

Meet the key players who brought the Carnegie's new dinosaur hall to life

Sunday, November 18, 2007

By Don Hopey and Timothy McNulty, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The new dinosaur hall at Carnegie Museum of Natural History is ready for its public reopening Nov. 21. Included in the \$36 million renovation is a new atrium housing the exhibit, repositioned dinosaur skeletons and new period-specific animal and plant life surrounding the "Dinosaurs in Their Time" fossils. There's also new carpeting, computer touch screens and other educational materials.

The expanded dinosaur hall has required an extensive amount of work over the course of more than five years -- from the 2002 master plan, through fund-raising, to the hiring of architects in 2004 and the main exhibition space closing in spring 2005 for the construction phase.

Here are some of the key players in this venture:

MATT LAMANNA

- **Age:** 32
- **Carnegie position:** Assistant curator of vertebrate paleontology
- **Exhibit role:** Head scientific adviser
- **Why dinosaurs?** "I was 4 years old when I told my parents I wanted to be a paleontologist. So I'm like a little kid who never grew up."

AUDIO Why the exhibit mostly uses casts of dinosaur skulls



CAROL DOWNEY FULLER

- **Age:** 46
- **Carnegie position:** Carnegie Museum project manager
- **Exhibit role:** Project manager
- **Why dinosaurs?** "I was hired when this project was in its initial stages and it's a pretty magical project to be working on. Back in my schooling I was a rock geek and went fossil hunting. It's good to link to that."



JIM SENIOR

- **Age:** 59
- **Carnegie position:** Chairman of exhibits division in Museum of Natural History
- **Exhibit role:** Design, development of display concepts and placement of dinosaurs
- **Why dinosaurs?** "I've been working at the Carnegie for 36 years, and always had a fascination with natural history. Dinosaurs are a part of it. They're the icing on the cake. We've been waiting a long time to upgrade the dinosaurs and this is our big opportunity."



PHILIP FRALEY

- **Age:** 55
- **Carnegie position:** Founder and vice president of Phil Fraley Productions Inc., a New Jersey exhibit fabrication company responsible for the artistic mounts of the dinosaurs
- **Exhibit role:** Renovation of the fossil material, remounting and installation
- **Why dinosaurs?** "These are almost mythical creatures that have captured our imaginations from childhood through adulthood. There are great parallels between life 65 million years ago and our current circumstances. It puts a perspective on things and makes us realize when we work with such great creatures how insignificant we are."



Photo by Craig Cutler
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ALLEN SHAW

- **Age:** 34
- **Carnegie position:** PaleoLab Manager
- **Exhibit role:** Instrumental in disassembly, preparation, restoration and cleaning of dinosaurs
- **Why dinosaurs?** "It's the mystery. They're gone and they were such a successful group of animals we don't know much about. What draws me to them is the sense of discovery."



JACK BARBOUR

- **Age:** 53
- **Carnegie position:** Board chair, Carnegie Natural History Museum, and executive partner, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney
- **Exhibit role:** Chief fundraiser for Dinosaur Hall expansion
- **Why dinosaurs?** "Three decades ago it was recognized -- it was joked as being -- the Hall of The Marching Dinosaurs."



AUDIO On why Dinosaur Hall had to be expanded

BILL DEWALT

- **Age:** 60
- **Carnegie position:** Former Natural History museum director, now president of Musical Instrument Museum, Phoenix
- **Exhibit role:** Museum director from 2001 to early 2007, for bulk of expansion project
- **Why dinosaurs?** Dinosaurs "were things people couldn't dream up, in science fiction terms."



AUDIO On why audiences are attracted to dinosaurs

DAVID HILLENBRAND

- **Age:** 60
- **Carnegie position:** President, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh
- **Exhibit role:** Chief strategist for \$60 million in improvements across museum system, including Dinosaur Hall
- **Why dinosaurs?** "In a sense, that idea has been percolating for decades."



AUDIO On the genesis of the Dinosaur Hall renovation

ZHE-XI LUO

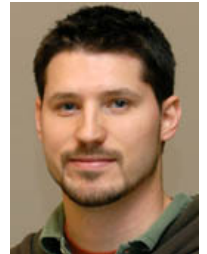
- **Age:** 49
- **Carnegie position:** Acting Natural History museum co-director/curator of vertebrate paleontology
- **Exhibit role:** Lead scientific role in last year of expansion
- **Why dinosaurs?** Dinosaurs are "a very, very successful case in educating the public about evolution."



AUDIO On evolution as a theme in Dinosaur Hall

CHRIS SMITH

- **Age:** 27
- **Carnegie position:** Graphic designer
- **Exhibit role:** Responsible for all information design in the exhibit
- **Why dinosaurs?** "I always liked dinosaurs and it was fascinating to talk to the scientists and find out things I never knew. We do a lot of debunking in the exhibit about common misconceptions about dinosaurs."



MATT PHILLIPS

- **Age:** 37
- **Carnegie position:** Exhibit developer
- **Exhibit role:** Created label text and developed touch screens and story lines for the hall
- **Why dinosaurs?** "I've always been interested in dinosaurs and worked in the education department for seven years. When they started working on the Dinosaur Hall and I realized this was a full-time position, I signed on. It's not a fascinating story, but I do like dinosaurs. I like the mystery of it all."



CATHY KLINGLER


- **Age:** 37
- **Carnegie position:** Manager of the Web site and kiosks
- **Exhibit role:** Designer and content developer of the more than 30 touch screens
- **Why dinosaurs?** "I've always loved dinosaurs and also languages. I studied paleontology so that I could be a paleontology translator. I'm very glad I could write and design for this project."

**MINDY MCNAUGHER**

- **Age:** 49
- **Carnegie position:** Staff photographer and image rights and reproduction administrator
- **Exhibit role:** Acquired all photographs used in the label panels and touch screen kiosks
- **Why dinosaurs?** "I'm not a native Pittsburgher, but was an art major at Carnegie Mellon and as a freshman drew at Dinosaur Hall. I had a huge fascination and loved the place. I've been there for 23 years now and it's been a neat ride."

**DAVE SMITH**

- **Age:** 63
- **Carnegie position:** Acting Natural History museum co-director and director of Powdermill Nature Reserve
- **Exhibit role:** Chief administrative voice in last year of expansion
- **Why dinosaurs?** "What the real driver [of a new schoolbus entrance for field trips] was safety for the kids."

AUDIO  On the new entrance for visiting school children



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First published on November 18, 2007 at 12:00 am