

## The DEAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome to yet another edition of our electronic newsletter. We enjoy the opportunity to share our activities and happenings with you through this medium each month. As alumni and friends of the college, we value your support and want to keep you as involved as possible, regardless of the distance that may separate you from all of us here in Provo.

We have recently made a concerted effort to increase the college's visibility, both inside and outside the BYU community. In this spirit, we have been committed to raising awareness of the great things that our faculty and students accomplish on a daily basis. During this process, we have noticed an interesting occurrence: the more we tell people about the great things happening at BYU, the more people listen and get excited about the great opportunities.

This month's feature article highlights the recent grand opening of the newly named BYU Museum of Paleontology, which took place during Homecoming weekend. We were delighted to have members of our College Volunteer Leadership Council and many other alumni with us to celebrate the occasion as we opened the museum's doors to the public prior to the BYU-TCU football game. We experienced a great deal of interest from the community, and many individuals and families were able to experience the museum's unique exhibits firsthand during the celebration.

The event has provided a jumping-off point for more community interest in the museum and, by extension, greater visibility for the college as a whole. Thanks to its newly extended "Family Night" hours, the museum has been filled with visitors each Monday evening of November. We invite those of you who might live in close proximity to the university (or may be visiting us in the near future) to bring your families and experience the great research of our paleontologists.

This issue also highlights a number of recent discoveries made and awards received by our faculty members. These great accomplishments further raise the public profile of both the college and the university as institutions of academic and scholastic excellence. We look forward to similar accomplishments that will surely come as we strive to perform the cutting-edge research and build the bright minds that will shape the future.

As we continue in this endeavor, we would love to reach out to your respective communities. If there is a concentrated interest in learning more about BYU and the college, we would be happy to arrange for visiting representatives to present lectures and firesides in your area. As always, we encourage you to email us ([college@cpms.byu.edu](mailto:college@cpms.byu.edu)) to inform us of your exciting activities and discoveries. We look forward to keeping in touch.

.....→ **Scott Sommerfeldt, Dean**

## DEPT. NEWS

**CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY**  
Professor receives national award from the Society for Applied Spectrometry

**CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY**  
Princeton faculty member praises BYU students, chemistry programs

**CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY**  
Renowned Harvard chemist presents third annual Izatt-Christensen Lecture at BYU

**GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES**  
BYU paleontologist finds crushed bones reveal literal dino stomping ground

**GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES**  
Museum of Paleontology extends hours for Monday "Family Night" activities

**PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY**  
BYU professor presents annual Summerhays Lecture, discusses science and religion

**COLLEGE LINKS**  
[CPMS Homepage](#)  
[Giving to the College](#)



## MUSEUM OPENS WITH NEW NAME, OLD BONES

*Homecoming football fans probably did not expect to encounter remains of giant sloths or 37-foot-long crocodiles. However, that is exactly what many found at the Grand Opening of the BYU Museum of Paleontology on [October 24th].*

Just across the street from the LaVell Edwards Stadium, the former Earth Science Museum held a grand opening for the public with free tours, games and prizes.

The renamed BYU Paleontology museum was expanded to include new exhibits and species that were previously kept under the stadium.

"We are changing our name to the Museum of Paleontology because it really describes us and what we do," said Rod Scheetz, curator and director of the museum. "Every kid knows what a paleontologist is even if adults do not."

The BYU Paleontology Museum has one of the largest collections of upper-Jurassic period dinosaur fossils in North America. Exhibits range from small shell and bug-like fossils to large displays of dinosaur bones including the torvosaurus, a dinosaur similar to a tyrannosaurus.

Scheetz said an exciting addition is a new triceratops skull. The 9-foot-long skull on display was actually a cast made from the original bones. Many of the bones are too brittle to put on open display, but are kept in back rooms of the museum for safekeeping.

"Anything that has to do with dinosaurs is pretty darn exciting," Scheetz said.

Andrew Bucklin, a geology major who gave tours of the museum said the extending and re-opening of the museum was a great opportunity to learn.

"I think seeing some of the new displays is really exciting," Bucklin said. "There are tons of educational opportunities here for kids and BYU students."

[more...](#)

