



# THE COLLECTIVE



Old Capitol Museum • Museum of Natural History

## IOWA HALL TURNS 25!



*Photograph from the opening of Iowa Hall May 11, 1985.*

Just a few years after celebrating its sesquicentennial, the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History has another important milestone to celebrate. This May marks the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Iowa Hall gallery, which has become a vital educational resource for the University and the surrounding community.

Festivities include a panel discussion with members of the original research and design team, and a public reception where the visitors can interact with members of the panel. The Museum is also releasing its new book *Window to the World*, which reflects on the history of the museum and features a pictorial guide to the exhibits. The Museum will also host a birthday party for "Rusty" the giant ground sloth, which will include birthday cake, a costume contest, and the unveiling of Rusty's new costume.

The Museum of Natural History opened in 1858, as a repository for the natural history specimens that formed the basis of science education at the University. The Museum expanded in the early 1900s to offer galleries featuring items from its world-wide collections, but was not able to achieve its goal of a dedicated account of Iowa's natural heritage, until the UI allocated additional space in the 1980s. Since its opening on May 11, 1985, over 750,000 people have visited the gallery from all over the world. Many school groups and University classes utilize the gallery to reinforce concepts explored in their coursework.



*Will Thomson reviews plans for Iowa Hall with students in 1985.*



### Schedule of Events:

Saturday, May 1, 2010

- Display of materials from the development of Iowa Hall
- Panel discussion, 3:00–4:30 p.m., Macbride Auditorium
- Reception and book signing, 4:30–6:30 p.m., Iowa Hall

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

- Display of materials from the development of Iowa Hall
- Rusty's birthday party, 3:00–7:00 p.m., Iowa Hall

*Visitors today are still captivated by the exhibits in Iowa Hall.*

# NEW EXHIBITS

## The U of I Through the Lens of Fred W. Kent



*UI Through the Lens of Fred W. Kent* exhibits photos from the University of Iowa Archives' Kent Collection from the 1920s to 1960s. Kent, once a photographer and instructor at the University, took numerous photos from all aspects of campus life. The Kent photographic archive contains more than 50,000 prints and negatives. The exhibit features many photographs that are not often displayed.



Top: *The Kent Exhibit* currently featured in the Old Capitol Museum.  
Left: Photograph of Fred W. Kent, courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa.

## Mysteries in the Valley of the Sloths: Current Research with Tarkio Valley Sloth Project

Meghann Mahoney, Assistant Education & Outreach Coordinator, researched and designed a special exhibit hosted by the Old Capitol Museum this spring and summer. *Mysteries in the Valley of the Sloths* offers visitors an opportunity to learn about the Ice Age mysteries being explored through the Museum of Natural History's Tarkio Valley Sloth Project, a groundbreaking and multidisciplinary research effort involving the UI and other institutions. As part of the exhibit opening, Mahoney presented a *UI Explorers* lecture entitled "Old Bones, New Opportunities: A Student's Journey through the Tarkio Valley Sloth Project," based on her ongoing involvement with the research project.



Top: Portion of the sloth exhibit in the Old Capitol Museum.  
Right: Bones from the hand of the adult sloth articulated in the exhibit.

Both exhibits can be viewed through August 1, 2010.

# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

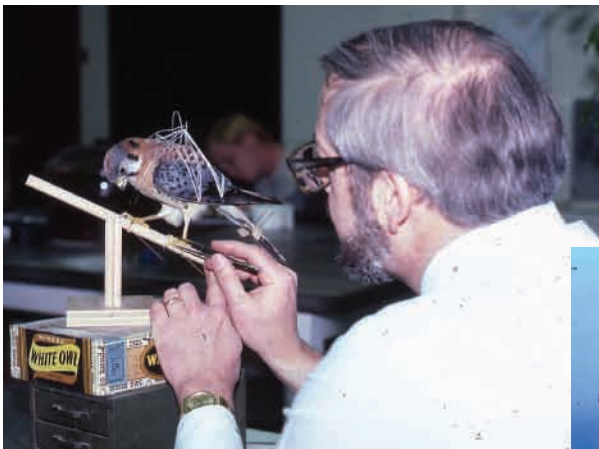
May Day! This is a day for celebrating flowers, warmth, and renewal. A day for celebrating Spring! This year May 1 is also a day for celebrating the 25th anniversary of the opening of Iowa Hall at the UI Museum of Natural History. For the last 25 years, the Museum, and Iowa Hall specifically, have provided education, awe, and entertainment to hundreds of thousands of visitors, young and old. No one ever goes away disappointed or without learning something new about Iowa and themselves. This spring and summer, the Museum staff welcomes you into the galleries of both the Museum of Natural History and Old Capitol Museum to experience once again, or for the first time, the wonder and excitement that can be found in our Museums. There is so much to discover!

Along with our permanent exhibits, you will find temporary exhibits at Old Capitol Museum. A celebration of the photography of Fred Kent is on display on the ground floor, and on the 2nd floor rotunda we are featuring fossilized bones of the Tarkio Valley giant ground sloth. These exhibits will only be available until August 1, so visit us soon! An exhibit opening this fall will revisit the late 1960s and life on the UI campus, with other surprises along the way.

Join us and discover your favorite animal, fossil, or antique. Commune with the past through cultural and historic displays, and explore current civic and environmental issues. Visit our gift shops and purchase our new retrospect on the Museum of Natural History and other new summer items for sale. Most importantly, come and enjoy the Pentacrest Museums—the staff is waiting to aid you in your journey!

Shalla Wilson Ashworth  
Director of Operations

# CONSTRUCTION OF IOWA HALL



*George Schrimper mounts a Kestrel for the prairie habitat.*



*Finishing touches are added to the Dunkleosteus in the Devonian diorama.*



*Neal Deaton and Jeff Schabillion look over plants for the Iowa Hall exhibits.*

# EDUCATION UPDATES

## Museum of Natural History

This spring, UIMNH presented programs on a variety of topics to learners of all ages. Many young visitors enjoyed learning about our natural world with *Storytime Explorers* and during the *Owls: Whooo are you* workshop. *Movies@MNH* continued showing films on the big screen, including the *Evolution* series in February in honor of Darwin Day. During the *Mini World's Fair* at MNH, visitors learned about the geology of the Philippines through volcano demonstrations, brought in artifacts and fossils to be identified by experts from the UI and Iowa Geological Survey, and enjoyed "fairy floss" and Dr. Pepper like fairgoers in 1904.

In April, UIMNH hosted several *Earth Month* events in honor of the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. The Museum showed environmental documentaries in collaboration with the UI Office of Sustainability and Iowa Policy Project. On Earth Day, a *UI Explorers* lecture celebrated sustainability efforts at the University of Iowa and City of Iowa City. ECO Iowa City presented composting and water demonstrations as part of the Museum's *Family Weekend* activities.



Education coordinator, Sarah Horgen, shows owl workshop students an owl from the Museum collection.

## Old Capitol Museum



Spring at Old Capitol Museum means another exciting National History Day competition. On March 19, Old Capitol once again hosted the district competition for National History Day in Iowa. Junior high students presented projects related to the theme "Innovation in History: Impact and Change." Approximately seventy students presented exhibits, research papers, websites, performances, and documentaries reflecting countless hours of research in the field of history. Local volunteer judges saw history come alive as students presented on topics ranging from magnets to McDonald's. Winners from the district competition will go on to compete at the state competition in Des Moines. Many thanks to all the students, teachers, and volunteers who contributed to a successful National History Day!

Coming Soon...

Made possible by a grant from the State Historical Society of Iowa, Inc., new diaries will be added this summer to the Iowa Youth Diaries Project, Old Capitol's permanent exhibit in the Discovery Center.

National History Day contestant with her exhibit.



# PENTACREST MUSEUMS



10 Macbride Hall  
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Old Capitol  
Museum  
21 Old Capitol  
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[www.uiowa.edu/~oldcap](http://www.uiowa.edu/~oldcap)

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[www.givetoioowa.org](http://www.givetoioowa.org)

## Recent Photos from the Pentacrest Museums!



Above: "Fossil Guy" Don Johnson shows visitors his fossil collection at MNH.



Above: Dr. Nelson Ting presents his research on primate conservation during the UI Explorers Lecture Series at MNH.



Left: Visitors at Old Capitol view the Iowa Youth Diaries Project.