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MEDIA ADVISORY/PHOTO OP

“GECKOS—TAILS TO TOEPADS” OPENING WEEKEND Saturday and Sunday, May 30 and 31

WHAT: The public gets its first look at more than 75 live geckos in the special exhibit “Geckos—Tails to Toepads.” Hear them, see them, experience them live and up close in naturalistic habitats.

WHEN: Saturday and Sunday, May 30 and 31
Museum opens 10 a.m., closes 5 p.m.
Special activities between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

WHO: Gecko keeper Zach Marchetti presents live gecko shows, including a gecko glass-climbing demonstration, at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. both days.
Visitors enjoy demonstrations of gecko adaptations at the Science Live Station and make gecko crafts.

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

BACKGROUND: Geckos are among the most adaptable lizards on earth, with more than 1,250 species that have conquered habitats from balmy tropical beaches and lush rain forests to frigid mountain slopes and parched deserts. Geckos range from shadowy nighttime hunters with unbelievable camouflage to neon-colored nectar-eaters that scamper around in daylight. They are commonly known for their amazing ability to scale smooth walls. Indeed their sticky feet have inspired a new type of glue-free bandage for use in internal injuries as well as external wounds. Scientists are studying geckos’ vision, regeneration ability and a host of other biological processes and phenomena that they hope to adapt to help humans.

EXHIBIT INFORMATION: http://www.ansp.org/press/featured_exhibits.php#geckos

“Geckos—Tails to Toepads” was created by *Peeling Productions* at Clyde Peeling’s REPTILAND of Allenwood, Pa. The exhibit is **free** with museum admission.

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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 \$12 for adults, \$10 for children ages 3-12, seniors, college students and military personnel, and free for Members and children under 3. There is a \$2 fee for “Butterflies!”