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Spring 2003

### MuseU.M. News, No. 22

University of Montana–Missoula. Philip L. Wright Zoological Museum

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# MUSEU.M. NEWS

SPRING 2003

No. 22

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE PHILIP L. WRIGHT  
ZOOLOGICAL MUSEUM - THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

## CONGRATULATIONS TO BECKY BIGLEY!



The Zoological Museum is pleased to announce that Becky Campbell Bigley was recently awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Student Employee of the Year competition for 2003! She received a plaque and a gift certificate at the April 15<sup>th</sup> award ceremony at the Davidson Honors College. Becky has served the Museum and Preparation well for four years. She has been a work-study student, intern, tour guide, Teaching Assistant, and mentor to many students during her tenure with the museum.

What made Becky stand out during her time here? Well, when her work-study funding was inexplicably cut she stayed on with the museum as a volunteer! Then when her position as a Teaching Assistant for



the museum's continuing education course couldn't be funded because of low enrollment one year, she cheerfully stayed on as a volunteer. She had to work nights and weekends for the course, and she would even voluntarily open the lab at odd hours so that students could study. Becky has always made an extra effort to mentor and counsel students who are interested in both the biology and anthropology programs. If that isn't enough, Becky would also gladly jump into tasks in the museum's preparation lab that even the most hardened lab staff would find offensive! Oh, one more thing, Becky did all of this while taking a full load in school and raising two children!

Again, our congratulations to Becky for this award which she so richly deserves.

## FROM UMZM TO THE FIELD MUSEUM!

More good news about a museum staff member! Amy Singer, who has been with the museum for 1 ½ years as a Museum Technician, just accepted a position with The Field Museum in Chicago! Amy graduated from UM in December, interviewed at The Field in February, and was selected from a national pool of candidates for the position. She will work as a Preparator and Museum Technician in the Invertebrate Paleontology Dept. We will miss her hard work and extensive museum knowledge but we wish her the best of luck in her new position.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON BIRD SKINNERS

Beginning in January of this year the museum initiated a new program, informally known as the "Friday Afternoon Bird Skinners." This is a group of dedicated volunteers who meet from 3 PM until

about 6 PM on Friday afternoon preparing bird study skins for the museum's teaching and research collections. Most of the volunteers started with little or no experience and have already produced about two dozen skins. The backlog of skins in the museum's freezers are quickly dwindling!

The program is organized by Crystal Foster and Becky Bigley of the museum and has included a great presentation by Fernando Villasenor, of DBS, showing us his bird skinning techniques. Our dedicated bird skinners are:

Becky Bigley	Caleb Putnam
Nami Bittner	Wendy Ridenour
Crystal Foster	Kate Shick
Charles Miller	John Trubee

### **MUSEUM IS AWARDED REACCREDITATION!**

We are pleased to announce that the P.L. Wright Museum has again received reaccreditation from the American Society of Mammalogists. The museum underwent an extensive evaluation during the ASM meeting when it was held in 2001 at U.M. We then received a favorable report, and finally a certificate of accreditation was awarded in January 2003.

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