

American Museum of Natural History and Classroom Connect Bring Latest Dinosaur Discovery to K-12 Educators

BRISBANE, Calif., Nov. 21

Classroom Connect, Inc. and the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) today introduced "Dinosaurs Among Us: The Link to Birds," the most recent course in their series of online professional development courses for K-12 educators. The course, available on Classroom Connect's Connected University(R), helps educators learn how to effectively incorporate real-world science discoveries into today's classroom curriculum.

According to Dr. Mark A. Norell, Chair, Division of Paleontology of the American Museum of Natural History, "This course offers the latest, up to date knowledge about the evolutionary transition from what everyone would call a dinosaur to the birds that live among us."

The six-week course provides educators with the resources and support necessary to teach authentic science investigations in the classroom. It includes videos that take learners behind the scenes of AMNH's vast collections, resources and labs, interactive tools and techniques, and a course guide to lead educators in the learning process. Connected University's online community environment also enables learners to interact directly with Museum scientists, providing learners with the most current information and insight into science discoveries that they in turn can bring to their students in the classroom.

Dr. Norell added, "This course is based on ongoing research done at the American Museum of Natural History. This research includes our work on spectacular new fossil finds from Mongolia and China like nesting dinosaurs, primitive birds and feathered theropods. This course was developed by scientists, educators and photographers working together to bring educators the latest in dinosaur knowledge."

"Dinosaurs Among Us: The Link to Birds" is the seventh course offered on Connected University as part of the Seminars on Science series developed by the Museum. The other courses are: "Diversity of Fishes," "The Study of Spiders," "Earth: Inside and Out," "How to Think About Life in the Universe," "Sharks and Rays: Myth and Reality," and "Genetics, Genomics, Genethics." The next sections of these courses begin in late January and early February 2002.

Price and Availability

All of the Seminars on Science courses are available to Connected University subscribers as part of their annual subscription. Each individual, six-week course is also available for purchase on an individual basis through Connected University at a price of \$100.00 for general registration. Visit (<http://www.amnh.org/learn/pd/sos/>) for more information or to register.

About American Museum of Natural History

The American Museum of Natural History is one of the world's preeminent scientific, educational, and cultural institutions. Since its founding in 1869, the Museum has advanced its global mission to discover, interpret, and disseminate information about human cultures, the natural world, and the universe through a wide-reaching program of scientific research, education, and exhibitions.

The Museum accomplishes this ambitious goal through its extensive facilities and resources. The institution comprises 25 interconnected buildings housing 45 permanent exhibition halls, state-of-the-art research laboratories, one of the largest natural history libraries in the Western Hemisphere, and a permanent collection of 32 million specimens and cultural artifacts. With a scientific staff of more than 200, including 47 curators, the Museum supports research divisions in Anthropology, Paleontology, Invertebrate and Vertebrate Zoology, and the Physical Sciences. In February 2000 the Museum opened its most ambitious endeavor ever—the monumental 120-foot-high, 333,500-square-foot Frederick Phineas & Sandra Priest Rose Center for Earth and Space. This spectacular new exhibition, research, and education facility, which includes a rebuilt and rejuvenated Hayden Planetarium, features striking exhibits about the nature of the universe and our planet that link seamlessly to the rest of the Museum. The Museum shares its treasures and discoveries with approximately five million on-site visitors from around the globe each year. In addition, the Museum's Web site, www.amnh.org, extends its collections, exhibitions, and educational programs to millions more beyond the Museum's walls. For additional information, the public may call 212-769-5100 or visit the Museum's Web site at www.amnh.org.

About Classroom Connect

Classroom Connect, Inc., a business unit within Harcourt, Inc., is a leading provider of professional learning and classroom learning resources that foster successful use of the Internet in K-12 education. Headquartered in Brisbane, CA, with offices in El Segundo, CA, Minneapolis, MN and Abilene, TX, Classroom Connect has more than 170 employees. Its primary product brands include: Connected University(R) (online professional development); Classroom Today(TM) (online classroom curriculum); The Quest Channel(TM) (online adventure learning expeditions); Connected Conferences(TM) (live, nationwide events); Connected Workshops(TM) (on-site seminars); and Classroom Connect Newsletter(TM) (monthly Internet education journal). Its partners include some of the nation's most respected organizations, including the American Museum of Natural History, the Library of Congress and NASA. For more information about Classroom Connect, visit the company's Web site at www.classroom.com.

CONTACT: Lisa Grantham of Classroom Connect, Inc., +1-650-351-5137, or lgrantham@classroom.com; or Michael Walker of the American Museum of Natural History, +1-212-769-5766, or walker@amnh.org; or Kati Elliott of KEH Communications, +1-410-975-9638, or kati@kehcomm.com, for Classroom Connect, Inc.