



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM “DRESSES UP” IN PREPARATION FOR BICENTENNIAL, NAMES PHILADELPHIA LEADERS TO BOARD

PHILADELPHIA—The Academy of Natural Sciences today announced the election of four area leaders to its governing board and the launch of several museum improvement projects in preparation for the institution’s bicentennial celebration next year.

The new members elected to the Board of Trustees add a diversity of business, science and legal expertise to the nation’s oldest natural history museum at a momentous time in its history. “These are committed and passionate leaders who will help guide this venerable science research institution as we enter our third century,” said Academy President and CEO George Gephart. “We are extremely proud to welcome them to our Academy family.”

At the same meeting in late March, the board unanimously agreed to personally fund more than \$700,000 in renovation projects aimed at “Dressing Up the Academy” and improving the visitor experience. These include:

- major renovation of the 19th Street entrance to complement the newly renovated main entrance;
- updates to exhibits that highlight the historical collections and important scientific research;
- new, informative exhibit and way-finding signage;
- renovation to the Commons Room, a multipurpose space.

The renovations are expected to be completed by year’s end and in time for the yearlong celebration of the Academy’s 200th anniversary in 2012. “These projects are just the first small step in what we want to accomplish in the years ahead. This is an exciting time for the Academy,” said Gephart.

As the museum improvements take shape, the following new board members helping oversee them are:

- Dr. Patrick M. Oates, a 13-year pharmaceutical professional, is currently working with Orisun Therapeutics, an early-stage pharmaceutical company seeking to commercialize

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compounds for the treatment of neurological disorders. He also was director of government affairs and scientific relations for Cherokee Pharmaceuticals of Philadelphia and, before that, director of global medical affairs for Wyeth Pharmaceuticals in Collegeville. A resident of Plymouth Meeting, Oates grew up in Philadelphia and earned a doctorate in physiology and molecular biology. The Philadelphia [Daily News](#) recently named him one of five achieving African-American scientists to watch for future achievement.

- Ann Reed, a long-time supporter of the arts and culture in Philadelphia, is also a passionate gardener. She earned an undergraduate degree in zoology from Smith College, worked as a micro-biologist at Ciba Geigy, and co-authored four books. She was a founding partner of P & R Associates communications specialists. Reed has served on or chaired many local boards including those of The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, The Morris Arboretum, Chanticleer, Leadership Inc., and the Garden Club of Philadelphia.
- Anthony Moore, principal and CEO of Paradigm Group Consultants, a Philadelphia management and consulting firm. Before that, he held a number of marketing and senior management positions with Xerox Corp., where he earned numerous sales awards. He resides in Philadelphia.
- John J. Soroko, chairman and CEO of Duane Morris of Philadelphia, where he started his law career in 1977. Soroko practices in the area of litigation, with particular emphasis on general business, corporate and securities matters. He was a member of the transition team for Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett and lives in Philadelphia.

Founded in 1812, the Academy of Natural Sciences is America's oldest natural history museum and a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. For nearly 200 years, the Academy has carried out its mission to encourage and cultivate the sciences, exploring the remarkable diversity of our natural world and sharing these discoveries with the public through innovative exhibits, publications, and educational programming.

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HOURS: Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Saturday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. ADMISSION: \$12 adults; \$10 children 3-12, seniors, college students, and military personnel; free for members and children under 3. \$2 fee for Butterflies! PHONE: 215-299-1000.

THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES 1900 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PARKWAY PHILADELPHIA 19103