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11TH ANNUAL BUTTERFLY BALL RAISES MORE THAN \$1.3 MILLION

700 Guests Gather to Celebrate Museum and 'See How its Grown'

CHICAGO (May 4, 2009) – The Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum raised more than \$1.3million at its 11th annual Butterfly Ball, held on May 1 at the Nature Museum. Funds raised at this premier event, attended by 700 guests, support the Museum's education programs for Chicago students, teachers and families, conservation and research initiatives, exhibitions, and general operations. This year's theme, "Come See How We've Grown," celebrated the rich history of the Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum.

Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Q. Brown of Motorola, Mr. and Mrs. Gary E. Holdren of Huron Consulting Group and Mr. and Mrs. Andre Hughes of Accenture, provided dedicated leadership as Butterfly Ball Co-Chairs, along with a 41-member Committee. Five Monarch Sponsors – Aon, Huron Consulting Group, Motorola, Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Notebaert, and Mr. and Mrs. Brian Walls – also supported the evening's success. Thanks to the hard work of the Co-Chairs, Committee and the support of 26 Vice Chairs, the Butterfly Ball was success for the eleventh straight year.

"We are thrilled that this annual gala continues to receive support from Chicago's top corporate and civic leaders," said Donna Gustafsson, interim president and CEO of the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. "The Ball highlights the Museum's important mission of inspiring people to learn about and care for nature and the environment. We are grateful for the tireless efforts of all those involved and look forward with great anticipation to next year's event."

During the evening, Charles Douglas, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, presented the first Heritage Award, the highest honorary award given by the Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, to the family of the Albert Pick III, who passed away on April 16. Pick was honored for his unparalleled commitment to the institution through numerous accomplishments and contributions.

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Other Ball highlights included an environmentally responsible menu, designed by Food For Thought, utilizing local, sustainable products wherever possible. Guests were surrounded by stunning décor created by The Flower Firm, and were entertained by a playful video produced by Kurtis Productions, as well as the music of the Stu Hirsh Orchestra. The evening also included a silent auction and raffle.

About the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

Celebrating more than 150 years of science exploration and education, the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum is the teaching and learning center of the Chicago Academy of Sciences, founded in 1857 as Chicago's first museum dedicated to educating Chicagoans about nature and science through the preservation and display of native specimens, classroom activities, and dissemination of scientific knowledge.

Today the Nature Museum continues the Academy's tradition of education about nature in greater Chicago, research, and conservation through participatory exhibits and programs, educational outreach, and ongoing scientific activity. Its collections, due to their age and type, are among the most important in the region. The Museum's distinctive experience includes extensive involvement in schools and classrooms, and the opportunities for visitors to learn about nature up close.

Since its opening 10 years ago, the Nature Museum has welcomed more than 1.8 million visitors and provides hands-on exhibitions and programs to 70,000 students annually and trains and provides resources for more than 1,500 Chicago teachers in over 430 schools. The Nature Museum engages visitors, especially urban dwellers, in new ways to connect with and preserve the natural world through a unique indoor/outdoor experience. The Museum is one of the city's best examples of eco-friendly building technology with lush outdoor nature trails and habitat, green roof, rain barrels and solar panels.

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