



EXPERTS



GAVIN SVENSON, PH.D., CHIEF SCIENCE OFFICER

Dr. Gavin Svenson oversees the Museum's research and conservation staff, collections comprising millions of objects, and more than 12,000 acres of protected natural areas. An entomologist with expertise in the biological diversity and evolutionary history of praying mantises, he previously served as the Museum's Curator of Invertebrate Zoology. The results of his research have revised the traditional scientific classification of these insects and revealed new evolutionary patterns among them.

Museum Research & Collections, Insects, Praying Mantises



NICK ANDERSON, SENIOR ASTRONOMER

Nick Anderson holds degrees in astrophysics and planetarium studies. He operates the Mueller Observatory and delivers astronomy programming to schools and general audiences.

Astronomy, Space, Shafran Planetarium



JOSH AVSEC, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

Josh Avsec delivers engaging daily programming to visitors, highlighting the Museum's natural areas and animal ambassadors.

Ohio Wildlife, Museum Experiences



NICOLE BURT, PH.D., CURATOR OF HUMAN HEALTH & EVOLUTIONARY MEDICINE

Dr. Nicole Burt is a biological anthropologist with expertise in analyzing human tissues to reconstruct growth, health, and diet in children and families.

Biological Anthropology, Health, Anatomy



CAITLIN COLLEARY, PH.D., ASSOCIATE CURATOR OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY

Dr. Caitlin Colleary is a vertebrate paleontologist with expertise in the molecules that are preserved in fossilized bone.

Vertebrate Fossils, Dinosaurs, Preservation



EMMA FINESTONE, PH.D., ASSOCIATE CURATOR OF HUMAN ORIGINS

Dr. Emma Finestone uses archaeological and paleoanthropological evidence to study the behavioral innovations and early technology that enabled our ancestors to move around the globe.

Human Ancestors, Early Stone Tools, Hominins



DAVID KRISKA, PH.D., RESTORATION ECOLOGIST

Dr. David Kriska is a biologist with expertise in the identification, protection, and stewardship of natural habitats in the Lake Erie ecoregion. He has spearheaded projects aimed at restoring rare habitats.

Conservation, Invasive Species, Ecology



MONICA MARSHALL, ASTRONOMER

Monica Marshall engages audiences with daily astronomy programming using the Shafran Planetarium and new space-themed exhibits. She is passionate about science communication and inspiring future scientists.

Astronomy, Space Observation, Mueller Observatory



JIM NEMET, DIRECTOR OF WILDLIFE

Jim Nemet oversees the Museum's wildlife staff and the 100+ native Ohio animals that live in the Ralph Perkins II Wildlife Center & Woods Garden—Presented by KeyBank.

Animals, Ohio Wildlife, Conservation



GARRETT ORMISTON, MANAGER OF PRESERVE OPERATIONS

Garrett Ormiston works in the Museum's Natural Areas Division, which conserves more than 12,000 acres across northern Ohio, and manages the Museum's GIS database.

Natural Areas, Botany, Invasive Species



ELIZABETH "EBETH" SAWCHUK, PH.D., ASSOCIATE CURATOR OF HUMAN EVOLUTION

Dr. Elizabeth Sawchuk studies the evolution of our species in Africa and how ancient peoples navigated issues of climate change, migration, and shifting economic strategies.

Bioarchaeology, Ancient DNA, Hominins



MEGHAN STRONG, PH.D., DIRECTOR OF COLLECTIONS

Dr. Meghan Strong manages the Museum's collections and collections specialists. She has worked on cultural-heritage projects in the U.S., England, and Africa, focusing on collections care, curation, and materials science.

Museum Collections, Cultural Heritage



DESTINY THOMAS, ASTRONOMER

Destiny Thomas holds degrees in physics and astronomy with a minor concentration in philosophy. Dedicated to STEM education, she delivers astronomy programming to local schools and general audiences.

Astronomy, Celestial Events, Shafran Planetarium