

July 9, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:
Gary Moyer, SAMA Executive Director
(814) 472-3920
Travis Mearns, Public Relations Coordinator
(724) 238-6015

REPLICA DINOSAUR SKELETONS ON VIEW AT SAMA-LORETTO

Loretto ó For those interested in getting an up-close view of a dinosaur, you needn't build a time machine or take a trip to a metropolitan natural history museum. This summer, the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto will display replica fiberglass skeletons of a Stegodon and Woolly Rhinoceros. The display is in conjunction with the Museum's 37th annual Gala, "African Odyssey," on July 18.

The skeletons were assembled and donated to the Museum's auctions by Treasures of the Earth, Ltd. in Holsopple. Since its founding in 1988, Treasures of the Earth has traveled the world to find and acquire unique items and rare specimens such as authentic and replica fossils, mineral specimens and cultural artifacts. The Stegodon and Woolly Rhinoceros skeletons are on view in SAMA's main gallery now through July 22.

The Stegodon roamed large parts of Asia in the late Miocene Age or early Pliocene Age (approximately 11,000 years ago). This fiberglass skeleton stands 13 feet in height and is 24 feet 2 inches in length by 7 feet 10 inches in width. The original skeleton from which this replica was constructed is on display at the Beijing Museum.

The Woolly Rhinoceros is an extinct species of rhinoceros that was common throughout Europe and northern Asia during the Pleistocene Age and survived as early as 8,000 years ago. This fiberglass skeleton was replicated from several specimens found in Russia and measures approximately 12 feet long and 5 feet 5 inches high.

Both skeletons will be available for purchase at the Museum's Gala, with proceeds from the sale benefitting SAMA's annual operating expenses and award-winning Arts-in-Education programs. SAMA will accept sealed bids on the specimens through July 15. For additional information, please contact the Museum at (814) 472-3920.

SAMA's "African Odyssey" Gala is scheduled for Saturday July 18 on the campus of Saint Francis University in Loretto. The event will offer a variety of games, live music and entertainment, silent and live auctions, and fabulous specialty bars.

Tickets are \$175 per person and reservations are still being accepted. For reservations or additional information, please call the Museum or visit www.sama-art.org.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto is located on the campus of Saint Francis University. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturdays. The Museum is open to the public free of charge.