



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 29, 2008

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# HIGHLIGHTS OF GREGOR MENDEL: PLANTING THE SEEDS OF GENETICS May 24-Sept. 28, 2008

PHILADELPHIA—Learn about the brilliant Augustinian friar who became the father of genetics in “Gregor Mendel: Planting the Seeds of Genetics” at The Academy of Natural Sciences beginning May 24, 2008. Philadelphia is the last stop on a national tour. Here are some highlights of the exhibit:

### **Personal artifacts**

Because Mendel was not recognized for his brilliant work during his lifetime (1822-1884), few of his personal possessions were kept. This rare collection of about 100 personal objects includes Mendel’s botanical specimens, scientific instruments, gardening tools, photographs, correspondence, original manuscripts, journals and books.

### **Hands-on Interactives and Videos**

Five videos and 10 hands-on interactive components make the fundamentals of genetics accessible to non-scientists. Visitors can create the steps of Mendel’s pea experiment; identify dominant and recessive traits on themselves; analyze DNA sequences; and look through a microscope that shows what scientists were able to see at different points in history.

### **Marriage of Science and Art**

Mendel’s discoveries inspired artwork as well as scientific advances. An innovative feature of this exhibit is the integration of contemporary works of art that explore the subject of genetics. The works emphasize the spirit of insight and inspiration, inquiry and innovation.

### **Modern Mendels**

Learn about scientists working on the cutting edge of genetics. They are using Mendel’s ideas to research the tree of life for birds, the conservation of sharks and other projects.

“Gregor Mendel” is free with museum admission and is presented by Villanova University, the nation’s only Augustinian university, and The Academy of Natural Sciences. For more information: [www.ansp.org/mendel](http://www.ansp.org/mendel). The exhibit was developed by The Field Museum, Chicago, in partnership with The Vereinigung zur Förderung der Genomforschung in Vienna, Austria and The Mendel Museum in Brno, Czech Republic.

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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!”*