014. David was a trusted advisor to five Field Museum presidents. In recognition of this extraordinary legacy, the Museum recognized The Grainger Foundation and Juli Grainger with the 2018 *Marshall Field V Award for Distinguished Leadership*—the highest honor bestowed by the Field Museum.



(Above) Juli and David Grainger (at left) with Priscilla Richmond at the Jewels of the Pacific Women's Board Gala, 1990.

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