

March 3-4, 2016

ITEM 170-2002-R0316

**Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Regent's Professor Emeritus on John R. (Jack) Horner;
Montana State University**

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. John (Jack) Horner from the Museum of the Rockies, we wish to extend our appreciation for his 34 years of dedicated and valued service to the MOR, Montana State University, and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Regents' Professor Emeritus be conferred on him by the BOR of the MUS.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Horner has served the Museum of the Rockies as the Curator of Paleontology for 34 years, and is internationally known for his groundbreaking discoveries of the first dinosaur eggs in the Western Hemisphere, the first evidence of dinosaur colonial nesting, the first evidence of parental care among dinosaurs, and the first dinosaur embryos. Thanks to his leadership, MOR now houses the definitive collection of dinosaurs in Montana and the collection he and his cadre of graduate students, research associates and staff has amassed is the largest collection of dinosaur fossils collected in the United States.

Dr. Horner is widely regarded as one of the world's foremost paleontologists, noted for his fieldwork and research concerning dinosaur growth and behavior. In Montana during the mid-1970s, Horner and his research partner Bob Makela discovered a colonial nesting site of a new dinosaur genus which they named *Maiasaura*, or "Good Mother Lizard". It contained the first dinosaur eggs in the Western hemisphere, the first dinosaur embryos, and settled questions of whether some dinosaurs were sociable, built nests and cared for their young. The discovery established his career. Horner has named several other species of dinosaur (including *Orodromeus makelai* in memory of his late friend Bob Makela) and has had two named after him: *Achelousaurus horneri* and *Anasazisaurus horneri*.

Within the paleontological community, Dr. Horner is best known for his work on the cutting edge of dinosaur growth research which continues today through his "dino chicken" research at MSU. The field of Paleontology has benefitted greatly from Dr. Horner's work and his discoveries in the badlands of Montana. In 2000, Horner's crews discovered five specimens of *T. rex* and three more the following summer, including one even larger than the specimen nicknamed "Sue", the largest example known at the time. As a result Museum of the Rockies now houses the largest *Tyrannosaurus rex* collection in the world. He was also a part of the 2005 discovery of soft tissue inside of a *T. rex* fossil.

In addition to his role as Curator of Paleontology at the Museum of the Rockies, Dr. Horner was named a Regent's Professor of Paleontology in 2001 by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System. He currently serves as a research associate at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution; Museum of Paleontology, University of California, Berkeley, and the Burke Museum, University of Washington.

During his years at Montana State University, Dr. Horner served as a thesis advisor or dissertation chair to 21 graduate students with another three graduate students expected to finish their degrees in spring 2016. He also served on 14 graduate committees at Montana State University and seven with other universities, advised seven postdoctoral students, and assisted three undergraduates with their theses. He has co-taught the popular "Origins" class for the Honors Program at Montana State University since 2002 and taught graduate courses in paleobiology from 1989 to 2013 and comparative paleo-osteology from 2008-2013.

In 1986, Dr. Horner was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science from the University of Montana and received an Honorary Doctorate from Pennsylvania State University in 2006. He is a recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship "genius grant" and the Romer-Simpson Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest honor presented by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology. Among the honors already bestowed upon him by Montana State University are the Blue and Gold Award and a Distinguished Faculty Award, both in 2014, and a Wiley Faculty Award for Meritorious Research in 1994.

Dr. Horner has curated six exhibits at the Museum of the Rockies including the permanent installation *Dinosaurs Under the Big Sky* housed in MOR's Seibel Dinosaur Complex. He has published 300 professional papers and eight popular books including *Dinosaurs Under the Big Sky*; a children's book, *Maia: A Dinosaur Grows Up*; a non-fiction book on dinosaurs from Montana, *Dinosaur Lives*; and numerous other articles. He has given more than a thousand invited lectures and has two TED talks to his credit. Generations of movie fans know him as the scientific advisor to the popular Jurassic Park and now Jurassic World movie franchises.

Dr. Horner's work has pushed back the boundaries of his discipline, opening up new insights into the world of dinosaurs. He made the science of paleontology understandable to lay audiences and has changed the way the world looks at these amazing animals. Through his work he has inspired generations of children to pursue interests in science and has laid the foundation for further discovery.

For these and other numerous contributions, the Museum of the Rockies and Montana State University are pleased to nominate Dr. Jack Horner for the title of Regent's Professor Emeritus.

ATTACHMENTS

None