

NEWS RELEASE

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FRED JONES JR. MUSEUM OF ART
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA - NORMAN
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OU Museums Offer Free Admission Oct. 31-Nov. 2

NORMAN – Family comes first at the University of Oklahoma’s art and natural history museums. Both the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History and the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art are offering free admission Friday, Oct. 31, through Sunday, Nov. 2, as part of the university’s annual Family Weekend.

The weekend, traditionally geared at visiting family members of OU students, offers activities and events in a number of areas. This year, the museums are joining the fun by offering free admission to all visitors, including the public.

For those in need of a retreat from Halloween festivities, the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art will host “A Night at the Arts” Friday, Oct. 31, as the part of the weekend activities. The event, co-sponsored by the OU Alumni Association, features world-renowned art collections, live entertainment and food provided by Johnny Carino’s Italian restaurant. The free event is scheduled from 6 to 9 p.m.

Additionally, both museums are home to new, exciting exhibitions.

Visitors to the SNOMNH will be able to view the new special exhibition “Hatching the Past: The Great Dinosaur Egg Hunt,” which opened Oct. 11 and will be on view through Jan. 19, 2009. This exhibit features dinosaur eggs and babies from around the world, including eggs from every major dinosaur group.

With lots of touchable casts and fossils, three dig pits where children can unearth dinosaur eggs and several lively video elements, “Hatching the Past” is a family-friendly exhibit that will entertain and educate adults and kids alike. Local exhibition of “Hatching the Past” was made possible by Chesapeake Energy, with media sponsorship from Cox Media, KOMA, KMGL and *The Oklahoman*.

The FJJMA features a new international exhibition exploring early 20th-century Russian immigrant art. With a broad selection of works on loan from museums,

galleries and private collections, “American Artists from the Russian Empire” examines the impact of American culture and art movements on Russian artists living in the United States and highlights the influence and contributions of Russian artists in shaping American culture.

The exhibition, which opened Oct. 4, is composed of more than 70 paintings and sculptures by such artists as Nicolai Fechin, Leon Gaspard, Jacques Lipchitz, Mark Rothko, Ben Shahn, Alexis Arapoff, Pavel Tchelitchew and Max Weber. “American Artists from the Russian Empire” will remain on display through Jan. 4, 2009, before traveling to Russia. The exhibition is jointly organized by the State Russian Museum and the Foundation for International Arts and Education.

Additional information about the new dinosaur egg exhibition and other programs at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History is available by calling (405) 325-4712 or on the Web at www.snomnh.ou.edu. The museum is located on the University of Oklahoma Norman campus. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is located on the corner of Elm Avenue and Boyd Street on the OU Norman campus. Information about the new exhibition and the museum is available on the Web at www.ou.edu/fjjma. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Information and accommodations on the basis of disability are available by calling (405) 325-4938.

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