Installation of two "ribs" of dome steel, National Museum of the American Indian, December 2002

Semi-Annual Report to the Board of Regents for Fiscal Year 2003
May 2003
INTRODUCTION

This report presents Smithsonian Institution data and highlights for the first half of fiscal year 2003 (October 1, 2002 through March 31, 2003).

PUBLIC IMPACT

VISITS TO THE SMITHSONIAN

Smithsonian museums and traveling exhibitions had 11.6 million visits during the first half of fiscal year 2003: 8.8 million visits to museums; 0.4 million visits to the National Zoo (NZP); and 2.4 million visits to traveling exhibitions organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), the Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM), and the National Portrait Gallery (NPG). Attendance between October 1, 2002, and March 31, 2003, rose by four percent compared to the same period of fiscal year 2002. However, when compared with the first half of fiscal year 2001, visits in the first half of this fiscal year are down by 22 percent. The downturn is not unique to Washington, D.C. SITES reports that the reduction in attendance at its exhibitions is due to nationwide declines in museum visits combined with cancellations of SITES exhibitions by host organizations that are impacted by budget cuts at the state and local levels.

The essentially flat attendance rate reflects the continuing effects on recreational tourism of September 11, 2001, and a weak economy. Compounding those effects were the sniper attacks that paralyzed D.C. in the fall, the unusually severe winter, including the Presidents’ Day blizzard that closed the Smithsonian for two days, and, in February, the raising of the nationwide terrorist alert to code orange. As the Smithsonian approaches its traditional “high season” of April through July, it could have a substantial shortfall in visits relative to its projections resulting from further decreases in travel stemming from the Iraq War and fears about Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

Some Smithsonian museums are doing better than others in comparison with the first half of fiscal year 2002. Notably, visits to the National Air and Space Museum rose by 50 percent. This is understandable since extensive renovation work was under way in the comparable period last year. The Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum had a 33 percent increase, due in part to the hugely successful exhibition George Catlin and His Indian Gallery, which had more than 100 related public programs and drew over 90,000 visitors.

Visits to Smithsonian Museums and Traveling Exhibitions
First Half of Fiscal Years 2002 and 2003

*Visit statistics do not include SAAM and NPG, which were closed for renovation.
Sources: Office of Protection Services, SITES, SAAM, NPG.
VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE

Virtual visitors have increased at the Smithsonian’s web sites, including the main web site at www.si.edu and more than 70 other Smithsonian museum, zoo, and exhibit-specific web sites. The 37.3 million visitors logged during the past six months exceed the 26.2 million web visitors recorded in the corresponding six-month period of a year ago. Despite the decrease in travel nationwide over the past 12 months, web traffic continues to grow at a steady rate. In March 2003, the Smithsonian registered over 6.6 million visitors, a 29% increase over March 2002.

• The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service web site, Corridos sin Fronteras, won the 2003 Best of the Web Award for “Best On-line Exhibition and Activity Site.” The annual award is sponsored by the Museums and the Web Conference. The Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies developed the teaching materials available on the web site.

• The National Museum of Natural History, Department of Anthropology’s virtual exhibit, Unmasking the Maya: The Story of Sna Jtz’ibajom, is now online in four languages, including two versions of Mayan. Unmasking the Maya provides an historical perspective of the Maya culture and the centuries of contact between Mexico and the U.S.

• The Smithsonian American Art Museum’s multimedia educational web site associated with its exhibition, George Catlin and His Indian Gallery, is a finalist in the educational category for both the South by Southwest Interactive Festival in Austin, Texas and the Museums and the Web Conference. Moderated by naturalist Peter Mathhiessen, the site includes campfire discussions that incorporate content from Catlin’s journals, commentary from Native Americans, primary source materials, and activities for students.

• The Archives of American Art launched a new web site, Archivos Virtuales, in March. The project was funded through the Smithsonian Center for Latino Initiatives and uses the Archives’ published guide, The Papers of Latino and Latin American Artists, as its foundation. The web site includes 470 photographs, sketches, letters, and other documents.

• The National Portrait Gallery launched two new online exhibitions. Portrait of the Art World: A Century of ARTnews Photographs is a collaboration between the National Portrait Gallery and ARTnews Magazine; with nearly 100 photographs it is a veritable who's who of the 20th century art world. A second virtual exhibition, Women of Our Time, is about one of the century's most remarkable developments: the shifting role of women and their ever increasing significance in all branches of endeavor.

• The Smithsonian Institution Libraries (SIL) introduced a new web-based program dubbed “SIL On Display,” which provides samples of SIL’s unusual collections for researchers and the general public. The first project, Zoos: A Historical Perspective, showcases a collection of pamphlets and guide books published by zoos in more than 30 states and 40 countries over the past century.

• The new web site www.nationalzoo.si.edu, which combines the National Zoo and the Friends of the National Zoo (FONZ) sites, debuted in January. More than 2,000 pages detail everything from the Park’s hours of operation to Zoo research into reproductive science and zoological medicine. New webcams on the site feature a variety of Zoo residents from black-footed ferrets to flamingos. In the first half of fiscal 2003, 3.6 million people visited the site.
EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

West Point in the Making of America, 1802-1918, opened to the public in the Armed Forces History Hall of the National Museum of American History, Behring Center on October 19, 2002. The exhibition, marking the U.S. Military Academy at West Point’s bicentennial year, tells its story of molding future leaders. Among the 100 artifacts displayed are the furniture from General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, and General John J. Pershing's World War I war room.

Light Screens: the Leaded Glass of Frank Lloyd Wright opened March 14 at the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum. The exhibition showcases 48 stained glass windows, many of which are being shown to the public for the first time, two architectural models, and 13 original plates from two of Wright's portfolios. The exhibition explores how Wright visually united landscape and interior.

Natures Jewels: A Living Exhibition of Orchids and Butterflies has transformed the East Hall of the Arts and Industries Building into a beautiful tropical forest. The 8th annual orchid exhibition, co-sponsored by the Smithsonian Horticulture Services Division and the U.S. Botanic Garden, features stunning, fragrant, live orchids from both collections and, for the first time, a live butterfly house with 40 tropical species. The exhibition closes May 26.

Gerhard Richter: Forty Years of Painting, February 27 to May 18 at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, is the most comprehensive North American presentation to date of the highly diverse, influential paintings by this premiere German artist (b. 1932). This critically-acclaimed exhibition of more than 120 works includes both the artist's abstractions and his photo-based depictions of historical and political figures, among other subjects. Organized by the Museum of Modern Art, the show began in New York and will end in Washington, D.C.

The Sensuous and the Sacred: Chola Bronzes from South India opened at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery in November and continued through March 9. The exhibition was the first in the United States devoted solely to the art of the Chola bronze and brought together 60 bronzes produced between the ninth and 13th centuries. The Chola bronzes mark not only an aesthetic triumph but a dramatic shift within Hindu temple practice as the portable deities were paraded out of the inner sanctums.

Zero to Infinity: Arte Povera 1962–1972 opened at the Hirshhorn in October and continued through January 20. This show featured more than 140 sculptures and large-scale installations by 14 artists who were part of a loose-knit Italian movement that challenged aesthetic hierarchies with their innovative approaches to making art using unorthodox materials such as coal, wood, silk, and plants. The Hirshhorn was the final and only East Coast venue for the exhibition, which was co-organized by the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis and the Tate Modern, London.
The concurrent exhibitions, *Whistler in Venice: The Pastels* at the Freer Gallery of Art and *Whistler and His Circle in Venice* at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, commemorate the centennial of James McNeill Whistler's death (1834-1903). Both shows highlight the artist's innovative approach to the city. They close June 15. *Whistler in Venice* is the first of three Whistler exhibitions during this anniversary year to be held at the Freer, which has the most comprehensive collection of works by Whistler in the world.

*In and Out of Focus: Images from Central Africa, 1885-1960* opened at the National Museum of African Art in December and continued until March 16. *In and Out of Focus* examined how widely disseminated images by Euro-American photographers created and perpetuated ideas and sentiments about the peoples of central Africa who lived under colonial rule. The photographs are from the extensive holdings of the Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives at the Museum and from public and private collections in Belgium.

*New Hotels for Global Nomads* opened at the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum in October and continued through March 2. *New Hotels* demonstrated that hotels today advance how people live in cities, travel around the world, conduct business, commune with nature, and construct their fantasy lives. The exhibition combined architecture, interior design, photography, film, and works of art to show just how varied and dynamic hotels can be today.

*Captive Passage: The Transatlantic Slave Trade and the Making of the Americas* opened at the Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture on February 3 and features more than 200 objects and images that document the geography and timeline of the slave trade as well as the human misery and economic impact associated with it. The exhibition was organized by the Mariners' Museum of Newport News, Virginia, in cooperation with the South Street Seaport Museum in New York City and the National Museums & Galleries on Merseyside in Liverpool, England.

*The Edge of Enchantment* opened at the National Museum of the American Indian's George Gustav Heye Center in New York on December 14. The multimedia show, featuring the photographs of Robert Ysáis, illustrates the complex relationship of the Native communities of the Huatulco-Huamelula region of Oaxaca, Mexico, with their environments. The exhibition presents the *encantos*, or enchanted places, that are woven into the story of each village. According to The New York Times, “The Edge of Enchantment...gives a vivid sense of power...[I]t is an elaborately installed and lavishly illustrated anthropology.”

*El Rio*, a bilingual exhibition that opened at the Arts and Industries Building on February 14, explores the relationship between culture and environment in the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Basin, where survival of the diverse communities has depended on their understanding and care of this fragile environment. Visitors meet shrimpers, ranchers, cowboys, brick makers, weavers, and instrument makers in 17 vignettes with video and interactives. The traveling exhibition was co-organized by the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage and the Smithsonian Center for Latino Initiatives.
In September 1991, hikers in the Austro-Italian Alps discovered “the Iceman,” a 5,300 year-old mummy eroding in the melting ice. In January, an exhibit was installed in the National Museum of Natural History's Western Cultures Hall with a life-sized mannequin of the Iceman showing what researchers believe he looked liked before his death. (The real Iceman's mummy is on exhibit at the South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology in Bolzano, Italy.) Because of the extraordinary preservation, the 1991 find yielded priceless information about how Neolithic people used perishable organic materials such as wood, leaves, and animal hides.

A Saki monkey was born at the National Zoo's Small Mammal House on March 14, weighing approximately four ounces at birth. The parents, three-year-old Isabella and nine-year-old Oberon, are responding well to their newborn, which curator Bob King believes to be a male. Another new face at the Zoo is Malaika, a female reticulated giraffe acquired on December 12. Malaika was born on August 4, 2000.

**NATIONAL OUTREACH**

The Office of National Programs played a major role in expanding the Smithsonian's presence across America. This was most evident in the development and unveiling of the [SmithsonianAcrossAmerica.si.edu](http://SmithsonianAcrossAmerica.si.edu) national outreach database. This database serves as a collecting point for information about all activities sponsored by the four National Programs Offices: Smithsonian Affiliations, The Smithsonian Associates (TSA), Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), and Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies (SCEMS).

**Smithsonian Affiliations.** In the first half of fiscal year 2003, Smithsonian Affiliations signed agreements with 15 new Affiliates and reached three previously un-represented areas (Connecticut, Idaho, and New Jersey). At the end of the second quarter, there were 130 Affiliates in 37 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Panama.

During this period, collections loans to Affiliates included more than 100 watercolor sketches, scientific specimens, and anthropological artifacts from the National Museum of Natural History; several pieces of high-denomination currency from the National Museum of American History's numismatics collection; and a portrait of Benjamin Franklin from the National Postal Museum. Approximately 1,100 additional Smithsonian artifacts circulated to 21 Affiliate venues via traveling exhibitions convened by SITES and five different Smithsonian museums and centers.

Smithsonian Affiliations and SCEMS co-administered the Smithsonian Affiliations Visiting Professionals Program to provide short-term professional development opportunities for Affiliate staff members. Three visiting professionals began residencies at Smithsonian museums.

A particularly successful event was the first Smithsonian Affiliations/American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Cultural Alliance Conference, held in San Antonio, Texas, January 27-29. Staff from 33 Affiliates participated in this initial planning session to promote collaboration and explore themes of volunteerism and nurturing audience diversity.

**The Smithsonian Associates.** In the first six months of fiscal year 2003, TSA created 929 educational programs designed to reach learners of all ages. Its programs occurred in 34 states and the District of Columbia, as well as in 44 countries.
TSA's Resident Associate Program teamed up with cultural organizations in Washington, D.C. and Baltimore to create a programmatic focus on the history and culture of Russia. TSA was honored to receive a letter in support of its programs from President Vladimir Putin and general assistance from the Embassy of the Russian Federation. Among the programs were special evenings with Dr. Mikhail Piotrovsky, Director of the Hermitage Museum, and poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko.

For children and families, the 37th Annual Smithsonian Kite Festival took place on the National Mall. Its theme was a celebration of “100 Years of Flight.” Thanks to SmartPapers, this year's lead sponsor of the Kite Festival, 5000 free kites were distributed to participating children.

TSA's Regional Events program reached into 11 communities around the country. Three special programs were Smithsonian Scholars in the Schools, which reached more than 11,000 people in Atlanta, Louisville, and Peoria; CultureFest 2002 where Smithsonian scholars addressed almost 6,000 people in Minneapolis, Philadelphia, and San Jose; and the fifth annual Smithsonian Week in Long Beach, presented in conjunction with the Public Corporation for the Arts, a Smithsonian Affiliate.

Smithsonian Journeys, formerly Smithsonian Study Tours, officially changed its name in January 2003. Highlights of the 56 international study tours included a new month-long “Sabbatical in Siena,” with daily classes in Renaissance art and Italian history and language.

*The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.* During this reporting period, SITES presented 53 exhibitions in 110 locations in 37 states, the District of Columbia, and Australia, and opened five new exhibitions. *Latin Jazz: La Combinación Perfecta/The Perfect Combination* opened at the Arts and Industries Building on October 19, 2002. This bilingual traveling exhibition traces the history of Latin jazz—the fusion of jazz with Afro-Cuban and Caribbean music—in America. Highlights include Tito Puentes' timbales, an early trumpet used by Dizzy Gillespie, and a Carlos Santana guitar.

*Lunch Box Memories* opened at the Lafayette Museum of Natural History, Lafayette, Louisiana, on November 16, 2002. The rectangular steel lunch box, with a glorious visual history dating from the first Hopalong Cassidy box in 1952 to the last Sylvester Stallone box in 1985, captures a culturally romantic and revealing saga of American childhood. The 64 lunch boxes featured in SITES' exhibition are largely drawn from the collection of the National Museum of American History, Behring Center.

*Through My Father's Eyes* breaks new ground as the first Filipino-American traveling exhibition through SITES. This exhibition of 50 photographs by Ricardo Alvarado was developed by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program in collaboration with the National Museum of American History, Behring Center (NMAH) and began its three-year national tour at NMAH on November 21, 2002. Alvarado, a Filipino immigrant, had a passion for capturing the special celebrations and daily rituals—from weddings, funerals, baptisms, and dances to street scenes, beauty pageants, and agricultural workers tending crops—of San Francisco's Filipino-American (Pinoy) community during the 1940s and 50s.
**Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies.** SCEMS launched a new design and distribution strategy for *Smithsonian in Your Classroom*, a biannual teaching guide with a special 60-page issue that features three lesson plans, each focusing on a different century in history. This teaching guide was sent to every elementary and middle school library in the U.S. (82,000 schools).

In partnership with two major school districts, SCEMS was awarded two U.S. Department of Education Teaching American History Grants. For the first of these grants, SCEMS will implement the second year of The Corp of Historical Discovery, a comprehensive teacher training program that partners SCEMS, Montgomery County (Maryland) Public Schools, Montgomery College, and the University of Maryland. For the second grant, SCEMS will partner with Charlotte-Mecklenberg (North Carolina) Schools, Davidson College, Charlotte Museum of History, Museum of the New South, Afro-American Cultural Center, and The College Board in Advanced Placement: Analysis, Thinking, Training, Articulation, and Content Knowledge (AP ATTACK), which provides professional development opportunities for 8th- and 11th-grade American History teachers.

**Other Traveling Exhibitions**

*Americans: Paintings and Photographs from the National Portrait Gallery, Washington* opened at the National Portrait Gallery in London on October 10. The exhibition included 70 paintings and 58 photographs from the Gallery's permanent collection that represent a diverse range of individuals who have shaped the American experience. A JPMorgan-sponsored event on the opening weekend was attended by Prime Minister Tony Blair, former Prime Minister Baroness Margaret Thatcher, and Baroness Blackstone (the current Minister for the Arts).

**Education Highlights**

At the instigation of the Education Committee of the Smithsonian National Board, an Education Survey of education resources across the Institution was conducted by the Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies and the Office of Policy and Analysis last year. Based on the findings from the survey and the recommendations of the Education Committee presented in February 2003, Secretary Small and Under Secretary Burke made a commitment to develop a strategic plan for education at the Smithsonian. The plan will coordinate education programming across the Smithsonian, serve to improve overall management, and better communicate the impact of Smithsonian education programs. Recommendations include appointing a Task Force to establish a clear education mission and broad goals and empowering a council of educators from more than 25 Smithsonian units to serve as a problem-solving, long-range planning committee.

Panama's rainforest was brought into U.S. classrooms from February 10 to 14 with live, bilingual videoconferencing from Barro Colorado Island (BCI). Jacalyn Giacalone Willis, visiting researcher at STRI and Director of PRISM (Professional Resources in Science and Mathematics) at Montclair State University, and collaborator Gregory Willis presented five sessions to classes in New Jersey and Texas. The two researchers have carried out a 20-year census of mammals on BCI to study how populations of different species on the island change from year to year. Students were able to talk with them, live from BCI, about their experiences, research projects, and ecological principles.

In February, the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) and Project View of the Schenectady City School District, through a U.S. Department of Education Technology Innovation Challenge Grant, signed an MOU to produce a Virtual Informal Education Project based on the research conducted by Dr. Bert Drake at his Florida research site at Cape Canaveral on climate...
change and increased carbon dioxide levels. This partnership will create, over three years, a virtual field trip with pre- and post-curriculum activities and accompanying web site and is expected to reach between five and ten million students.

During the past six months, the National Science Research Center (NSRC) has secured more than two million dollars in support for its operations and three NSRC Centers of Excellence. This support includes $1.5 million for the LASER (Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform) Center ($1.3 million from the National Science Foundation, and $200,000 from the Lucent Technologies Foundation). The work of the NSRC's Curriculum Development Center has resulted in the NSRC obtaining $600,000 of royalties from the sales of its elementary and middle school curriculum materials.

**SMITHSONIAN EVENTS**

*Presidential Commission for the National Museum of African American History and Culture Report.* The presidential commission that was established in December 2001 to make recommendations about a National Museum of African American History and Culture on the National Mall issued its report to Congress on April 2. The report recommends that the museum be “part of the Smithsonian” and addresses issues relating to possible locations, collections, governance, organizational structure, and impact on other African American museums in the United States. The commission's preferred site is a plot of land on the U.S. Capitol grounds between Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues and bordered by First and Third Streets. Commission members envision a museum of approximately 350,000 square feet at a cost of $360 million. The 22-member commission report will be considered by Rep. John Lewis and Sen. Sam Brownback as they draft legislation for the authorization of the new museum.

*Save Our Sounds,* a one-hour documentary shown on the History Channel December 26, chronicled the efforts being undertaken by the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage and the Library of Congress to preserve America's recorded sound history. The program included interviews with musicians David Crosby, Mickey Hart, Pete Seeger, and B.B. King as well as Smithsonian archivists and sound engineers who are fighting to preserve thousands of endangered audio recordings. In conjunction with the documentary, an auction was held on eBay December 2 to January 2. Celebrities including Tony Bennett, Eric Clapton, Natalie Cole, Gloria Estefan, and Will Smith signed guitars donated by Gibson for the auction.

The National Portrait Gallery celebrated the inaugural winners of the Paul Peck Presidential Awards on October 19. The awards were presented to Brent Scowcroft, former National Security Advisor to Presidents Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush, for “Service to a President” and Richard E. Neustadt, professor emeritus of government at Harvard University and author of *Presidential Power,* for “Portrayal of a President.” The goal of the program is to increase civic engagement among young people.

On November 16, 2002, more than 200 philatelists, foreign dignitaries, Smithsonian officials, and others gathered with the Postmaster General at the National Postal Museum for a gala black tie reception and dinner to honor the first three recipients of the Smithsonian Philatelic Achievement Award: John R. Boker, Charles Wyndham Goodwyn (Keeper of The Royal Philatelic Collection), and His Serene Highness Prince Rainier III of Monaco. The attendees previewed the Museum's largest-ever philatelic exhibition, *The 1847s: America's first Stamps.*
On January 21-24, the Smithsonian Office of Government Relations and the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO) arranged a visit to the Submillimeter Array Telescope in Hawaii by Rep. Robert W. Ney (Committee on House Administration) and Rep. Steven C. LaTourette (Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management), as well as key staff members. SAO scientists, including Nobel Prize winner Dr. Robert W. Wilson, facilitated a full exchange of information about the Array and its scientific objectives.

In January, the Office of Fellowships awarded 13 Scholarly Studies research grants—seven in the sciences and six in the humanities—to Smithsonian scholars in support of individual research projects spanning a broad range of disciplines. Awards were made following a competitive process based on peer review by two multi-disciplinary committees composed of eight science and five humanities experts from outside the Institution.

The Office of Public Affairs, in coordination with The Visitor Information and Associates' Reception Center (VIARC), placed a paid advertisement in the A section of The Washington Post on Friday, February 14, 2003, to thank all Smithsonian volunteers for their “commitment, loyalty and hard work.” The ad featured a photograph of Secretary Small with more than 200 Smithsonian volunteers in the Enid A. Haupt Garden, with the Castle in the background.

On October 7, 2002, the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center held the groundbreaking ceremony for the first student dormitory that will be part of the Green Village complex. A host of dignitaries, led by Secretary Small and former Maryland Governor Parris Glendening participated. The culmination of a decade of planning, the Green Village project will eventually consist of a second student dormitory, six visiting scientist cottages, and an open area plaza and will help to further develop the sense of a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week research community.

In celebration of the National Museum of African Art's 15th anniversary on the National Mall, the Museum unveiled a major interior redesign of its entrance pavilion on October 3. This new entrance space conveys the power and significance of African art and culture using multimedia presentations, African music, African-inspired design elements, and some of the world's finest examples of traditional and contemporary African art.

On October 12, 2002, Smithsonian Institution Libraries joined with the National Museum of Natural History in a grand gala to celebrate the opening of the Joseph F. Cullman 3rd Library of Natural History. The 160 guests toured the new reading room and state-of-the-art environmental chamber designed to house 10,000 rare books and manuscripts relating to natural history.

**FOCUSED, FIRST-CLASS SCIENCE**

**SCIENCE COMMISSION**

The Science Commission held its last meeting December 9 and presented its final report to Secretary Small on December 10. In January, the Executive Committee, Drs. Jeremy Sabloff, D. James Baker, and Yolanda Moses, met with the Regents to provide recommendations on how improvements can be accomplished in Smithsonian science. Of the 76 recommendations, 29 are complete or are under way to date. In March, Robert Craddock and Paula DePriest were appointed as scientist advisors to the Office of the Under Secretary for Science, following the Commission's
recommendation to establish the rotating one-year positions. Robert Craddock has been a geologist at the Center for Earth and Planetary Studies at the National Air and Space Museum since 1988. Paula DePriest has been a research scientist and associate curator in the Botany Section of the Department of Biological Systematics.

**SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS**

**National Museum of Natural History**

- The Phycological Society of America, a scientific society that promotes the study of algae, has awarded its 2002 Prescott Prize to Diane Littler, Research Associate, and Mark Littler, Curator, in the Department of Systematic Biology, for their book *Caribbean Reef Plants: An Identification Guide to the Reef Plants of the Caribbean, Bahamas, Florida, and Gulf of Mexico*. The Prize is an endowed award that honors highly meritorious scholarly work in the form of a book or monograph devoted to algae and published during the last two years.
- Zoologist Don E. Wilson is the coauthor with Roland W. Kays of the newly-published Princeton Field Guide, *Mammals of North America*. The comprehensive, 240-page reference guide covers all resident species north of Mexico. With full color illustrations for every one of the 442 species, *Mammals* shows the user how to identify any mammal encountered, from mouse to moose, bat to baleen whale, Abert's Squirrel to the Yuma Myotis.

**National Zoological Park**

- Dr. Nadja Wielebnowski, a former post-doctoral fellow, produced a study entitled, “Impact of social management on reproductive, adrenal, and behavioral activity of the cheetah.” Most zoos maintain female cheetahs in groups of two or three individuals. Wielebnowski studied cheetah behavior and hormones to demonstrate conclusively that such a housing situation results in reproductive suppression (ovarian shutdown) in one or both females. These new data are being widely disseminated through the North America Cheetah Species Survival Plan and the new Global Cheetah Forum in Africa.

**Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory**

- The Chandra X-ray Observatory continues to provide stunning images of the heavens. At the American Astronomical Society's biannual meeting in Seattle in January, new results were presented on behalf of an international team of scientists. The new data revealed that our galaxy's central black hole is prone to numerous outbursts and occasional large explosions. The observations of the black hole (a.k.a. Sagittarius A* or Sgr A*) occurred over a two-week period for a total exposure time of 164 hours. These discoveries will help to unlock the secrets of how Sgr A* grows and how it interacts with its environment.

**Smithsonian Center for Materials Research and Education (SCMRE)**

- SCMRE is providing consultation for the conservation of two unique mural paintings in the Alameda Theater in San Antonio, Texas, a Smithsonian Affiliate. These murals are extraordinary examples of black-light painting executed in fluorescent pigments. Analytical work at SCMRE will provide the information needed to conserve the paintings in this historic landmark that, at the time of its opening in 1949, was the largest building dedicated to Spanish-language entertainment.
Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC)

- SERC Marine Ecologist Anson Hines received notice of a new one-year grant award of $1.9 million to the Blue Crab Advanced Research Consortium (BCARC) from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for “The blue crab, Callinectes sapidus: an integrated research program of basic biology, hatchery technologies and the potential for replenishing stocks.” BCARC is comprised of SERC, the University of Maryland's Center of Marine Biotechnology, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, North Carolina State University, and the University of Southern Mississippi. The project is testing the feasibility for stock enhancement of blue crab fisheries.

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI)

- STRI staff scientist D. Ross Robertson and Gerald R. Allen from the Museum of Western Australia produced the CD “Shorefishes of the tropical eastern Pacific: An information system in English and Spanish.” The CD, intended for use by divers, aquarists, the fishing industry, and the general public, provides searchable information on the size, diet, habitat, and reproductive behavior of 1,195 species of fish from Mar del Cortez, Mexico, Cabo Blanco, Peru, the Galapagos Islands, and elsewhere.

- Oxford University Press published the book A Magic Web: The Tropical Forest of Barro Colorado Island by STRI scientist Egbert G. Leigh, Jr. and communication associate Christian Ziegler in October. The book was critically hailed as “the best summary of the tropical ecosystem and the behavior of its inhabitants.” It received the 2002 award for excellence in the biological sciences category from the Professional and Scholarly Publishers Division of the American Association of Publishers.

National Air and Space Museum Center for Earth and Planetary Studies (CEPS)

- Two geologists from CEPS have been selected for participation on upcoming missions to Mars. Dr. John Grant was named as a participating scientist on the Mars Exploration Rover (MER) Science Team. Two MER spacecraft are scheduled to be launched in June and July 2003 toward landings on Mars in early 2004. Dr. Thomas Watters was named as a participating scientist on the Mars Advance Radar for Subsurface and Ionospheric Sounding instrument on the Mars Express Mission. Mars Express is an orbiter mission by the European Space Agency, scheduled for launch in summer 2003.

Management Excellence

Smithsonian Management

Several new outstanding leaders have joined the Smithsonian while other staff have departed from the Institution during the first half of fiscal year 2003.

- Cristián Samper (sam-PAIR) was appointed Director of the National Museum of Natural History effective March 31. Dr. Samper, a biologist, became Deputy Director of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) in April 2001 and served as Acting Director of STRI in 2002.

- Brent D. Glass began as Director of the National Museum of American History, Behring Center in December 2002. For the prior 15 years, Dr. Glass had been Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in Harrisburg, PA.
• **Sharon F. Patton** began as Director of the National Museum of African Art on March 17. Prior to her appointment, Dr. Patton was the John G. W. Cowles Director of Oberlin College's Allen Memorial Art Museum.

• **Catherine C. Hummel** was appointed as Comptroller for the Smithsonian Institution effective February 3. Ms. Hummel was in charge of the Financial Policies and Procedures Division of the Office of the Comptroller since she joined the Smithsonian in 2001.

• **Jim Bruns**, Director of Development and Founding Director of the National Postal Museum, left the Institution in March to become Executive Director at the Atlanta Historical Society. Mr. Bruns began his twenty-year career at the Smithsonian as curator of the National Philatelic Collection at the National Museum of American History.

### Strategic Plan and Performance Measurement

The Smithsonian submitted its revised Strategic Plan to the Office of Management and Budget in March 2003 to meet the Administration's directive that all Federal agencies submit revised strategic plans that would be templates for their 2005 budget. The plan makes a stronger business case for the Smithsonian and strengthens its presentation of the linkages between program outputs, benefits derived by people served, and long-term outcomes benefiting the nation. It also takes into account the impact of September 11 and possible implications of the war in Iraq. On the performance-measurement front, the Institution continues to develop the key indicators of program results and operational effectiveness in its annual Performance Plan for fiscal year 2004, including establishing baselines for data currently captured and developing data collection methodologies for new measures.

### Information Technology Update

The Institution implemented Phase 1 Financials of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System including the general ledger, accounts payable, and purchasing modules, and a portion of the projects, asset management, and accounts receivable modules on October 1, 2002. The Institution encountered problems in migrating data from the Smithsonian Financial System (SFS) to the ERP system, which employs far more rigorous financial controls. The need to research and enter new voucher data due to incorrect or missing SFS data and the "learning curve" associated with the new system caused delays in paying the Institution's bills. The Institution has now eliminated the payment backlog.

The implementation schedule on the remaining financial modules and the human resources management modules was delayed because of the Continuing Resolution (Congressional legislation to provide budget authority for Federal agencies to continue operations pending the enactment of regular appropriations) and uncertainty over the Federal fiscal year 2003 budget. Now that the Federal budget has been approved, the projects, asset management, accounts receivable, core Personnel Action Request (PAR) processing, basic employee benefits and awards, time and labor, and payroll interface modules will be deployed in fiscal year 2004. The ERP project will be complete upon deployment of the unit level PAR processing, recruiting, training administration, employee relations, labor relations, EEO management, performance management, procurement management, budget formulation, billing, contracts, grants, and benefits administration modules in fiscal 2005.

The Smithsonian plans to implement a modern telecommunications infrastructure over a four-year period beginning in fiscal year 2003. The existing telephone network consists of 77 mostly obsolete telephone systems and about 10,000 telephone lines. The two cable plant systems, one for voice and one for data services, have not kept pace with industry standards, and parts of the infrastructure
are more than 50 years old. The future telecommunications infrastructure will reduce costs, improve reliability, provide for growth supported by proven technology, integrate with the Internet Protocol communications architecture, and ultimately provide for an infrastructure to support voice and data on a single network.

**Smithsonian Center for Photography**

Led by Senior Curator Merry Foresta and Assistant Curator Jeana Foley, a Smithsonian Center for Photography is being created under the International Art Museums Division. The new Center will be a study center as well as a web-based portal to the Smithsonian's vast photographic holdings, including some 13 million images in about 700 collections within the Institution as well as equipment and apparatus related to the history of photography. The Center will provide scholars and visitors access to objects through electronic open storage, as well as launch real and online exhibitions, offer innovative online educational programs, and generate a series of publications. The first project, *At First Sight: Photography and the Smithsonian*, includes a book to be published by Smithsonian Institution Press in fall 2003, the launch of the exhibition web site in November 2003, and the exhibition opening in 2004. The Center is being developed solely with private money; an advisory board is being formed to provide guidance on fund raising and other issues.

**National Zoological Park (NZP)**

On March 5, Director of NZP Dr. Lucy Spelman testified before the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on House Administration, chaired by Rep. Robert W. Ney (R-OH), to address issues raised in recent media reports suggesting the existence of inadequate animal care practices at the Zoo. Media attention on the Zoo has been focused on a number of animal deaths that occurred over the past four years. With the exception of the red pandas (2003) and the zebras (2000), two cases where staff errors in animal care were involved, the animal deaths that have been the subject of recent news stories have been the result of illness, age-related diseases, or injury. At the hearing, Congressional members announced the establishment of an independent panel convened by the National Academy of Sciences to review the Zoo's animal care and management practices. The Committee also recommended that the National Zoo undergo regular unannounced inspections by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service. Smithsonian senior management is completely supportive of these two initiatives.

Subsequent to the extensive media coverage, at its meeting in Columbia, South Carolina, on March 26, the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) decided to “table” the National Zoo's accreditation, which means that the Zoo will remain accredited for the next year while it responds to the AZA's List of Concerns to be addressed before accreditation for another five years can be granted. The AZA's letter to Dr. Spelman stated, “The [AZA] Accreditation Commission is extremely impressed with the overall progress the zoo has made in the relatively short period of time it has been under your direction. There has been commendable progress made in addressing long-standing facilities issues. The relationship with the Friends of the National Zoo has been improved to a degree that has not existed in more than 15 years...It is evident that you are dedicated to the solution of problems that began many years before your appointment.”

The Zoo’s management is working hard on the challenging issues covered by Director Spelman at the Regents’ Strategic Planning meeting in June 2002.
MAJOR CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION PROJECTS

During the first half of fiscal year 2003, the Institution made significant progress on its major construction and renovation projects.

Patent Office Building
383,000 sq. ft.
$216.0 million total estimated cost

- $92.6 million in Federal funds and $23.2 million in private-sector funds remain to be raised to complete the initiative. The fiscal year 2004 request of $48 million is under consideration by Congress.
- The project includes renewal of the 166-year-old building, a 350-seat auditorium, open labs and storage areas, and a glass enclosed courtyard.
- Non-historic and hazardous materials removal and preservation of historic fabric is complete. Window replacement and cleaning/repair of the stone façade is 59% complete with work to be finished by July 2003.
- A contract for the renovation and renewal of the building is planned for a 3rd quarter award in fiscal year 2003.
- A design competition for the courtyard enclosure is pending Congressional authorization.
- Planning for the reopened museum includes development of overall themes for spaces within SAAM and NPG and identifying works of art and other artifacts to be exhibited.

National Museum of the American Indian–Mall Museum
350,000 sq. ft.
$219.3 million total estimated cost

- $13.7 million in private-sector funds remains to be raised to complete the initiative. Congress, in providing $15.9 million in fiscal year 2003, has completed construction funding for the Mall Museum and all options have been let.
- The building is 50% complete and remains on time and on budget.
- Structural concrete work is complete. Concrete masonry exterior walls are progressing up to the 5th floor. Steel trusses are being installed for the dramatic cantilevered floors facing the Capital. Fitting-out of all floors is now under way including ductwork, piping, and conduit work.
- Exterior Kasota stone is on site and being installed.
- The Museum prepared a detailed plan for exhibits, move-in, and start-up. The various exhibits, displays, and multi-media presentations are all in design or fabrication; they, too, are on time and on budget.
- $86.4 million has been raised from private sources.

National Air and Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center
761,000 sq. ft.
$309 million total estimated cost

- $6.8 million in Federal funds and $103.9 million in private-sector funds remain to be raised to complete the initiative.
- The Udvar-Hazy Center will open in December 2003 in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the first manned, powered flight by the Wright brothers.
- The Center, nearly 80% complete, will open with more than 70 aircraft, 50 engines, and over 50 spacecraft and space related artifacts. It will include the aviation hangar, a space hangar observation tower, large-format theater, classrooms, flight simulators, and a food court.
• On March 17, 2003, NASM began moving aircraft into the Air Hangar.
• The haul road from the airport is complete. The parking lot is nearly complete. The Route 28 access ramp is under construction. Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing work continues on boilers and chillers in the central utility plant. The main hangar is occupied and heated and interior fit-out is well under way. Space Hangar steel trusses are complete.
• *Straight Up* has premiered and is ready for use in the IMAX Theatre.

**National Museum of American History, Behring Center**

**250,000 sq. ft.**

**$200.0 million total estimated cost**

• The National Museum of American History, Behring Center is in the early stages of renovation/renewal.
• $45 million in Federal funds remains outstanding to complete the initiative. A number of large gifts and agreements permit planning for several exciting exhibits as well as for the extensive renovation of the building.
• *Public Space Renewal.* The new Director has modified proposals to simplify core renovation and bring the project within projected funding.
• *America on the Move.* Construction is due for completion in June, exhibition fabrication installation is to be completed in October, and the exhibition opens November 18, 2003.
• *The Price of Freedom.* The final design contract is being let. The construction contract is due for award in November 2003 with the opening planned for November 2004.
• *For Which it Stands.* The Star-Spangled Banner preservation is under way and on schedule. The conceptual design for the exhibition is under way; *For Which it Stands* will open in 2006.

**FINANCIAL STRENGTH**

**FINANCIAL POSITION**

The uncertain economic picture continues to produce a significant challenge for the Smithsonian. Despite the continued uncertainty of the stock market and the lackluster economy, the Institution expects to increase its net worth in fiscal year 2003 by $107 million, an increase over the prior year of 6.7 percent. The Smithsonian's net worth (or net assets) reflects the combined value of the Institution's endowment, investments, building and equipment, and outstanding pledges minus its liabilities.

The Smithsonian's net assets grew in fiscal year 2002 by $40 million, to nearly $1.6 billion, and are projected to grow to a total of about $1.7 billion in fiscal year 2003. The historic pattern of growth in the Institution's net assets is shown in the following graph.
Taken together, the net assets of the Institution are projected to grow by $107 million, for a total of $14 million less than budgeted. As shown in the following table, at mid-year, the valuation of the Institution's Endowment is projected to fall short of the budget at year-end by $16 million due to the poor performance of the stock market.

### Smithsonian Institution Financial Position

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2003 Budget</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2003 Forecast</th>
<th>Variance FY2003 Forecast to Budget Increase/Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Deposits</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment</td>
<td>578</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>(16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Investments</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>(24)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smithsonian Buildings and Equipment</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1035</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Pledges</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>(7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,246</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,232</strong></td>
<td><strong>(14)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td>1,716</td>
<td>1,702</td>
<td>(14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,246</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,232</strong></td>
<td><strong>(14)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Smithsonian's net worth is projected to grow by $107 million, $14 million less than budgeted. The year-end value of the Endowment is projected to be $16 million, or 2.8%, below budget.

**Fiscal Year 2003 Financial Activity**

Fiscal year 2003 has posed some serious challenges to the Smithsonian with the burgeoning threat of domestic terrorism and the failure of museum visitation to return to fiscal year 2001 levels.
The financial strength of the Smithsonian Institution is affected directly by the strength of the overall economy and museum visitation. The real effect of a drop in planned visitation on the Institution in fiscal year 2003 is reflected in business revenues. The net effect of significantly lower sales volume in the museum stores, restaurants, and theaters has been a decline in projected net business income compared to the budget. This decline has a direct impact on unrestricted Trust funds available to the rest of the Smithsonian.

To bring the unrestricted Trust budget into balance, a reduction of unrestricted Trust-funded staff and related expenses of $7.6 million occurred at the start of fiscal year 2003. To further reduce fiscal year 2003 unrestricted Trust expenses, another reduction of over $4 million is under way. Proactive steps by management to restructure operations starting in fiscal year 2001, largely in response to the decline in unrestricted Trust funding, has resulted in 235 Trust-funded staff dismissals to date, with the possibility of an additional 50 Trust-funded staff dismissals projected before the end of the fiscal year.

The following table provides a projected year-end statement of the Institution's financial activity compared to the budget.

**Smithsonian Institution Annual Financial Activity**

($ millions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY2003 Budget</th>
<th>FY2003 Forecast</th>
<th>Variance FY2003 Forecast to Budget Better/(Worse)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Operating Sources</td>
<td>688</td>
<td>699</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Operating Expenses</td>
<td>684</td>
<td>736</td>
<td>(52)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Surplus/Deficit</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>(37)</td>
<td>(41)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Non-operating Surplus</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets Increase</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>(14)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The Smithsonian’s net assets are projected to grow by $107 million over the previous year, $14 million less than budgeted, largely a consequence of continued public and private support for the Institution's facilities capital program offset by a lower valuation of the Endowment than projected.*

The table shows a projected operating deficit of $37 million, a negative budget variance of $41 million, due almost entirely to an underestimate of spending of previously raised restricted Trust funds inadvertently excluded from the budget. More than offsetting its operating deficit, the Smithsonian projects a non-operating surplus of $144 million (a positive budget variance of $27 million). This positive variance reflects the tremendous momentum the Institution has garnered for its facilities capital program. The single largest projected increase is $47 million in unbudgeted Federal support for improvements to the Institution's physical infrastructure.

At mid-year, the risks to the Institution's budget include the uncertainties of the times reflected in the sluggish economy nationwide and growing public wariness about incidences of domestic terrorism.
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

As the Smithsonian enters the third quarter of fiscal year 2003, giving in the private philanthropy sector was down, due in large measure to a soft domestic economy and unsettled international events. Total voluntary support and sponsorship commitments for fiscal year 2003 through March totaled $35.1 million, as compared to last year's total of $69 million for the first two quarters. However, the Smithsonian remains on target for meeting its fund-raising goals for major construction projects, particularly the Udvar-Hazy Center and the National Museum of the American Indian.

Annual Giving and Extraordinary Gifts*, Fiscal Years 2002 and 2003

*Extraordinary gifts are those of $5 million or more.

A number of $1 million or greater gifts were received during the first two quarters:

• The Upton Trust gave $2 million to the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute to help ensure future funding of STRI's research and related activities and for fellowships, current activities, and construction projects at STRI to be used at the Director's discretion. The Trust has been a longtime STRI supporter.

• The Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation gave $1.5 million to the Smithsonian American Art Museum for a catalogue raisonné of the work of Joseph Cornell.

• James F. Dicke II, gave $1.5 million for the James F. Dicke Endowment for Contemporary Art at the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

• Ford Motor Company provided $1.4 million in corporate philanthropic sponsorship to the Smithsonian Center for Latino Initiatives for the Profiles in Excellence exhibition.

• Mr. Joseph F. Cullman 3rd gave $1.23 million to the Smithsonian Institution Libraries to help the Libraries in purchasing the Russell E. Train Collection of Africana.

• The Holenia Trust of Zurich gave $1 million to the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden for the Holenia Trust Endowment for acquisitions at the Museum.

The Office of External Affairs continues to work with many different groups to raise private resources. Its Planned Giving Program in particular promises long-term future support. Among the most popular giving vehicles is the charitable gift annuity. To date in fiscal year 2003, 53 charitable gift annuities have been established, for a total of $3,272,506, up from $690,989 for the same period last year.

The Contributing Membership remains stable as a source of unrestricted revenue for the Institution. The first of two phases for the Secretary's Annual Fund appeal for the current fiscal year has
generated nearly $500,000 in unrestricted contributions to the Smithsonian from donors across the country. Through the end of March, Contributing Members have given more than $5.6 million in contributions and dues, which is on pace with giving for the past two fiscal years.

**Smithsonian Business Ventures**

Smithsonian Business Ventures (SBV) earned a net gain operating income of $5.9 million in the first five months of fiscal year 2003 on total revenues of $58 million. Net gain for the period was slightly over budget and increased $2 million from the previous year due in part to improved museum visitation from the low levels experienced in the same period following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Museum sales for the first half of the year continue to lag behind pre-September 11 levels; severe winter weather and the onset of war in Iraq have worsened the trend. Weakness in travel and tourism has a double effect on SBV: museum business income relies on visitorship, and travel industry clients are one of Smithsonian Magazine's largest and most profitable categories of advertising revenue.

With the war in Iraq and the threat of terrorism suppressing D.C. tourism and museum visitation as SBV enters its busiest season (65 percent of museum revenue earned April to September, the second half of the fiscal year), steps have been taken to reduce expenses in anticipation of a projected shortfall in revenue. The permanent workforce for SBV museum operations is being reduced by eight percent, and 40 percent of temporary jobs have been eliminated. Operating expenditures were reduced and capital spending was curtailed.

During the first half of fiscal year 2003, management concluded a new multi-million dollar licensing agreement with MBNA America for the issuance of a Smithsonian affinity credit card to be offered to members and museum visitors. Additionally, a plan to develop new business revenue was endorsed by the SBV Board of Directors and the Secretary. The first of these initiatives will be presented to the Board of Regents at their spring meeting. The initiative to reduce fixed costs of existing businesses continued with the successful outsourcing of the Smithsonian Catalogue fulfillment operations to a private contractor and a similar outsourcing of warehousing and distribution functions for the Museum Stores division. SBV also established a pilot program with the Visitor Information and Associates' Reception Center (VIARC) to increase membership sales and services to museum visitors that is being tested at the Castle Visitor Center and several museums.