

MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY ANNUAL REPORT HARVARD UNIVERSITY



2011 - 2012



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Those of us who work in natural history museums confront a significant paradox.

On the one hand, there arguably has never been a better time to be a comparative and evolutionary biologist. The rate of discovery of new, unnamed species is higher than ever before. We have at our disposal an array of cutting-edge tools and technologies that may yield answers to fundamental questions about evolutionary patterns and underlying mechanisms that the scientific community has pondered for decades, if not centuries. Yet, threats to Earth's biodiversity are increasing every day. These threats, if unchecked, will lead to a global loss of species in our lifetimes that may rival the global mass extinctions of prehistoric times. This paradox contributes to a heightened sense of urgency that underlies all we do. At the very least, these are exciting times.

The MCZ remains relevant by maintaining research programs of broad intellectual scope, which focus on contemporary scientific and societal problems. It continues to train generations of comparative and evolutionary biologists of all stripes and to instill an understanding and appreciation of the natural world in countless undergraduates. It is thus with enormous pleasure that I present this latest annual report, which highlights the research, education and related initiatives conducted by MCZ faculty, staff, students and visitors during the 2011–2012 academic year.

The opening pages of this report chronicle what often prove to be life-changing experiences for Harvard undergraduates and graduate students. Several Organismic and Evolutionary Biology (OEB) department courses led by MCZ faculty-curators offer enrolled students all-expense-paid field trips to the tropics during spring break.

The university underwrites the entire cost of these trips, largely from MCZ discretionary funds but with key additional support from OEB, the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies and other sources within the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. These unforgettable experiences convince many students to choose the OEB concentration, some to go to graduate school in comparative biology and others to become committed environmentalists, but everyone benefits in important ways.

Recent activity in MCZ's collections has furthered our multiyear effort to improve environmental conditions for specimen conservation, increase storage capacity and enhance access. As I write this message, most of the mammal collection is being rehoused in our state-ofthe-art facility in the Northwest Building. Another example is our new Cryogenic Collection in MCZ Laboratories, which will provide a common, shared facility for maintaining frozen samples for genetic analysis. Finally, ongoing initiatives in biodiversity informatics are generating additional means of sharing collections data worldwide.

MCZ's strength as a research and teaching institution lies not only in its strong intellectual foundation and its excellent facilities, but also in the largely unheralded efforts of its many facultycurators, staff and students, who together push the frontiers of scientific learning and discovery. Hence, I commend and thank everyone once again for the work they do to make the MCZ the essential and relevant institution that it is today.

> James Hanken Director



Cover photo credits:

Top, left to right: Gonzalo Giribet; Gonzalo Giribet; Adam Baldinger; Gonzalo Giribet;

Bottom, left to right: Breeanna Elliott; Scott Edwards; Thomas Dai; Jay Taft; Jessica

Opposite page: Peter Wilton





STUDENTS EXPERIENCE TROPICAL BIODIVERSITY FIRSTHAND

Whether netting birds in Panama, searching out reptiles in Costa Rica or diving for sea stars, the 2012 spring break took students into the field to experience what they could never learn through textbooks and museum specimens alone.

Three classes from the Organismic and Evolutionary Biology department—taught largely by MCZ faculty-curators—offered all-expense-paid trips for their undergraduate and graduate students. For some, it was their first journey out of the country. For most, it was their initial exposure to the diverse environments of the Neotropical region rainforest, cloudforest, savannah, coastal wetlands—or distinctive marine habitats like mangrove forests and coral reefs.

Even though specimens from the MCZ collections are studied in classroom settings, observing a live animal's behavior in its natural habitat is an entirely different experience. Seeing species alive and up close facilitates the learning process, bringing scientific terms and phylogenetic groups figuratively and literally to life.

Experiences in the field also engender a deeper understanding of-and sense of awe for—these rapidly disappearing ecosystems. The spring field trips will convince some students to choose an OEB concentration, attend graduate school in some area of comparative biology, or become committed environmentalists. Regardless of their future career paths, these trips imbue students with respect for the planet's biodiversity and ignite their conservation ethic.



OEB 167: Herpetology took 21 students to Costa Rica's La Selva Biological Station, operated by the Organization of Tropical Studies; Veragua Rainforest Station, an ecotourist educational facility; and Pacuare Nature Reserve on the northeastern coast

of Costa Rica. Professors James Hanken and **Jonathan B. Losos** led the trip, assisted by teaching fellow **Alexis Harrison** and Losos lab members Martha Muñoz, Ambika Kamath and Katie Boronow.



Before departing for Costa Rica, Professors Hanken and Losos charged their students with the task of becoming "resident experts" in specific reptile and amphibian species. On daily hikes, students shared information about their organisms once they were encountered in the field. Sightings of crocodiles, caiman and sea turtles were especially prized, but so were rare species of frogs, snakes and lizards such as Corytophanes, a hard-to-find arboreal lizard.

"The herpetological diversity of Costa Rica is astonishing, and even in a week, we were able to see an enormous variety of reptiles and amphibians," says Prof. Losos. "Students had varying opinions about what constituted the highlight, but the nesting sea turtles seem to have made a deep impression on many, and most loved the arboreal herpetological prospecting by zipline."

Birding in Panama

This experience introduced 12 students of OEB 190: Biology and Diversity of Birds to the rich diversity of Neotropical birds, improved their abilities to locate and identify birds in the field and exposed them to a new array of habitats and a different culture. Professor Scott V. Edwards was assisted by two teaching fellows—Dr. Frank Rheindt and Maude Baldwin—and Euclides Campos, a Panamanian expert bird guide. Rheindt and Campos showed the group an incredible number of species—more than 200—over the course of the trip.

Days typically began with the pre-sunrise "dawn chorus" when bird activity is highest. Students continued birding throughout the day, experiencing the Canal Zone rainforest, mid- and high-elevation cloudforest, savannah and coastal wetlands. During periods of lower bird activity, the class toured research facilities; observed and assisted in mist-netting, the primary method of catching birds in ornithological research; and visited nearby towns. Species sighted included the spectacular Resplendent Queztal, a large bird with a metallic green back and extremely long tail streamers; antbirds; toucans; hummingbirds; and the Three-wattled Bellbird. The students were treated to a rare occurrence in field research when they were able to observe the Bellbirds courting and mating in the wild.

"Witnessing the diversity of the Neotropics is an eye-opening experience for many biologists," says Maude Baldwin. "Viewing the region's diversity through the lens of its avifauna, under the guidance of some of the most knowledgeable people in the world on Panamanian birds, was an incredible experience for the students and teaching staff alike."

Collecting Invertebrates in Panama

The goal for OEB 51: Biology and Evolution of Invertebrate Animals was to show the 14 students the sheer abundance and diversity of invertebrate animals in the wild and how these animals function and behave in their natural settings. Professor Gonzalo Giribet and Associate Professor Cassandra G. Extavour led the trip, assisted by two teaching fellows, Ben Ewen-Campen and Gisele Kawauchi.

Each day, the group traveled by boat to a variety of habitats that included coral reefs, mangroves, muddy sediment, sandy-bottom habitats and rock walls. Students, equipped with full-body wetsuits and snorkels, experienced a dizzying array of animal life in marine habitats covered in live sponges, corals, brittle

stars, sea urchins and other species too numerous to mention.

Students were initially introduced to the most abundant and charismatic of the marine invertebrates—enormous sea stars, brightly colored sea anemones and coral reef speciesand then tried to identify as many organisms as possible from different invertebrate phyla, including the small and the difficult-to-classify. During the week they spent hours collecting live animals to examine at the well-equipped laboratory facilities at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Bocas del Toro. Students especially liked the incredible outof-this-world plankton creatures, consisting largely of larval forms of many animals that look nothing like the final forms of the adults.

"Observing invertebrate phyla in their natural habitat revealed behavior, distribution and beauty in a way that a fact sheet never could," says **Inanna Carter**, Class of 2014. "Being out in the field gave us passion and energy

for dissecting specimens in the lab and learning about them in the classroom. Our enthusiasm followed us back to Harvard, and even spread to my other classes and experience of Harvard as a whole."













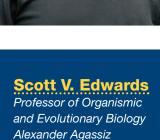
MCZ FACULTY-CURATORS











Prof. Edwards' research focuses on the evolutionary biology of birds and relatives, combining field, museum and genomics approaches to understand the basis of avian diversity, evolution and behavior.

Professor of Zoology

Curator of Ornithology



Prof. Edwards has conducted fieldwork throughout Australia and North America and has worked extensively in seabird colonies in Hawaii and Nova Scotia. He strives to create a new cadre of scientists who are comfortable both in the field as well as using cutting-edge genomic technologies that are transforming evolutionary biology.

Edwards is actively engaged in several efforts to enhance the diversity of the scientific workforce, both in and outside of Harvard.



Charles P. Lyman Professor of Biology Director, Concord Field Station

Prof. Biewener's research focuses on understanding the biomechanics, neuromuscular control and energetics of animal movement on land and in the air. His goal is to understand general principles that govern the biomechanical and physiological design of vertebrate animals related to their movement in natural environments.



Brian D. Farrell Professor of Biology Curator of Entomology

Prof. Farrell's research is broadly concerned with whether the diversity of species on Earth is a cause or consequence of the diverse roles different species play in ecosystems, particularly interactions between insects and plants.

The Farrell lab serves as a base for the Beetle Tree of Life project, a collaborative and comprehensive phylogenetic study of this most diverse group of animals.

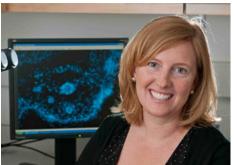


Gonzalo Giribet

Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology Curator of Invertebrate Zoology

Prof. Giribet's primary research focuses on the evolution, systematics and biogeography of invertebrate animals. Current projects in the Giribet lab include multidisciplinary studies for Assembling the Bivalve Tree of Life, the diversity of Neotropical arachnids, and systematics and

biogeography of arthropods, mollusks, sponges, sipunculans, platyhelminthes and onychophorans. He is also interested in philosophical aspects of DNA sequence data analysis, emphasizing homology-related issues.



Hopi E. Hoekstra Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology Curator of Mammalogy

Prof. Hoekstra combines field and laboratory

work to understand the evolution of mammalian diversity from morphology to behavior. Her research focuses on the genetic basis of adaptive variation—identifying both the ultimate causes and the proximate mechanisms responsible for traits that help organisms survive and reproduce in the wild. Research in the Hoekstra lab integrates ecological, behavioral, genetic and molecular approaches.



James Hanken

Professor of Biology Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology Curator of Herpetology MCZ Director

Prof. Hanken utilizes laboratorybased analyses and field surveys to examine morphological evolution, developmental biology and systematics.

Current areas of research include the evolution of craniofacial patterning, the developmental basis of morphological novelty, biodiversity informatics, and systematics and evolution of neotropical and Asian salamanders and frogs.

Prof. Hanken also serves on the Steering Committee of the Encyclopedia of Life (eol.org).



Farish A. Jenkins, Jr.

Professor of Biology Harvard College Professor Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology

Prof. Jenkins' research interests are broadly in the area of vertebrate evolution, focusing on comparative anatomy of fossil and recent vertebrates and the evolutionary pathways of structural and functional development. Prof. Jenkins

maintains active field research in vertebrate paleontology and, in 2006, was part of an expedition that discovered Tiktaalik roseae, the missing link between fish and land animals, in the Canadian Arctic.



George V. Lauder

Professor of Biology Henry Bryant Bigelow Professor of Ichthyology Curator of Ichthyology

Prof. Lauder's research examines the structure, function and evolution of vertebrates, particularly fishes and amphibians. His current studies focus on the development of robotic models for understanding the functional and evolutionary diversity of fishes.

Additional interests include biological fluid mechanics, theoretical approaches to the analysis of form and function in organisms, and the history and philosophy of morphology and physiology.



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Jonathan B. Losos

Monique and Philip Lehner Professor for the Study of Latin America Curator of Herpetology

Prof. Losos' research focuses on the behavioral and evolutionary ecology of lizards, specifically how lizards interact with their environment and how lizard clades have diversified evolutionarily. Addressing such questions requires integration of behavioral, ecological, functional morphological and phylogenetic studies.



His research, with an emphasis on Anolis lizards in the Caribbean Islands, combines

field observations, laboratory studies of lizard physiology and DNA, and field experiments to study evolutionary changes in nature.

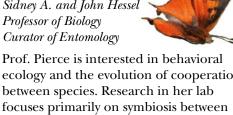
Prof. Losos has spent decades conducting fieldwork that charts the evolution of multiple species of lizards in real time. By conducting rigorous biological and behavioral analyses of animals on small isolated islands, Losos has produced detailed empirical scientific evidence documenting how evolution occurs in natural populations. His research has demonstrated rapid changes based on introduced predators, altered competition and even hurricanes, proving that evolution can occur very rapidly and evolutionary biology can, in fact, be an experimental science.

The Losos laboratory consists of six postdoctoral researchers, seven graduate students and four undergraduates, as well as a number of visiting foreign graduate students. The lab employs approaches across the disciplines of systematics, ecology, behavior, genetics and functional morphology, taking both observational and experimental approaches in the field and in the laboratory. A major focus has been the evolutionary radiation of Caribbean Anolis lizards, but increasingly the focus of the lab is turning toward the evolution of mainland anoles, as well as other lizard radiations.

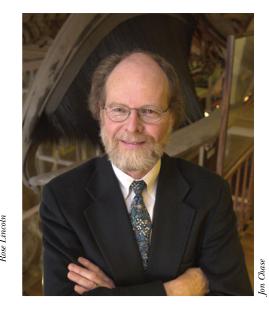


Naomi E. Pierce

Sidney A. and John Hessel Professor of Biology Curator of Entomology



ecology and the evolution of cooperation between species. Research in her lab focuses primarily on symbiosis between social insects and other organisms. Current interests include how the gut microbe has influenced the ecology and evolution of ants, how genes and the environment interact in the evolution of social behavior and pollination biology of bees, and how complex interactions between ants, plants, endophytic fungi and bacteria affect the evolution of mutualism in tropical ant-plant systems.



James J. McCarthy

Professor of Biological Oceanography Alexander Agassiz Professor of Biological Oceanography Acting Curator of Malacology

Prof. McCarthy's research focuses on factors that regulate the processes of primary production and nutrient supply in the ocean. Through controlled laboratory studies and field investigations, Prof. McCarthy and his group examine the effects of strong seasonal or interannual climate change on marine life and biogeochemical systems.



Robert M. Woollacott

Professor of Biology Curator of Marine Invertebrates

Prof. Woollacott's research focuses on aspects of marine invertebrate life history, such as synchronization of reproductive events and ecology and physiology of larvae. Topics of particular interest include larval dispersal and population connectivity, as well as human impacts on the distribution of marine organisms.

MCZ EMERITI



Kenneth J. Boss

Faculty-Curator, Emeritus Professor of Biology, Emeritus

Prof. Boss, former Curator of Malacology, has been with Harvard for 40 years. His research focus is the classification, systematics and

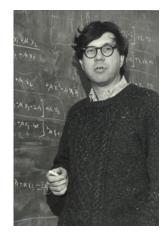
evolution of mollusks, using data from shell morphology, anatomy and zoogeography to analyze the phylogenetic relationships within various groups of gastropods and bivalves. He has also published on the history of malacology. Prof. Boss has contributed extensively to the Occasional Papers on Mollusks and formerly served as editor for Breviora and the Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

Richard C. Lewontin

Professor of Biology, Emeritus Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology, Emeritus

An evolutionary geneticist, Prof. Lewontin pioneered the field of molecular population genetics by merging molecular biology and evolutionary theory, as well as the philosophical and social implications of genetics and evolutionary theory. Prof. Lewontin's current research involves computer simulation

and evaluation of statistical tests for selection. Among his many books are The Genetic Basis of Evolutionary Change, Biology as Ideology: The Doctrine of DNA; Human Diversity; and The Triple Helix: Gene Organism and Environment. He served as President of the Society for the Study of Evolution, the American Society of Naturalists and the Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution.



Edward O. Wilson Honorary Curator in Entomology Pellegrino University Professor, Emeritus

Prof. Wilson is considered the founder of sociobiology and evolutionary psychology and has developed the basis of modern biodiversity conservation. He has received many of the world's leading prizes in recognition of his research and environmental activism. He was awarded two Pulitzer Prizes for his books The Ants (1990, with Bert Hölldobler) and On Human Nature (1978). In 2007, Prof. Wilson received the Technology, Entertainment, Design (TED) Prize, where he articulated the concept of the Encyclopedia of Life—a contemporary, dynamic Web page for every named species.



Fisher Professor of Natural History, **Emeritus**

Prof. Crompton, former Curator of Mammalogy, was the Director of the MCZ from 1970 to 1982 and the former Director of the Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, and the South African Museum, Capetown. His primary



research interests are the origin and evolution of mammals. functional anatomy, neural control and evolution of feeding in recent and fossil vertebrates. Prof. Crompton is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He received two Guggenheim fellowships for his research on vertebrate paleontology and functional morphology and in 2011 received the Romer-Simpson Medal from the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology.

Herbert W. Levi

Faculty-Curator, Emeritus Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology, Emeritus

A former Curator of Arachnology, Prof. Levi's research focuses on the taxonomy of New World orb weaving araneid spider genera. The author of Spiders and Their Kin, as well as numerous articles on various spider genera, his research has made possible identification of 1,500 species in

his immense influence on spider research.



66 genera in the Americas. Prof. Levi served as president of



the International Society of Arachnology and, in 2007, won

the ISA's Eugene Simon Award for lifetime achievement for

MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY



OEB 51: Biology and Evolution of Invertebrate Animals

Courses in 2011–2012 Led by MCZ FACULTY-CURATORS

Organismic and Evolutionary Biology

OEB 51: Biology and Evolution of **Invertebrate Animals (undergraduate)**

Gonzalo Giribet (and Cassandra G. Extavour) Introduction to invertebrate diversity, with special emphasis on the broad diversity of animal forms, their adaptations to different ecosystems and how these phenomena shape animal evolution.

OEB 53: Evolutionary Biology (undergraduate)

Hopi E. Hoekstra (and Andrew J. Berry) Micro- and macro-evolution, ranging from population genetics through molecular evolution to the grand patterns of the fossil record.

OEB 57: Animal Behavior (undergraduate)

Naomi E. Pierce (and Bence P. Olveczky) A review of the behavior of animals under natural conditions, with emphasis on both mechanistic and evolutionary approaches.

OEB 118: Biological Oceanography (undergraduate and graduate)

James J. McCarthy

Examines the ocean as an ecological system, with focus on environmental-organismal interactions that regulate plankton production and transfer to higher trophic levels.

OEB 51: Biology and Evolution of Invertebrate Animals



OEB 121a: Research in Comparative Biomechanics (undergraduate and graduate)

Andrew A. Biewener, George V. Lauder (and Daniel E. Lieberman, Stacey A. Combes) Introduction to experimental techniques used to investigate the structure and physiology of vertebrates, where each instructor offers research projects that are undertaken in their laboratory.

OEB 121b: Research in Comparative Biomechanics (undergraduate and graduate)

Andrew A. Biewener, George V. Lauder (and Daniel E. Lieberman, Stacey A. Combes) Optional extension of initial project undertaken in OEB 121a into a thesis research project.

OEB 141: Biogeography (undergraduate and graduate)

Gonzalo Giribet

Biogeography aims to explain distributions of organisms through historical and ecological factors. This course focuses on the history of biogeographic research, developments in the area of historical biogeography, and ecological processes that affect distributions of whole clades.

OEB 150: Vertebrate Evolution and Development (undergraduate and graduate)

Farish A. Jenkins, Jr. (and Arkhat Abzhonov) A survey of the evolution and development of major groups of vertebrates, integrating the paleontological record of their origin with current understanding of the genetic, cellular and developmental mechanisms that underlie these transformations.

OEB 155r: Biology of Insects (undergraduate and graduate)

Naomi E. Pierce (and Michael R. Canfield) Introduction to the major groups of insects life history, morphology, physiology and ecology—through a combination of lecture, lab and field exercises.

OEB 167: Herpetology (undergraduate and graduate)

James Hanken and Jonathan Losos Introduction to the biology of amphibians and reptiles. Lectures and laboratories examine the morphology, systematics, natural history, behavior,

ecology, evolutionary relationships and biogeography of all major taxa.

OEB 173: Comparative Biomechanics (undergraduate and graduate)

Andrew A. Biewener (and Jacques Dumais) An exploration of how animals and plants contend with their physical environment, considering their biomaterial properties, structural form and mechanical interactions with the environment.

OEB 190: Biology and Diversity of Birds (undergraduate and graduate)

Scott V. Edwards

Introduction to the biology of birds, covering fossil record and theories for avian origins, physiology and anatomy, speciation processes, nesting and courtship behavior, vocalizations, breeding, demography and conservation.

OEB 275r: Phylogeography and Geographic Variation in the Era of Genomics (graduate) Scott V. Edwards

Explores the ways in which comparative genomics can inform phylogeny and

genomic adaptation, surveying recent methods for harnessing thousands of loci for phylogenetic reconstruction.

OEB 296: Conservation History, Values and Law (graduate)

Jonathan Losos (and David R. Foster) Examines the history of the conservation/ preservationist movements, focusing on how various constituencies value nature, and the legal system for protecting nature.

Graduate Courses of Reading and Research

OEB 307: Biomechanics, Physiology and Musculoskeletal Biology

Andrew A. Biewener

OEB 310: Metazoan Systematics Gonzalo Giribet

OEB 320: Biomechanics and Evolution of Vertebrates

George V. Lauder

OEB 323: Advanced Vertebrate Anatomy Farish A. Jenkins, Jr.

OEB 325: Marine Biology Robert M. Woollacott

OEB 334: Behavioral Ecology

Naomi E. Pierce



OEB 190: Biology and Diversity of Birds



OEB 341: Coevolution Brian D. Farrell

OEB 345: Biological Oceanography James J. McCarthy

OEB 355: Evolutionary Developmental Biology James Hanken

OEB 362: Research in Molecular Evolution Scott V. Edwards

OEB 367: Evolutionary and Ecological Diversity Jonathan Losos

OEB 370: Mammalian Evolutionary Genetics

Hopi E. Hoekstra



COURSES COURSES



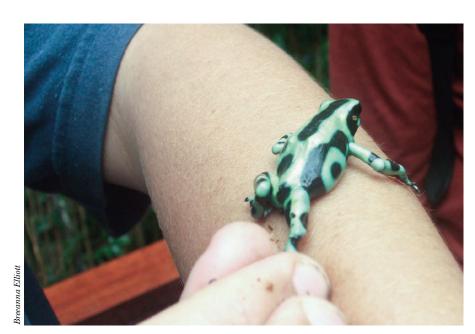
Freshman Seminar 31v: The Beasts of Antiquity and Their Natural History

Freshman Seminar

FRSEMR 31v: The Beasts of Antiquity and **Their Natural History**

Farish A. Jenkins, Jr. (and Kathleen M. Coleman)

A study of the animals of the ancient Mediterranean Basin, offering parallel introductions to the classics and organismal and evolutionary biology. Includes firsthand study of specimens in the MCZ and coins and artifacts from Harvard's collection of antiques.



OEB 167: Herpetology

Life Sciences

LIFESCI 1b: An Integrated Introduction to the Life Sciences: Genetics, Genomics and **Evolution (undergraduate)**

Hopi E. Hoekstra (and Maryellen Ruvolo, Andrew J. Berry)

This course uses an integrated approach to show how genetics and evolution are intimately related, together explaining the patterns of genetic variation we see in nature, and how genomics can be used to analyze variation.

LIFESCI 2: Evolutionary Human Physiology and Anatomy (undergraduate)

George V. Lauder (and Peter T. Ellison, Daniel E. Lieberman)

Explores human anatomy and physiology from an integrated framework, combining functional, comparative and evolutionary perspectives on how organisms work.

General Education

Science of Living Systems 18: Evolutionary Biology: Sex, Survival and the Orgy of **Species (undergraduate)**

Jonathan Losos

Examines theories of how evolution occurs, including runaway sexual selection, sperm competition, adaptive radiation, disruptive selection, sympatric speciation and hostparasite interactions.

Science of Living Systems 22: Human Influence on Life in the Sea (undergraduate)

Robert M. Woollacott and James J. McCarthy Over-harvested fish stocks, pollution and anthropogenic climate change affect the stability and productivity of marine ecosystems. This course asks what we need to know about the causes and effects of anthropogenic change to best protect marine ecosystems and ensure sustainable harvests from the sea.



OEB 167: Herpetology

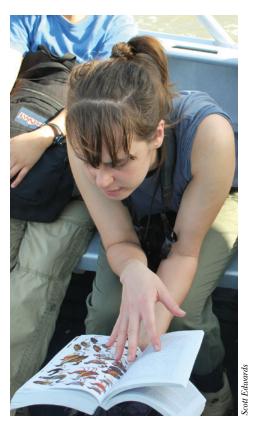
Harvard Extension School and Harvard Summer **School**

BIOS S-74: Marine Life and Ecosystems of the Sea

Robert M. Woollacott The life history and adaptations of marine life and the ecosystems of the sea, with emphasis on understanding the fragility and resilience of marine systems in the face of anthropogenically driven perturbations.

BIOL S-113: Study Abroad at Oxford: Darwin and Contemporary Evolutionary Biology

Naomi E. Pierce (and Andrew Berry) The history of evolutionary biology in the post-Darwinian world, following strands of thought either introduced or ignored by Darwin in On the Origin of Species through to the present.



OEB 190: Biology and Diversity of Birds



OEB 155r: Biology of Insects



COLLECTIONS **COLLECTIONS**

Allison Shultz removing a Eurasian

Magpie (Pica pica) from a net

SIGNIFICANT ACQUISITIONS AND UPGRADES ENHANCE MCZ COLLECTIONS

The past year has brought important enhancements to the MCZ collection through expeditions, private donations and curatorial upgrades.

MCZ Expedition Collects Mongolian Birds

Despite some holdings in U.S. museums and older specimens in Russia, Mongolian birds are otherwise poorly represented in the world's museum collections, especially modern, datarich specimens. In June 2012 Scott V. Edwards and colleagues traveled to Mongolia to improve the global collection of high-quality voucher specimens of Mongolian birds. The expedition was funded by a Putnam Expedition Grant and the MCZ's Blake Fund.

Edwards—Curator of Ornithology, Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology and Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology—was accompanied by graduate student Allison Shultz, Edwards lab postdoctoral fellow Niclas Backström and Curatorial Associate Jeremiah **Trimble**. The team was hosted by leading Mongolian ornithologist and conservationist

> Sundev Gomboobaatar from the National University of Mongolia, his students and staff.

Three weeks were spent collecting specimens in the drier foothill steppe near the capital Ulaanbaatar (such as around Hustai National Park), taiga forest near Terelj National Park to the north, thickets and riverbanks of the Onon River Valley, in the hills around Binder Sum and the vast steppes of the far eastern regions.

The group collected about 150 specimens, meticulously preparing tissue samples and voucher specimens that will inhabit MCZ trays in the collection. Some of the most exciting and colorful were Bearded Reedlings (Panurus biarmicus) from the far east; Siberian Rubythroats (Luscinia calliope); Eurasian Wrynecks (Jynx torquilla), a primitive type of woodpecker found

only in the Old World; and Eurasian Three-toed Woodpeckers (Picoides tridactylus).

As a general collection the Mongolian vouchers, tissues and spread wings will be available for use by researchers worldwide. The specimen data will be deposited in the museum's database, MCZbase, and will eventually be accompanied by digital photographs of habitats, photos of live birds and field notes. These collections are important for future studies in phylogeography, which focuses on geographic variation within species.



Scott V. Edwards

"Specimens are like a snapshot of the environment, and given the diverse chemical, morphological and genetic uses to which specimens today can be put, I have no doubt they will attract further interest in the ornithology collection here," says Edwards. According to Trimble, the department has already received a request for high-quality tissue samples from some of the specimens from a researcher studying plumage coloration.

Institutions like the MCZ have a role to play in supporting continuing education and infrastructure building in countries with substantial biodiversity, and the work helped establish ties to Mongolian scientists and students.

Malacology Collection Receives Important Donations

This year, the MCZ's collection of 10 million shells was supplemented by just over 10,000 mollusk lots given to the Department of Malacology by Owen Gingerich, Domenick Nicolaci, Gonzalo Giribet and the family of Joseph George Claud-Mantle.

The Joseph George Claud-Mantle Collection was received in June 2011. It contains 5,200 shells representing almost 4,000 species acquired between 1880 and 1930, including the ultimate rare and valuable seashell, a sinistral sacred chank shell (Turbinella pyrum) from India.

In 2008, Claud-Mantle's great-granddaughter Laura Ferrera and her cousins Deborah Lasnier and Cindy Arendt began the four-year project to clean and document the collection, taking inventory using their great-grandfather's original logbooks and creating an electronic database and online photo gallery of the shells.

According to Adam J. Baldinger, Curatorial Associate of Malacology, "It isn't unusual to receive collections from private collectors, but I have rarely seen a collection that was so diligently catalogued. The collection's true value is scientific and lies in the precise way Claud-Mantle recorded data about each of his shells."

The extremely rare sinistral, or left-handed chank, is revered as a religious object in Hindu temples, and it has been estimated that there are only three specimens in North America. In January 2012 a previously unknown specimen was discovered in the Claud-Mantle collection, and it became the subject of a paper by Baldinger and Edward Nieburger in American Conchologist.

Additionally 1,117 specimen lots were received from Domenick Nicolaci from North Dartmouth, Massachusetts. The collection contains specimens collected from around the world and includes the rare golden form of the cowrie Zoila friendii from Australia and a rather large specimen

of the volute Cymbiola (Cymbiolacea) thatcheri from northeast Australia.

Owen Gingerich, former Research Professor of Astronomy and the History of Science at Harvard University, is an amateur shell collector and longtime member of the Boston Malacology Club. His shell collection contains many unique specimens, including several listed in Guinness World *Records.* Gingerich began donating parts of his collection to the MCZ in 2009, and in 2011, the MCZ received 773 specimens representing 23 different families.

From 2010 to 2012 Gonzalo Giribet, Curator of Invertebrate Zoology and Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, donated his collection of 3,041 specimen lots. The collection's emphasis is on the Mediterranean region and nearby Atlantic, but also includes specimens from other oceans and continents around the world.

This collection was amassed during more than 30 years, and unlike many other private collections, a large portion of specimens were micro-mollusks, many collected directly by Giribet during zoological and ecological surveys in the northwest Mediterranean. The donation fills an important geographical gap in the MCZ collections.



Descendants of Joseph George Claud-Mantle visiting his collection in the MCZ's malacology department. From left: Vivian Lasnier, Cindy Arendt, Deborah Lasnier, Gloria Lasnier and Laura Ferrera





COLLECTIONS MCZ NEWS

Otolith Collection Enhancements



Over the years the MCZ has received more than 800,000 fishes from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution cruises. Jim Craddock, a former MCZ associate, removed the otoliths-ear bones-from many of those specimens to use in the study of the food habits of marine mammals. After his death in 2009, his wife Thelma Fenster donated 3,000 sets of fish otoliths from about 450

individual species, many from voucher specimens already housed at the MCZ. The collection has been completely inventoried and organized, and Curatorial Assistant **Andrew Williston** is entering collection data, including the original locality data, into MCZbase. Ichthyology intern **Rex Passion** completed the collection inventory and collection data review.

"Otoliths are a valuable resource in defining fish species and studying fish ecology," says Williston. "Growth rings in otoliths can be studied for aging individual fish. They can be used to identify fish remains in the stomach contents of marine predators like dolphins, and fish diets can be studied using stable isotope analysis of otoliths. And since otoliths are often fossilized, they can be compared to modern otoliths to better understand the diversity of fossil fishes."



Penny Benson (right) and Beryl Lipton

Crinoid Collection Upgrades

The recent work of Curatorial Assistant Penny Benson and temporary employee Beryl Lipton has brought specific parts of the MCZ Department of Marine Invertebrates collection up to and beyond modern day best-practice standards. This past year the curatorial upgrades were focused on the crinoid (sea lily and feather star) and holothuroid (sea cucumber) collections and included

confirmation of specimen collection data, taxonomy and type status utilizing MCZbase, and rehousing specimens into new jars and trays along with updated archival labels.

"The history, species diversity and number of types represented within the MCZ crinoid and holothuroid collections are truly amazing. And now with collection data available electronically, interest and use of the collection has definitely increased," says Curatorial Associate Adam J. Baldinger.



Breda Zimkus

The new MCZ Cryogenic Collection includes a preparation laboratory and adjoining freezer room where genetic samples will be barcoded and stored in one of three liquid nitrogen cryovats, each accommodating 40,000 samples.

MCZ RESEARCH MAKING HEADLINES

Observing Evolution in Action

Rowan Barrett is conducting a grand experiment on Nebraska's sand dunes, involving thousands of feet of galvanized steel sheets, hundreds of live mice, natural aerial predators and a cadre of researchers wielding traditional and genetic tools-all to examine the real-time effects of evolution in nature.

Peromyscus maniculatus, or deer mice, have light fur that blends in with the sand when they live on the dunes. The same mice living in the darker prairie soil have correspondingly dark coats. The assumption is that the lighter pigmentation of the mice in the Sand Hills is an adaptation that evolved to provide camouflage from predators such as hawks and owls, thereby increasing their "fitness" or ability to survive and reproduce—in a textbook example of natural selection.

The question is whether or not this explanation—however plausible—is accurate. To test this theory, Barrett, mentor Hopi E. Hoekstra and members of the Hoekstra lab, including several undergraduates, are examining the mutations that arise in a group of wild mice, how they affect physical appearance and how that gives certain individuals a better chance at reproducing.

The multi-year experiment involves eight enclosures, 150-foot square, four constructed on dark soil and four on sand dunes. The enclosures—each stocked with around a hundred mice, half with dark and half with light coats-are otherwise natural mouse habitats subject to predation.

To track each individual's survival and reproductive success, every mouse is photographed and its coat color measured with a spectrophotometer, then visually tagged and radio chipped, and finally genetically sampled by the researchers. Every six weeks traps will be laid in the pens to check the frequencies of genetic variants and monitor changes. This data will help the researchers understand how genes are linked to physical appearance, and how both are linked to fitness and how quickly evolution occurs under these conditions. A review of the study design was published in Nature Reviews Genetics.

Barrett RDH, Hoekstra HE (2011) Molecular spandrels: tests of adaptation at the genetic level. Nat Rev Genet 12:767-780.





And the Gold Goes to... Speedos, Silicone or Shark Skins?

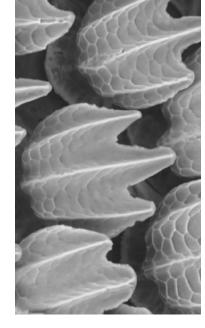
Biomimetics refers to employing inspiration from biological systems to help design or improve human-made materials and machines. One such inspiration comes from the skin of sharks, whose tiny toothlike denticles have long been suspected of improving the animals' swimming speed and efficiency.

To test this hypothesis—and to evaluate purported shark skin-like materials for boats, aircraft and racing swimwear-George V. Lauder and Johannes Oeffner conducted a series of experiments using a robotic flapping foil device, high-speed lasers and minute particles in the water to measure any increase in self-propelled swimming speed due to the drag-reducing properties of the surface texture.

The results, reported in *The Journal of* Experimental Biology, found that skins from fast-swimming make and perbeagle sharks increased swimming speed by 12.3%. Silicone riblet material, created to reduce drag on sailboats and improve the fuel consumption of airplanes, was found to be 7.2% more efficient than smooth-surfaced silicone. But the "shark skin-like" Speedo® Fastskin II material generated no increase in speed when compared to that of a regular swimsuit.

However, Lauder pointed out that other factors related to this type of racing suit—such as the tight construction leading to a streamlined profile, improved circulation and posture—most likely contribute to faster swimming speed in humans.

Oeffner J, Lauder GV (2012) The hydrodynamic function of shark skin and two biomimetic applications. JExp Biol 215:785-795.

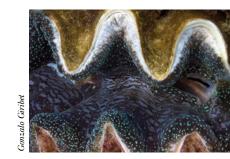




MCZ NEWS: RESEARCH MCZ NEWS: RESEARCH







Genetic Analysis Resolves the Evolutionary Relationships of Mollusks

Mollusks—snails, octopuses, clams and their relatives—are some of the most numerous and best studied of all animal groups. However, ill-defined relationships among the diverse mollusk species have stymied the search for answers to many evolutionary questions, such as whether shellless mollusks diverged before the development of their shelled brethren, or if they originally had shells but lost them later in their evolution.

Results of advanced and extensive genetic analysis—and completion of the most comprehensive evolutionary tree for Mollusca to date—were reported by Gonzalo **Giribet** and colleagues in *Nature*.

The team sequenced nearly every gene in dozens of mollusk species before selecting 1,800 genes to be compared across them, thus reconstructing the mollusk phylogeny, or how all mollusk species are related evolutionarily.

The researchers found, somewhat surprisingly, that bivalves, such as clams and oysters, are most closely related to gastropods like limpets, snails and slugs. They also determined that monoplacophorans, an ancient group of mollusks thought to be extinct for hundreds of millions of years until their rediscovery in the early 1950s, are most closely related to cephalopods like the chambered Nautilus, octopus and squid.

Understanding the phylogeny of an animal is a critical first step in establishing homology among its morphological characters and determining how it developed and evolved over millions of years. The research also serves as proof-of-concept, demonstrating how genomic techniques can be successfully employed to answer difficult and elusive evolutionary questions even when using nonmodel organisms.

Smith S, Wilson NG, Goetz F, Feehery C, Andrade SCS, Rouse GW, Giribet G, Dunn CW (2011) Resolving the evolutionary relationships of molluscs with phylogenomic tools. Nature 480:364-367.

Pigeon Flight Resembles That of Helicopters and Hummingbirds

To avoid obstacles, chase prey or evade predators, the ability of an animal to turn is of the utmost importance. Turning consists of changes in the path of travel and body orientation. For birds and other flying animals, this is achieved by modulating aerodynamic forces relative to gravity. Understanding how birds coordinate aerodynamic force production relative to their body position is the subject of research conducted by Ivo G. Ros and Andrew A. Biewener.

Ros and Biewener constructed a netted hallway containing a 90-degree turn and trained pigeons (Columba livia) to fly between perches on either end. The pigeons' bodies were marked in 16 places, and high-speed synchronized cameras were used to measure net aerodynamic force and changes in body orientation as the birds flew and executed the turn at slow speeds. Surprisingly, the pigeon's upstroke generated aerodynamic forces that were approximately 50% of those generated during the downstroke, nearly matching that of hummingbirds. They found that the pigeons used body rotations to change flight paths and continued to flap their wings as if they were flying straight ahead, analogous to helicopters and many flying insects. The findings were reported in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA.

Ros IG, Bassman LC, Badger MA, Pierson AN, Biewener AA (2011) Pigeons steer like helicopters and generate down and upstroke lift during low speed turns. P Natl Acad Sci USA 108:19990-19995.

Fulbright Scholar Brian Farrell



From July 2011 to July 2012, Brian Farrell was in the Dominican Republic as a Fulbright Scholar to the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo. Founded in 1538, it was the first university in the western hemisphere.

Together with MCZ Associate Prof. Ruth Bastardo, Farrell established a US-style learning laboratory where Dominican and visiting American undergraduates can work with natural history collections. They expanded the scope of lab-based activities so that there are now five students digitizing and curating their collections alongside their thesis work on topics ranging from fungi to bioacoustics.

Farrell curated two cabinets of MCZ specimens housed at UASD that he collected in earlier years and established a 200-volume library of references for entomology/botany and evolution/ biogeography and ecology. He hosted workshops in bioacoustics and bee systematics, and coauthored a biology textbook that draws on many examples and case studies from Hispaniola.

Farrell and Bastardo also inaugurated a new phase in the joint digital imaging program, a collaborative project to inventory insects in the National Botanical Garden. The program is modeled after the effort with the MCZ entomology type specimens and the Boston Harbor Islands in which students are trained by former students.

"This kind of cultural and scientific exchange, connecting small museums and universities with larger ones, is the future of natural history collections, as well as education in biology," says Farrell. "Everyone benefits."

Farrell's efforts were funded by the US Fulbright Scholars Program, the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard, the National Science Foundation and the US Embassy in Santo Domingo.



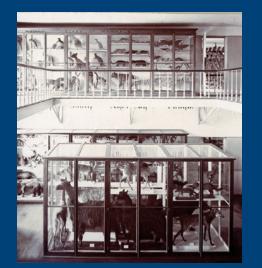
UASD students Candy Perez and America Sanchez enter data for insect specimens. At left: Brian Farrell and America Sanchez build insect drawers

MCZ History: Alfred Russel Wallace

Among Louis and Alexander Agassiz's many important contributions to the world of natural history museums was the idea of designing public exhibits according to biogeography—clustering species from the collections based on where they occur naturally. This novel idea was immediately appreciated by 19th-century English explorer and naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace, who visited the MCZ and wrote about it in his book American Museums (1887):

"The most cursory inspection ... will teach the visitor a lesson in natural history that he will not learn by a dozen visits to our great national storehouse at South Kensington-the lesson that each continent has its peculiar forms of life, and that the greatest similarity in geographical position and climate may be accompanied by a complete diversity in the animal inhabitants."

"Professor Agassiz intended his museum ... 'to illustrate the history of creation, as far as the present state of scientific knowledge reveals that history.' It is surely an anomaly that the naturalist who was most opposed to the theory of evolution should be the first to arrange his museum in such a way as best to illustrate that theory"



MCZ exhibition of South American fauna, 1892





Projects & Initiatives



In May 2012, EOL (eol.org) reached the milestone of one million species pages, just over half of the 1.9 million recognized species on Earth. The EOL Learning + Education Group (education.eol.org), headquartered at the MCZ, is charged with developing tools to facilitate the use of EOL data and to develop innovative ways that EOL can be integrated into biodiversity learning.

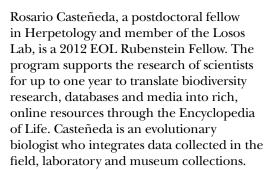
Updated Educational Tools



EOL Learning + **Education Group** released a major update to its education tools and applications (fieldguides.eol.org) with the redesigned Field Guide tool, the new Ecosystem Explorer (beta), and the new Bingo Game generator, all using the EOL collections. The **EOL Field Guide** tool organizes EOL

species information by creating customized guides for individual projects or interests. Ecosystem Explorer allows anyone to build and explore ecosystems of species through an interactive graphing tool. Middle and high school students can build an "ecosystem" by providing a list of taxa and then defining the interactions. The Bingo Site is a fun way to interact with an EOL collection, especially for younger audiences, through the creation of an online or print format bingo game of EOL images.

EOL Rubenstein Fellow



Her research interests are phylogenetics, population genetics, character evolution, conservation and taxonomy of *Anolis* lizards. During her fellowship she will create new content, revise and complement previous EOL pages for all species of *Anolis* lizards.

Education Innovation Challenge

The EOL Education Innovation Challenge is an international competition that aims to stimulate the development and implementation of educational software tools, services, games and activities involving the Encyclopedia of Life. The Challenge is to use EOL content and services to create an engaging and educational application that will promote global learning activities focused on discovering and understanding the living world. The competition seeks to highlight the most scalable and innovative applications that facilitate learning, participation and sharing of information about biodiversity, ecological relationships and natural history.

Google Earth Tours & Podcasts



A new EOL Collection of *Biodiversity on the Move* Google Earth Tours uses scientific and geographic data to tell stories about biodiversity and employs videos to make the natural world come alive.

education.eol.org/page/eol-google-earth-tours

One Species at a Time podcasts are highly engaging five-minute audio pieces that link to content for more than 50 species in EOL. The podcasts are accompanied by a "Meet the Scientist" feature page, multimedia extras, interesting facts, relevant educational materials and calls for listener participation. education.eol.org/podcast

Ernst Mayr Library's Visual Treasures

Natural history illustrations are a rich source of knowledge for a broad spectrum of scholars and educators. Aside from their aesthetic qualities, detailed illustrations of plants and animals are critical, even today, for biologists tracing the taxonomic history of an organism or as documentation for lost or discarded specimens. Before the advent of photography, botanical and zoological artists were necessary partners for documentation of scientific expeditions.

"For centuries, natural history illustrations provided a window to biodiversity around the world for scientists and the public who could not travel," says **Constance Rinaldo**, Librarian of the **Ernst Mayr Library**. "Thus artwork is integral to a natural history library collection."

Notable recent acquisitions are two framed original prints from Audubon's *Quadrupeds* of North America and original hand-colored engravings by Mark Catesby from The Natural History of Carolina Florida & the Bahama Islands, circa 1754. Dr. George C. Gorman (PhD in Biology, Harvard University '68) donated the prints.

To display the Ernst Mayr Library's historic illustrations, the Library is mounting periodic "flash" exhibits featuring priceless treasures that are not generally available for viewing. These exhibits have showcased ichthyological drawings, engravings and manuscripts from Special Collections such as the watercolors of Jacques Burkhardt from the Thayer Expedition to Brazil (1865–1866) and the works of Andrew Garrett (1823–1887). Another exhibit of original illustrations and rare books for "Save the Frogs Day" featured images from John Edwards Holbrook's *North American Herpetology* (1836).

And, in the next evolution of natural history illustration, Library staff plan to contribute to a new project centered at the Missouri Botanical Garden, called the "Art of Life." The results of this project will include new software tools for the automated identification and description of visual resources to "liberate natural history illustrations from the digitized books and journals in the online Biodiversity Heritage Library."

On the photographic front, the Library has begun conservation and documentation of the glass plate negatives of Alexander Agassiz, director of the MCZ from 1873 to 1910 and son of MCZ founder Louis Agassiz. The collection of around 1,000 gelatin dry plates, film negatives and prints dates from the late 1890s to the 1940s. The collection includes images from expeditions by the Albatross, Challenger, Croyden and Yaralla and covers such destinations as Australia, Brazil and Easter Island. This collection, including 200 film negatives, has long been part of the MCZ collections, but the unfamiliar format and limited information associated with the negatives have made documentation challenging.



Catesby's "Green Lizard of Jamaica"

Sorex parvus (Plate LXX) from Audubon's Quadrupeds of North America

In Spring 2012, thanks to a gift by Roger Fleishmann (Harvard University '56 and Harvard Law School '59), Robert Young, Special Collections Librarian, and Gwendolyn Fougy Henry, Library Assistant and Archivist, started the year-long process of organizing, arranging, researching, conserving, describing, digitizing and assigning metadata to the negatives. Once digitized, the EML will link the images to publications and specimens in the MCZ collections, making them available online for reference and research. The gift also enabled the purchase of a number of rare books, including a volume of the first edition of De la nature by Jean Baptiste René Robinet from 1761–1766.



Annual Report 2011–2012

Gwendolyn Fougy Henry



Rosario Casteñeda





Mollusks: Shelled Masters of the Marine Realm

The amazing diversity and history of mollusks are explored in a new exhibition curated by Gonzalo Giribet. Mollusks: Shelled Masters of the Marine Realm opened at the Harvard Museum of Natural History on February 18, 2012, and will run through February 2014.

Featuring recent discoveries about mollusks' evolutionary history and ongoing research by Prof. Giribet, colleagues and students in the Giribet laboratory, the exhibition engages the general public in the evolution of mollusks, their ecology and the many ways their lives intersect with ours.

Mollusks-snails, clams, squid and other invertebrates—comprise almost a quarter of all known marine species. The exhibition includes hundreds of shells from the collections in the MCZ's Department of Malacology, selected with the help of Curatorial Associate Adam J. Baldinger. Many of the specimens have never been on public display. The MCZ's collection, with close to 10 million specimens, is the largest and most diverse private collection



in the world. Visitors can also see a limited selection of newly restored glass models of an octopus and other mollusks created in the mid to late 19th century by Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka.

Prof. Giribet delivered the exhibition's opening lecture, The Biology and Evolution of Mollusks, on February 16.



Renovated Fishes Exhibition Opens

The redesigned *Fishes* exhibition, curated by George V. Lauder, with Karsten Hartel and Andrew Williston of the ichthyology department, opened at the **Harvard Museum of Natural** History on June 2, 2012.

The new gallery features a refurbished space and displays that explain both fish biology and the science being conducted on the topic at Harvard. Fishes combines abundant real specimens with 3-D models, colorful graphic displays and an interactive multimedia station profiling the research of faculty, staff and students in the Lauder laboratory. Exhibition topics include the evolution of fish,

the major groups and the ecology of fish and their migratory habits.

Many new specimens borrowed from the MCZ's ichthyology collections—such as an 88-inch-long South American arapaima, the world's largest freshwater fishdemonstrate the diversity of fishes that inhabit almost every habitat on Earth. Specimens also include longtime visitor favorites like the hammerhead and mako sharks, the massive bluefin tuna and the prickly porcupine fish.

The work was done in honor of Karel Liem, Curator of Ichthyology from 1972 to 2009, who is credited for much of the expansion of the MCZ fish collection, which grew from roughly 200,000 specimens in the 1960s to some 1.5 million today.

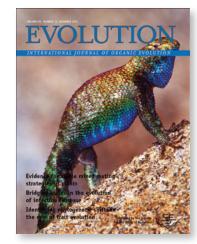
The exhibition's reopening lecture, *The Grand* Diversity of Fishes: Form, Function and Evolution, was presented on May 31 by Prof. Lauder.

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In the cover story of Science, Marie Manceau, Vera Domingues, Ricardo Mallarino, and Hopi E. Hoekstra published "The developmental role of Agouti in color pattern evolution."



Gabriel Gartner and colleagues contributed the cover story "Latitudinal and climatic variation in body size and dorsal scale counts in Sceloporus lizards: a phylogenetic perspective" to Evolution.



Invertebrate Systematics



"The evolutionary and biogeographic history of the armoured harvestmen-Laniatores phylogeny based on ten molecular markers, with the description of two new families of Opiliones (Arachnida)" by Prashant Sharma and Gonzalo Giribet was the cover story in Invertebrate Systematics.



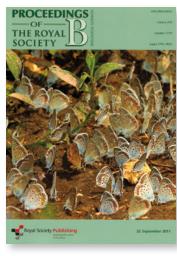
George V. Lauder and colleagues contributed the cover story "Bioinspiration from fish for smart material design and function" to Smart Materials and Structures.

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Roger Vila, Benjamin Goldman-Huertas, Naomi E. Pierce, Charles Marshall and colleagues contributed "Phylogeny and palaeoecology of Polyommatus blue butterflies show Beringia was a climate-regulated gateway to the New World" as the cover story of Proceedings of the Royal Society B. It was one of the publication's 10 most downloaded articles of 2011.



For the cover story of Journal of the Royal Society Interface, George V. Lauder and colleagues published "Aquatic maneuvering with counter-propagating waves: a novel locomotive strategy."



MCZ GRANT RECIPIENTS ACADEMIC YEAR 2011–2012

Grants-In-Aid of Undergraduate Research (GUR)

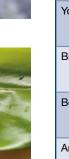
Recipient

These grants support research by Harvard undergraduates under faculty supervision. Priority is given to projects that utilize MCZ and Harvard University Herbaria (HUH) research collections, laboratories and facilities. Support for these grants comes from the MCZ's Myvanwy M. and George M. Dick Scholarship for Students and from HUH.

Amount

Faculty Sponsor/ Project Title











	Academic Dept.		
Nicholas F. Brazeau	Zarin Machanda/ Human Evolutionary Biology	The effects of small-scale habitat heterogeneity on chimpanzee growth and body size	\$2,500
Alexander M. Kim	Gonzalo Giribet/ Organismic and Evolutionary Biology	From the Gulf of Guinea to the bridge of the world: transoceanic dispersal and human-mediated invasion in two pantropical genera of freshwater prawns	\$2,047
Young Mi Kwon	Hopi E. Hoekstra/ Organismic and Evolutionary Biology	Paternal care of promiscuous <i>Peromyscus</i> maniculatus and monogamous <i>Peromyscus</i> polionotus	\$1,925
Bianca M. Lec	Scott V. Edwards/ Organismic and Evolutionary Biology	The nose knows? Exploring the possibility of MHC-informed mate choice in a petrel	\$2,500
Bonnie R. Lei	Scott V. Edwards/ Organismic and Evolutionary Biology	Multilocus phylogeography of the hairy woodpecker, <i>Picoides villosus</i> , in North America	\$1,151
Amanda J. Lu	Scott V. Edwards/ Organismic and Evolutionary Biology	Recent changes in the genome of pathogen Mycoplasma gallisepticum in house finches	\$2,293
Linda Y. Pan	Hopi E. Hoekstra/ Organismic and Evolutionary Biology	The effects of cross-fostering on burrowing behavior ontogeny in deer mice (<i>Peromyscus</i>)	\$2,060
Lauren L. Tomkinson	Naomi E. Pierce/ Organismic and Evolutionary Biology	Genetic and environmental effects on the social structure of the native pollinator, Augochlorella aurata	\$2,100
Anna R. Veverica	Elena M. Kramer/ Organismic and Evolutionary Biology	Investigation of leaf morphology and development of transgenics in Aquilegia	\$2,500
Olivia G. Weeks	Arhat Abzhanov/ Organismic and Evolutionary Biology	The molecular basis of dental development in the American alligator	\$1,700
		Total Awards	\$20,776



Putnam Expedition Grants

Putnam Expedition Grants are intended to support MCZ faculty-curators, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students in collecting specimens and data relating to the study of comparative zoology. Priority is given to projects that collect living specimens in regions where habitats are threatened or fossil specimens in regions most likely to hold important clues for unraveling evolutionary strategies. These grants are made possible by a gift from Mr. and Mrs. George Putnam, Jr., '49.

Destricted	MOZ Danastanasta	Ductors Title	A
Recipient	MCZ Department	Project Title	Amount
Christopher C.M. Baker, Jack H. Boyle and Naomi E. Pierce	Entomology	Population genetics and ecology of African acacia ants	\$8,749
Rowan D.H. Barrett	Mammalogy	Selection on genes in the wild	\$14,350
Shane C. Campbell- Staton	Herpetology	Physiological divergence within <i>Anolis</i> carolinensis: an emerging reptile model	\$9,088
James D. Crall	Entomology	Orchid bee movement in heterogeneous environments	\$2,300
Vanessa L. Gonzalez	Invertebrate Zoology	Collecting Archiheterodonta (Bivalvia: Heterodonta) in South Africa for resolving familial relationships within this group	\$7,000
Christopher E. Laumer	Invertebrate Zoology	Surveying the diversity of prorhynchid flatworms in temperate rainforests of the Pacific northwest	\$6,244
Marie Manceau	Mammalogy	Pigment pattern evolution in beach mice	\$3,230
Frank E. Rheindt	Ornithology	Collection of a new genus of tanager (Aves)	\$2,230
Christian Rabeling	Entomology	The ants of Vanuatu: exploring the evolutionary ecology of an unknown island fauna	\$15,610
Thomas J. Sanger	Herpetology	Why the long face? Field studies of the Crooked Island anole, <i>Anolis brunneus</i>	\$5,140
		Total Awards	\$73,941











GRANTS GRANTS



Ernst Mayr Travel Grants in Animal Systematics

Ernst Mayr Grants support travel for research in animal systematics and are open to the scientific community worldwide. The principal objective of these grants is to stimulate taxonomic work on neglected taxa and/or poorly described species. Ernst Mayr Grants typically facilitate visits to institutional collections, with preference given to research that uses MCZ's collections. These grants are made possible by a gift from Professor and former MCZ Director Ernst Mayr.

Recipient	Institutional Affiliation	Project Title	Amount
Brad J. Balukjian	University of California, Berkeley	Using integrative taxonomy to revise the radiation of <i>Pseudoloxops</i> Kirkaldy (Heteroptera: Miridae) plant bugs from French Polynesia	\$1,500
Diego Nunes Barbosa	Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo	Type analysis of the world <i>Mesitinae</i> (Hymenoptera: Bethylidae)	\$1,500
Cristian F. Beza-Beza	Wichita State University	Revision of the <i>Petrejoides orizabe</i> species group (Coleoptera: Passalidae)	\$1,500
Marek L. Borowiec	University of California, Davis	Generic revision of dorylomorph ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)	\$1,220
Jimmy J. Cabra	São Paulo University, Instituto de Biociências	Revision and cladistics analysis of the orbweaving spider genus <i>Glenognatha</i> Simon, 1887 (Araneae, Tetragnathidae)	\$1,500
Chenyang Cai	Nanjing Institute of Geology and Paleontology, Chinese Academy of Sciences	Taxonomic study on the Mesozoic Staphylinoidea beetles (Coleoptera) from China	\$1,300
Andrew R. Cline	California Department of Food and Agriculture; University of California, Davis	Diversification of sap beetles (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae) in the neotropics: taking steps to unravel Darwin's conundrum	\$1,460
Yingying Cui	Capital Normal University, China	Investigation of intra-specific variability in selected Permian Grylloblattida from Carpenter's collection	\$1,500
Liza E. Gomez Daglio	University of California, Merced	Hidden diversity of scyphozoan jellyfish	\$1,450
Nataliya Dnestrovskaya (Paraketsova)	Moscow State University	Studies of polychaetous family Nephtyidae from the collection at the Museum of Comparative Zoology	\$1,500
Regaine Saturnino Ferreira	Universidade Federal de Pará, Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi	Petrunkevitch collection: Examination of clubionids from Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History, New Haven	\$998
Georg Fischer	California Academy of Sciences	Taxonomy of Malagasy Pheidole	\$845
Lucja A. Fostowicz- Frelik	American Museum of Natural History	Taxonomic revision of a basal lagomorph, Palaeolagus (Mammalia, Glires)	\$750
Traci L. Grzymala	University of California, Berkeley	Taxonomy and systematics of the Aderidae (Coleoptera: Tenebrionoidea)	\$1,333
Francisco Hita Garcia	California Academy of Sciences	Taxonomic revision of the proceratiine genera <i>Discothyrea</i> Roger, <i>Proceratium</i> Roger, and <i>Probolomyrmex</i> Mayr in the Malagasy zoogeographical region	\$1,430
Ana Jesovnik	University of Maryland; Smithsonian Institution	Taxonomic revision of the fungus-growing ant genus Sericomyrmex	\$1,285
Gunther Köhler	Senckenberg Research Institute	Anolis of Panama	\$1,500

Recipient	Institutional Affiliation	Project Title	Amount
Nathan P. Lord	The University of New Mexico	Revisionary systematics on the hyperdiverse southern hemisphere Zopheridae (Coleoptera: Tenebrionoidae)	\$1,500
Stephanie F. Loria	Richard Gilder Graduate School, American Museum of Natural History	Revision of the scorpion family Chaerilidae Pocock, 1893	\$1,500
Pablo Ricardo Mulieri	National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET)	Systematics of Sarcophaginae (Diptera: Sarcophagidae): study of genera present in southern South America	\$1,500
Maria del Mar Soler Hurtado	Universidade de Sevilla, Spain	Taxonomic revision of the eastern Pacific Gorgoniidae deposited in the Museum of Comparative Zoology	\$1,500
Michael G. Reuscher	Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi	A review of the taxonomy of Paraonidae (Annelida: Polychaeta) based on the examination of type material	\$1,500
Eric N. Rittmeyer	Louisiana State University	Fine scale diversification in a biodiversity hotspot: systematics of the <i>Tribolonotus</i> pseudoponceleti complex	\$1,000
Cecilia Waichert	Utah State University	Systematics of Ageniellini (Hymenoptera: Pompilidae)	\$1,500
		Total Awards	\$32,571





Miyata Grants

Miyata Grants are intended to enable herpetological fieldwork by MCZ graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Non-herpetological fieldwork may be eligible when there are no deserving herpetological projects.

The Ken Miyata Fund for Field Research Award is made possible by a gift from Dr. Barbara Jil Wu, Ph.D. '81, and Mr. Eric Larson, A.B. '77.			
Recipient	MCZ Department	Project Title	Amount
Ambika Kamath	Herpetology	Correlates of variation in dewlap color and pattern in the fan-throated lizard, Sitana ponticeriana (Squamata: Agamidae)	\$1,485
Zachary Lewis	Herpetology	Field trip to collect <i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i> embryos on Cape Cod	\$927
Martha Muñoz	Herpetology	Did Ernest Williams get it right? Testing the idea that behavior simultaneously impels and impedes evolution in <i>Anolis cybotes</i> (Squamata: Iguanidae)	\$9,110



The Kenneth Miyata Endowment Fund in Herpetology was established in memory of	
Kenneth Miyata, Ph.D. 1980, and is made possible by gifts from Ken's friends and colleagues.	

Recipient	MCZ Department	Project Title	Amount
Alexis Harrison	Herpetology	Impact of ornaments on evolution of the neotropical lizard genus <i>Anolis</i>	\$5,000
Travis Ingram	Herpetology	A field study assessing the role of intraguild predation in interspecific interations between <i>Anolis</i> lizards	\$5,210
		Total Awards	\$21,732





Awards & Recognition



A.W. "Fuzz" Crompton



Adam Baldinger



Elizabeth Sefton



Naomi Pierce

Emeritus

A.W. "Fuzz" Crompton was awarded the 2011 Romer-Simpson Medal of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology. The society's highest award honors sustained and outstanding scholarly excellence in the discipline of vertebrate paleontology.

Edward O. Wilson received the 2012 International Cosmos Prize. The prize is awarded to individuals whose research has achieved excellence and is

recognized as contributing to a significant understanding of the relationships among living organisms.

Faculty

Scott Edwards was elected President of the Society for the Study of Evolution.

Gonzalo Giribet was elected a Fellow of the California Academy of Sciences and President of the Willi Hennig Society, and appointed as a Research Associate at the Field Museum of Natural History. Giribet also received a National Geographic Expeditions award for research in Amazonia.

Hopi Hoekstra received the 2011 Fannie Cox Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching. The award recognizes faculty who inspire students, instill in them a passion for science and effectively communicate complex ideas in introductory science courses.

Jonathan Losos received the Daniel Giraud Elliot Medal from the National Academy of Sciences in recognition of his research on adaptive radiation of Anolis lizards. Losos was also elected as a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The blog Anole Annals, edited by Losos and Rich Glor of the University of Rochester, was named "Blog of the Week" by Scientific American. www.anoleannals.org

Naomi Pierce was elected as an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society.

Adam Baldinger, Curatorial Associate in Invertebrate Zoology, Malacology & Marine Invertebrates, received a 2011 Impact Award for his sustained, superior performance and exceptional effectiveness in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS).

Alison Pirie, Faculty & Collections Assistant in Mammalogy and Ornithology, received the Dean's Distinction Award, which recognizes outstanding citizenship and exceptional contributions in support of the FAS mission.

Dana Fisher, Assistant to the Librarian and Special Collections, and Mary Sears, Head of Public Services, both in the Ernst Mayr Library, were each honored in a December 2011 ceremony for 25 years of service to Harvard University.

Postdocs

Rowan Barrett was recognized with the John Maynard Smith Prize from the European Society for Evolutionary Biology for his work on the genetics of adaptation to changing environments. He also received the Young Investigators Award from the American Society of Naturalists, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Banting Fellowship, the Human Frontiers in Science Postdoctoral Fellowship and the National Geographic Research and Exploration Grant.

Andres Bendesky received the Helen Hay Whitney Postdoctoral Fellowship for his work involving the neurobiology and genetics of pair-bonding behavior in *Peromyscus* mice.

Jean-Marc Lassance was given The Human Frontiers in Science Postdoctoral Fellowship, which encourages early career scientists to broaden their research skills by moving into new areas of study while working in a new country. Lassance also received a postdoctoral fellowship from EMBO in support of international research careers.

Marie Manceau received the ATIP-Avenir Starting Grant from the Institut National de la Sante et de la Recherche Medicale and the Centre National pour la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS). The grant enables young scientists to create and lead a team within an established laboratory in France.

Sarah Kocher received a USDA Postdoctoral Fellowship to study pollination biology of native bees.

Graduate Students

Elizabeth Sefton received the Derek C. Bok Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching of Undergraduates. Chris **Laumer** is the winner of the Best Platform Presentation for his talk at the 2012 Society for Integrative & Comparative Biology Division of Phylogenetics and Comparative Biology (SICB DPCB) meeting.



Prashant Sharma was declared the runnerup for his talk at the SICB DPCB meeting. Sharma also received a Certificate of Teaching Excellence from the Harvard Derek Bok Center, a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Biology (PRFB) grant for research at the American Museum of Natural History and teaching at the City University of New York, and the Deakin-Royce Fellowship from the Australian Studies Committee for fieldwork in Queensland and Northern Territory, Australia.

The following graduate students received NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grants: Alexis Harrison, Emily Jacobs-Palmer, Hillery Metz and Martha Muñoz. In addition, Metz received the Robert A. Chapman Memorial Scholarship from Harvard and Muñoz received a Sigma Xi Grant-In-Aid of Research. Katie Boronow, James Crall and Kara Feilich were given NSF Graduate Research Fellowships. Nicole **Bedford** received a James Mills Peirce Fellowship and a NSERC Postgraduate Scholarship. Ambika Kamath was given the Rufus B. Kellogg Fellowship from Amherst College. Evan Kingsley received the Merit/ Graduate Society Term-time Research Fellowship and Robert A. Chapman Memorial Scholarship from Harvard.



Great Transformations: Major Events in the History of Vertebrate Life



In June, Farish A. Jenkins was honored in a symposium at the MCZ organized by Prof. Beth Brainerd (Brown University), Prof. Kenneth Dial (The University of Montana) and Prof. Neil Shubin (University of Chicago).

The event, celebrating his 44-year career as a mentor, teacher and friend, included 19 presentations by Jenkins's former students, lab members and colleagues. The presentations focused on themes consistent with his lifelong research in paleontology and functional morphology of transitional forms among major vertebrate clades.

Dial, a former postdoc in Jenkins's lab, explains, "Farish's profound impact on the lives and careers of countless students, postdoctoral fellows and research collaborators is acknowledged worldwide. His lectures are legendary, his teaching voice always articulate, passionate, focused and organized. Through his example, Farish's colleagues have been shown the standard bar to the highest quality of teaching and research." The papers will be integrated into chapters of an edited text in Jenkins's honor.

Annual Report 2011–2012



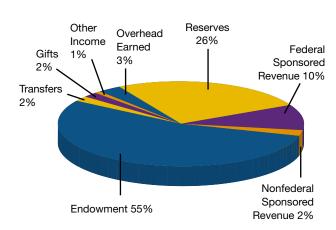
FINANCIAL DATA

These charts describe the income and expenses of the Museum of Comparative Zoology in fiscal year 2012.

Endowment income funds much of the Museum's activities, including acquisition and maintenance of collections, faculty and staff salaries, capital projects, facilities renovation and maintenance. Included in Endowment income is the annual distribution, revenue generated from assets purchased through endowments and endowed funds decapitalized per donor request. Transfers include Harvard University-funded faculty research, financial support for the Ernst Mayr Library and other Harvardfunded projects. Other Income comprises miscellaneous income from publication subscriptions, royalties, sales and fees, and other cost recovery from other MCZ-sponsored activities. Reserves represent the amount of carry-forward balances used to cover an operating deficit. Overhead is funding paid from MCZ-based sponsored projects to the MCZ to cover facilities and administrative costs for

those projects. It is shown as both income (Overhead Earned) and expenses (Overhead Charged). Capital **Projects** include deployment of collections to the newly constructed space in the Northwest Building. Building expenses such as maintenance, facility improvements and utilities are captured in the **Space & Occupancy** category. Operating Expenses consist of equipment purchases, supplies, consultant and conference fees, as well as annual subventions to the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology (OEB) for administrative services. Support for MCZ-affiliated graduate students in OEB is included in Scholarships, Awards & Travel. Institutional **Expenses** are support for other University activities outside the MCZ, including the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, University initiatives and general operating support to the Harvard Museum of Natural History.

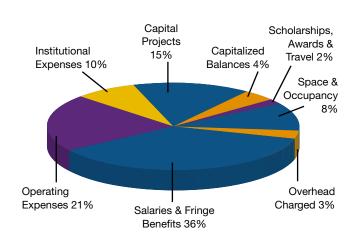
Income



Income

Total	\$24,180,637
Other Income	\$150,946
Nonfederal Sponsored Revenue	\$370,390
Gifts	\$378,917
Transfers	\$436,801
Overhead Earned	\$780,190
Federal Sponsored Revenue	\$2,443,841
Reserves	\$6,249,189
Endowment	\$13,370,363

Expenses



Expenses

Total	\$24,180,637
Scholarships, Awards & Travel	\$464,632
Overhead Charged (Sponsored)	\$779,987
Capitalized Balances	\$968,397
Space & Occupancy	\$1,905,562
Institutional Expenses	\$2,465,668
Capital Projects	\$3,733,150
Operating Expenses	\$5,185,591
Salaries & Fringe Benefits	\$8,677,650

Faculty-Curators

Andrew A. Biewener Charles P. Lyman Professor of Biology; Director, Concord Field Statio

Scott V. Edwards Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology; Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology; Curator of Ornithology

Brian D. Farrell Professor of Biology; Curator of Entomology

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