



Lynn B. Clements, Executive Director

1. Where did you get your undergraduate degree from and in what major?

Old Dominion University - B.S. biology

2. Graduate school degree and major?

Old Dominion University – M.S. Secondary Education

3. How long have you been with the Aquarium?

24 years

4. Briefly describe your primary involvement with the *Restless Planet* exhibit.

I was part of the original planning. We've always had a Virginia-based exhibit theme so I am so proud of the fact that the staff came up with the idea of highlighting animals and their habitats from around the world while tying them back to Virginia's past. *Restless Planet* helps us focus on conservation issues like never before in support of our "conservation through education" mission. Our colleagues from around the country are watching this project closely and I predict others will follow this themed approach.

I have also raised funds for the \$25 million project and authored a Kresge Capital Campaign Challenge grant that brought in \$650,000 to the campaign.

More recently I have been giving tours through the new exhibits to our investors and community partners so they can help spread the word about these amazing new exhibits.

5. What has been your biggest challenge?

Resource allocation and fundraising have been my biggest challenge. However, this is also the most rewarding aspect because by approving state and city funds, or donating private dollars, legislators and investors are acknowledging the impact of our important work.

6. What are you most excited about guests seeing?

The hallmark of our exhibits has always been to couple interactive, hands-on experiences with solid science and live animal habitats. The *Restless Planet* exhibit takes this a step further by offering immersive experiences into four far-flung habitats. Visiting the *Restless Planet* offers everything a trip to a facility like ours should – safe, clean environment; opportunity for multigenerational interaction between guests; 900 volunteers and our talented staff; stimulating educational experiences through hands-on learning; and stimulation of a conservation ethic, especially among our youngest visitors.

7. What *Restless Planet* fact would surprise guests if they knew?

Almost everyone I tell is surprised that ancient volcanic rock exists in Mt. Rogers, our tallest mountain in the Blue Ridge chain. The stories that we tell in our interactive exhibits about Pocahontas, Virginia, coal mines or dinosaur tracks from a Culpeper, Virginia quarry will connect visitors with our environment in a unique manner.

8. Once *Restless Planet* opens, how will your job differ?

Once *Restless Planet* opens, I'll be starting to work on the next chapter of the Aquarium's life – the development of an Aquarium District.

Date: July 10, 2009