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EXHIBIT MARKS 74 YEARS ON THE JOB FOR ACADEMY'S DR. RUTH PATRICK

PHILADELPHIA — She is described as a “hero” and “a den mother for a couple generations of scientists.” She pioneered techniques for studying the health of water bodies, was awarded the National Medal of Science, and she has her own Internet Wikipedia entry.

Now, in anticipation of her 100th birthday on Nov. 26, Dr. Ruth Patrick has a display dedicated to her amazing legacy. “Ruth Patrick: 74 Years on the Job at the Academy,” is on view through mid-October at The Academy of Natural Sciences. Another exhibition in Philadelphia also features Patrick, characterized as a “hero”: “UNDAUNTED: Five American Explorers, 1760–2007,” at the Museum of the American Philosophical Society through Dec. 28, 2008. And the Academy is planning a gala birthday dinner in her honor on Nov. 17, <http://www.ansp.org/Patrick100/index.php>

While she is treated like a celebrity at the Academy—where she still reports to work almost daily—and in the international science community, Patrick is not a household name. The Academy’s display seeks to change this by using personal items, an instrument she invented and her own words to recreate her remarkable career.

“Dr. Patrick has been a force-of-nature for science since her father first let her peer into his microscope long ago,” said Academy President and CEO Dr. William Brown. “She saw her passion, and the Academy and the world of ecology has been forever changed.”

Patrick was the first scientist to show that biodiversity is the keystone of a healthy ecosystem. Today, this concept is one of the basic teachings of ecology and one that prompted Thomas Lovejoy, president of the Heinz Center for Science, Economics and the Environment, to coin the term The Patrick Principle and to describe Patrick as “a den mother for a couple generations of scientists.”

Patrick first came to the Academy in 1933 as a 26-year-old Ph.D. student writing her dissertation on diatoms, single-celled algae. In those days, there were few women studying or working in science. When she was told that female scientists were not paid, she became a full-time volunteer organizing and cataloging the diatom collection. Finally in 1945, she was put on the payroll, at a salary of \$1,000 per year.

In the mid-1940s, Patrick’s studies of diatoms led her to believe they might be useful in studying the effects of water pollution, a new scientific concept at the time. Over the next 40 years, she studied hundreds of rivers, streams, and lakes; from tiny tributaries trickling through nearby Fairmount Park in Philadelphia to the headwaters of the Amazon.

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Visitors will see a selection of Patrick's tools of the trade: her pith helmet and hip waders, nets, jars, field microscopes and field guides. They will also see an odd-looking portable device she invented to collect diatoms called the "diatometer."

Patrick went on to write dozens of scholarly papers describing how pollution affects freshwater ecosystems. She advised presidents, earned dozens of awards and honors, including the National Medal of Science in 1996, and her life's work laid the foundation for the modern ecological movement.

In 1947, Patrick was named Chairman and Curator of the Academy's Limnology Department, which in 1983 was renamed in her honor, the Patrick Center for Environmental Research. Today the Patrick Center is a world leader in studying the effects of natural and human activities on ecosystems, developing strategies to enhance environmental quality and working with government, industry and community groups to improve environmental stewardship.

"The work and legacy of Dr. Patrick are amazing, and we are continuing to work toward a better understanding of the basics of environmental quality and ecosystem health," said Dr. David Velinsky, Vice President and Director of the Patrick Center."

"Ruth Patrick: 74 Years on the Job at the Academy" is located on the second floor outside of the Ewell Sale Stewart Library.

For more on Dr. Ruth Patrick, see www.ansp.org/research/pcer/rp/index.php, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruth_Patrick and www.amphilsoc.org/exhibitions/undaunted.html and on the Academy's Diatom Herbarium, www.ansp.org/research/biodiv/diatoms/index.php

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The Academy is located at 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway and is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and weekends until 5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for children ages 3-12, seniors, students with college I.D. and military personnel, and free for children under 3. There is a \$2 fee for Butterflies!

The Academy of Natural Sciences is Philadelphia's natural history museum and a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. The mission of the Academy is the encouragement and cultivation of the sciences.