Penn Museum’s International Classroom (IC) program has received a $4,975 grant from the Subaru of America Foundation to offer presentations on ancient and modern cultures for students in Philadelphia, PA, and Camden, NJ, public schools. This grant demonstrates the continuing collaboration between Penn Museum and the Subaru of America Foundation (based in Cherry Hill, NJ) for more than eight years. IC is a creative program of the Museum’s Education Department, whose mission is to promote understanding between the residents of the Delaware Valley area and people from around the world. If you are interested in supporting IC programs, please call 215-898-4065/4066 or email ic@museum.upenn.edu.

LONGTIME MUSEUM MOBILE GUIDE RETIRES

The annual holiday luncheon for the Museum’s Mobile Guides program took place in the Lower Egyptian Gallery on December 10, 2007. The occasion also marked the retirement of Trude Fuchs after more than 30 years service as a volunteer Mobile Guide. Trude (age 96) is a graduate of Penn’s School of Nursing. After retiring from a career as a public health nurse she began her volunteer service at the Museum in 1976 in order to stay active and share her passion for Classical and Egyptian Archaeology with Philadelphia school students. Since the early 1970s the Mobile Guides have taken programs in Classical, Native American, Egyptian, and African Anthropology and Archaeology to Philadelphia Public Schools to educate students who were not otherwise able to visit the Museum. It remains a vibrant public education outreach program thanks to a cadre of dedicated volunteers like Trude Fuchs. The Museum’s Education Department is seeking additional volunteers for this important program. Please contact Jane Nelson at (215) 898-4277 or nelson-jf@sas.upenn.edu if you would like information on becoming a Mobile Guide.
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SUPPORTS STUDY OF MONOGAMOUS MONKEYS

Eduardo Fernandez-Duque, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Consulting Curator in the Museum’s American Section, in collaboration with Anthony Di Fiore (New York University), has been awarded a grant by the National Geographic Society to study monogamy and paternal care among the titi monkeys of Amazonia. Titi monkeys live in small, monogamous groups in which the male and female form a very strong bond. Unlike any other known primate, males provide most infant care, and the infant develops a stronger bond with its father than with its mother. The study will explore: How do male and female titis share the care of their offspring? What are the roles that each sex plays in maintaining the pair bond? How intense is the competition among males and among females over breeding opportunities? The project will take place in Ecuador at the Tiputini Biodiversity Station of the Universidad San Francisco de Quito and will offer opportunities for students from Penn and NYU to collaborate in the collection of behavioral data.

PENN MUSEUM FEATURES HYPER AT EVENTS

The International Classroom program recently hosted the annual Welcoming Reception for International Students and Scholars on Friday, October 12, 2007, including almost 900 guests from 52 colleges, universities, and 85 countries, and also co-sponsored the “Peace around the World” program with the Middle East Center, the Center for East Asian Studies, the African Studies Center, and the Women’s Committee of the Museum on December 2, 2007, which presented music, dances, and holiday celebrations from India, Uzbekistan, Turkey, Romania, Bulgaria, Egypt, Nigeria, and Taiwan to over 800 guests. Both events were entertained by Hype, a high-energy, multicultural Penn student dance group whose mission is to create a fun, unique, and hyped experience for all audiences by fusing many levels of dance, performance art, and theatrics into true entertainment.