



# THE PTERANODON

THE STERNBERG MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

No. 72

January 2016

## 2016 at the Sternberg Museum

### Special Events & Program Changes in the New Year

**STAR WARS DAY  
AT THE MUSEUM**

Come dressed as your favorite Star Wars character and join Jedi Knights, Imperial Stormtroopers and Wookies for a day of force-filled activities! While at the museum, compare some of the creatures from a galaxy far, far away to some of the fossils and animals on display at the Sternberg!

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup> 2016**  
**10:00AM – 4:00PM**

All Star Wars Day activities are included in the price of regular museum admission.

### Star Wars Day at the Museum

For many people, science fiction is often a gateway to science. In light of the new Star Wars movie, the Sternberg Museum of Natural History is hosting *Star Wars Day at the Museum*. On **Saturday, January 9th**, from **10:00am to 4:00pm**, costumed characters from a galaxy will invade the museum far, far away. This will be a fun event for the whole family, with Star Wars themed activities throughout the museum. All activities will be included in the price of regular museum admission, so come dressed as your favorite star wars character and join us for some full “Force” fun!

### Penguin Awareness Day 2016

**Wednesday January 20th** is Penguin Awareness Day! Please join us at the Sternberg Museum at **7pm** for a special celebration of these amazing aquatic birds from the south. Dr. Laura Wilson, Curator of Paleontology, will give a free talk about penguin biogeography - where different penguin species are located, why they inhabit those areas, and how they got there. There will be special activities for younger audiences and light refreshments to follow.

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY'S STERNBERG MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY PRESENTS

**PENGUIN AWARENESS DAY**  
Wednesday January 20th, 2016  
7:00 pm, Museum Lobby

Free Talk:  
Penguin Biodiversity: Winging their way though space and time

Special activities for younger audiences  
Light refreshments to follow

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: 785-628-4286 • sternberg.fhsu.edu

# Science Under the Dome

## NEW PROGRAM:

### Sternberg Explorers

Sternberg Explorers is a new program for high school students interested in Earth and life sciences! Each week, participating students will get a chance to geek out on topics in biology, geology, and paleontology with other students and Museum staff that share their excitement for the natural sciences. For more information on this new program or to get your son or daughter signed up, contact Education Director David Levering at [DAlevering@FHSU.edu](mailto:DAlevering@FHSU.edu), or at 785-639-5249.

We will be holding an informational meeting for those interested in joining Sternberg Explorers on January 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm in the Sternberg Museum lobby. We look forward to seeing you there!



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY'S STERNBERG MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
PRESENTS

## STERNBERG EXPLORERS

EARTH & LIFE SCIENCE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM



We will be holding an informational meeting starting at 3:30 PM on December 2nd. This program is designed for high school students interested in exploring topics in natural sciences with hands-on activities and learning new skills. We look forward to seeing you there!

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: 785-639-5249 • [DAlevering@fhsu.edu](mailto:DAlevering@fhsu.edu)



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY'S  
STERNBERG MUSEUM  
OF NATURAL HISTORY

## Adventures and Activities after school program now offers free shuttle service!

Starting in January 2016, we will be offering our K-5 Adventures and Activities after school program on Monday and Thursday afternoons from 3:30pm-5:00pm. We are also offering a free shuttle service from the downtown USD 489 bus depot, to make it easier for students to attend without parents having to leave work early to transport them! Adventures and Activities is a way for students to unwind after school with science-themed activities and lessons presented by Museum staff.

USD489 classes begin again on January 5th. Our first Adventures and Activities of 2016 will be Thursday, January 7th.

To register your son or daughter, please contact Education Director David Levering at [DAlevering@FHSU.edu](mailto:DAlevering@FHSU.edu), or at 785-639-5249.

### “What is it?” Natural History for Preschool –

January 7 & 13 10:00 – 11:00

\$4 members \$5 general public

We'll use our senses - sound, sight, touch & smell to determine what objects are. We'll compare our senses to other animal senses.

# Discovery Under the Dome

## 10 Best Dinosaur Discoveries of 2015

Highlights from Discovery News - by Jennifer Viegas

**Anzu wyliei**, the chicken from hell was a giant raptor with a chicken-like head and presumably feathers, and stood about 10 feet tall. Emma Schachner of the University of Utah discovered it.

**Yi qui** (pronounced “ee chee”), the first known dinosaur with bat-like wings was discovered in China earlier this year. It has the shortest scientific name ever given to a dinosaur.

**Qijianglong**, the “Dragon of Qijiang” was unearthed in 2006, but its bones were analyzed and described just this year. It measured nearly 50 feet long and was practically all neck.

**Morelladon beltrani**, a dinosaur with a toothy grin and a “sail” on its back was excavated this year in Spain. It was a plant-eating dinosaur that grew to about 20 feet long and was just over 8 feet tall.

**Chilesaurus diegosuarezi**, a relative of *T. rex* nicknamed “The Platypus.” was discovered in 2015. It loved to eat plants instead of meat.

**Regaliceratops peterhewsi**, a very unusual horned dinosaur nicknamed “Hellboy” was discovered when Calgary-based geologist Peter Hews spotted fossils sticking out of a cliff. The dino’s scientific name bears Hew’s name as a result.

The discovery of a cousin of **Velociraptor** strongly suggests this “Velociraptor” would have been a feisty little feathered poodle from hell, not a drab, scaly reptilian monster like in the ‘Jurassic Park’ films.

**Ceratopsian dinosaur** fossils from the eastern ‘lost continent’ of Appalachia were discovered this year and made headlines. Remains of dinosaurs living in the western US continent, known as Laramidia, are common, but few such fossils have been found from the eastern “lost continent” of Appalachia. Ceratopsians were horned, plant-eating dinosaurs that lived during the Cretaceous.

**Wendiceratops**, which grew to about 20 feet long and weighed more than 1 ton, was named after Alberta fossil hunter Wendy Sloboda.

**Probrachylophosaurus bergei**, nicknamed “superduck”, was 5 tons of fun for members of the opposite sex, especially given its mate-attracting head crest. It serves as a missing link between two other known duck-billed dinosaur species: one with a huge head crest and another that had none at all.

For the complete article on these discoveries and depictions of what these dinosaurs may have looked like go to <http://news.discovery.com/animals/dinosaurs/10-best-dinosaur-discoveries-2015>