



MEDIA ADVISORY

May 6, 2009 Carolyn Belardo 215 299-1043, <u>belardo@ansp.org</u> Press Room: <u>www.ansp.org/press</u>

PRESS PREVIEW FOR GECKOS—TAILS TO TOEPADS, MAY 27

WHAT: The press is invited to preview The Academy of Natural Sciences' newest temporary exhibit, "Geckos—Tails to Toepads," before it opens to the public on Saturday, May 30. The exhibit features more than 75 live geckos representing 18 species and describes the science behind the tiny lizards.

WHEN: Wednesday, May 27, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The preview is informal, with no scheduled speeches. Come when it's convenient.

Staff will be available to interview in the exhibit. They include: Anthony Geneva, Academy biologist who studies geckos; Ned Gilmore, Academy collection manager for vertebrate zoology; Jacquie Genovesi, Academy senior director of education; and Zach Marchetti, herpetology keeper with Clyde Peeling's Reptiland of Allenwood, Pa., the exhibit developer.

WHERE: The Academy of Natural Sciences, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia

BACKGROUND: Geckos are among the most diverse and interesting reptiles on earth. They have bulging eyes, "sticky" toe pads and disposable body parts, and their curious characteristics are being adapted to develop new products that help humans. For more information about the exhibit: http://www.ansp.org/press/featured_exhibits.php#geckos and www.ans.org/geckos

RSVP: Carolyn Belardo, <u>belardo@ansp.org</u>, 215 299-1043

ENTRANCE: Enter at 19th Street Members entrance. Exhibit one floor up on first floor.

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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, college students with I.D. and military personnel, and free for children under 3. There is an additional \$2 fee for "Butterflies!"

Founded in 1812, The Academy of Natural Sciences is the oldest natural science research institution and museum In the Americas and a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. The mission of the Academy is the encouragement and cultivation of the sciences.