The formative years of fossil hunting at the American Museum of Natural History are recorded in one-of-a-kind specimens in the Museum’s famed fossil halls on the fourth floor—from Barnum Brown’s Tyrannosaurus rex to a majestic mammoth some 11,000 years old.

For the first time, as part of a campaign called Name a Dinosaur! And Other Iconic Fossil Displays, the Museum has invited donors to support its general operations and ongoing scientific research by naming select fossil mounts.

For Rachael and Marshall Levine of Manhattan, the initiative was a perfect fit—a chance to support the Museum as well as to honor loved ones in a gallery with special meaning to the family. “We jumped at it,” says Rachael, explaining that their four-year-old son calls the Museum “the dinosaur museum.” “The fossil halls are the biggest attraction for us and the children.”

With plaques honoring their son and two-year-old daughter, Marshall Levine’s parents, and the memory of his aunt, the Levines have named three striking displays: a 2-million-year-old land turtle, Geochelone atlas, and an 85-million-year-old Pteranodon longiceps in the Hall of Vertebrate Origins and, in the Hall of Ornithischian Dinosaurs, three skulls of 75-million-year-old relatives of the dinosaur Triceratops.

Both Levines, who are members of the Museum’s Advisory Council, studied science before pursuing careers in finance and, in Rachael’s case, non-profit fundraising. Rachael graduated from Princeton with a B.S. degree in geology and a concentration in molecular biology and paleontology (and fondly recalls working with a Museum paleontologist on her senior thesis). Marshall, also a Princeton graduate, majored in computer science and has since studied molecular biology and, more recently, astrophysics, with a passion.

“Rachael and I are convinced that science is the key to solving the many challenges facing us today,” says Marshall. “Carl Sagan said it beautifully: science is ‘a candle in the dark.’ Institutions like this Museum are a beacon of hope.”

To establish a Museum legacy on the fourth floor, please contact the Development Office at 212-769-5151. Consider that a gift to name one of these exquisite displays might be the ultimate way to recognize and celebrate milestones or a rare opportunity to honor and memorialize loved ones.

To support science while honoring loved ones, Rachael and Marshall Levine named three iconic displays, including these Triceratops relatives, in the Museum’s fossil halls.

“Institutions like this Museum are a beacon of hope.”

— Marshall Levine

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