



MEDIA RELEASE

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**SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
ELECTS NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

OTHERS RETURN FOR SECOND THREE-YEAR TERM

July 23, 2009; San Diego—The San Diego Natural History Museum has elected eight new members to their Board of Directors, and three others were re-elected for their second term. Nine others members are currently serving out their current terms. Museum board members are expected to serve two three-year terms for which they must be elected.

Newly elected board members are:

Jeff Block is Vice President and General Manager of KGTV San Diego, and the station's Spanish-language Azteca America affiliate. Mr. Block has had over 30 years of experience in general broadcast and sales management. He currently serves on the board of the Television Bureau of Advertising and has served on a number of boards in the past including the American Red Cross of the Bay Area and Chabot Space Center. Mr. Block and his partner Michele live near Balboa Park and enjoy cooking and outdoor activities including skiing, golfing, and scuba diving.

Virginia Crockett (*Vice Chair*) is a Senior Director of Learning and Library Services at Qualcomm where she has worked since 1995. She directs corporate library and education initiatives and leads a learning-technology team deploying social web technologies to facilitate learning and communication. Prior to her work at Qualcomm, she managed arts and humanities programs for UCSD Extended Studies and Public Service. She previously served two terms on the Board of Directors of the Museum. Ms. Crockett and her husband, Doug, live in San Diego.

Vice Admiral Walter J. Davis, Jr., served in the Navy as an engineer, fighter pilot, aircraft carrier commanding officer, and battle group commander, retiring in

1998 as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Communications. He has been awarded numerous naval campaign and service awards. After the Navy he served as VP for Business Development at GDE Systems, a defense electronics firm, and later co-founded E-Fire, an applications and wireless service provider for the fire-protection industry. Admiral Davis previously served two terms on the Board of Directors of the Museum and serves on numerous other community organization boards. Admiral Davis and his wife, Connie, live in Poway.

John Downing and his wife Tracy have been members of the Museum's Leadership Circle since 2006. They support a variety of community projects in education and healthcare through their Downing Family Foundation. John and Tracy are the proprietors of Downing Family Vineyards located in Napa, California. They are active members of the San Diego Yacht Club and live in Encinitas with their 13-year-old son, Zach. John is a former San Diego Entrepreneur of the Year and serves on several advisory boards. Mr. Downing and his family live in Encinitas.

Steve Kay, Ph.D., is currently Dean of the Division of Biological Sciences and holds the Richard C. Atkinson Chair in Biological Sciences at UCSD. Previously he was Chairman, Department of Biochemistry, Professor of Cell Biology and Director of the Institute for Childhood and Neglected Diseases at The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla. In 2008 he was elected Member of the National Academy of Sciences. Steve and his wife, Shelley, live in Point Loma.

Steve McDonald is a principal of The McDonald Law Firm LLC, where he specializes in environmental and resource regulation and litigation. Steve has more than 30 years of experience in air, hazardous-waste, water-quality, and natural-resource matters. He is presently on the Board of LEAD San Diego and was Chair of the Environment Working Group of The San Diego Foundation and is a past Chair of the San Diego Natural History Museum Board. Mr. McDonald and his family live in La Jolla.

Jeff Witt, CFA, is the Director of Research at Private Asset Management, Inc., where he is responsible for the oversight and management of the company's economic and financial research team. Mr. Witt's prior experience includes working as a Financial Analyst/Senior Economist in the municipal bond arena for the City of San Diego and as a Sell-Side Equity Analyst for Hanifen-Imhoff in Denver, CO. While with the City of San Diego, he was the lead analyst on several projects, including the \$1 billion Padres Baseball Park financing. Mr. Witt earned his B.A in both economics and philosophy of law from the University of Colorado at Boulder and his Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation from the CFA Institute. Jeff lives with his wife, Sarah, and son in Encinitas.

Ellen Zinn has been involved in the San Diego Natural History Museum for a decade, chairing the last year of the building capital campaign and *Cirque Fantastique*, the historic re-opening gala for the Museum's new building. Ellen and her husband Tim are active community volunteers, working with many San Diego organizations such as The Old Globe, Timken Museum of Art, San Diego Museum of Art, and the UCSD Cardiovascular Center. Ellen previously served two

terms on the Board of Directors of the Museum. Ellen and her husband, Tim, live in Rancho Santa Fe.

Board members re-elected for their second three-year term are:

Stephen Cohen (*Chair*) is the founder and president of Private Asset Management, Inc. Mr. Cohen also founded and, as president, maintains Private Tax Service, Inc., and Private Fiduciary Management. Mr. Cohen maintains an active involvement in the community with organizations such as the Melvin Garb Foundation, Harold Stern Foundation, and Private Asset Management, Inc. Foundation. Mr. Cohen lives in Del Mar with his partner, Adele S. Rabin, Ph.D.

Darlene Davies is a certified and licensed speech pathologist and maintains a private practice in that field. She has published numerous professional articles in journals. Ms. Davies is actively involved in Balboa Park, having served for nine years on both the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Board and the Balboa Park Committee. Ms. Davies is currently Chair of the San Diego County Commission on the Status of Women. She has received several awards and honors, including ones from the State of California, the County and City of San Diego and San Diego State University, where she is Professor Emerita. Ms. Davies lives in San Diego.

Yolanda Walther-Meade has had an integral relationship with the San Diego Natural History Museum since 2000 when she co-chaired *Fiesta Binacional Dos Aguilas* to benefit the Museum's binational programs. She is one of the founders and serves on the board of the Fundación Internacional de la Comunidad. She has also been on the board of The Burnham Institute and University of San Diego. She currently serves on the board of the Club de Niños y Niñas de Mexico. She lives in La Jolla and is a devoted mother of five children and has six grandchildren.

Other current board members include:

Armstrong, Robert , *Treasurer* , CEO, San Diego Private Bank

Clay, Ben , President, Carpi & Clay

Hom, Matt, M.D., Founder and Medical Director, Rejuve Medspa and Wellness

Jones, Allen M., Vice President Planning & Land Use, HG Fenton Company

Kovacs, Peter, Kovacs Advisory Group

Navarra, Eleanor, *Immediate Past Chair*, Community Volunteer

Proulx, Robert, Vice President, Marketing, Nanogen, Inc.

Schmid, Jon, *Secretary* , Partner, Cook & Schmid Public Relations

Wilson, Carol, Community Volunteer; Schoolteacher (Retired)

Celebrating its 135th year, the San Diego Natural History Museum is the second oldest scientific institution in California; third west of the Mississippi. A binational Museum, its mission is to interpret the natural world through research, education, and exhibits; to promote understanding of the evolution and diversity of southern California and the

peninsula of Baja California and to inspire in all a respect for nature and the environment.. Phone: 619.232.3821. The Society of Natural History was directly responsible for the establishment of the Torrey Pines State Reserve, the San Diego Zoological Society, and the Anza-Borrego State Park. Website: www.sdnhm.org.

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