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ACADEMY THROWS GLITTERING GALA FOR SCIENTIST DR. RUTH PATRICK'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

Shortened museum hours, free museum admission Nov. 17

PHILADELPHIA —In honor of her 100th birthday and lifetime of scientific achievement, pioneering ecologist Dr. Ruth Patrick will be the guest of honor at a glittering gala on Saturday, Nov. 17, at The Academy of Natural Sciences.

To prepare for the evening festivities, Dinosaur Hall, where the party will take place, will be closed to the visiting public all day Nov. 17, and the entire museum will close at 2 p.m. However, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., the hours the museum will be open, visitors will enjoy **free** admission and a special dinosaur fossil display and staff interpretation at the Science Live Station in the museum.

"We sincerely hope to avoid inconveniencing our guests, but I think they will understand the significance of this important occasion, the 100th birthday of our esteemed scientist, Dr. Patrick," said Barbara Ceiga, Vice President for Museum Operations. The museum will resume regular weekend hours of 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 18.

Visitors on Nov. 17 and the days before then will be invited to sign a giant birthday card for Patrick, who has been dubbed the "den mother of ecology." Patrick first came to the Academy in 1933 as a 26-year-old Ph.D. student writing her dissertation on diatoms, single-celled algae. She went on to publish a series of papers showing that the impact of human activities on an ecosystem can be measured by the organisms living there—a concept sometimes referred to as the "Patrick Principle." She served as a science advisor to Presidents Lyndon Johnson and Ronald Reagan, and she earned dozens of awards and honors. In 1996 President Bill Clinton presented her with the nation's top science honor, the National Medal of Science.

"If ecology really got its due, Dr. Patrick would have a place on Mount Rushmore. She's a true pioneer of ecosystem science," said Academy President Dr. William Y. Brown. "We are going to throw one awesome party for her."

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Patrick actually turns 100 on Monday, Nov. 26. On that day the staff of the Academy planned to fete her with a big birthday cake and best wishes.

Tickets to the gala start at \$250 and proceeds benefit the Academy and its Patrick Center for Environmental Research, the aquatic ecology department founded by Patrick in 1947 and later renamed in her honor. 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.

For gala ticket information, see <http://www.ansp.org/Patrick100/index.php>.

For more information on Patrick, see www.ansp.org/research/pcer/rp/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, the oldest natural history museum in the Americas, is a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. The mission of the Academy is the encouragement and cultivation of the sciences.