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**NEW DINOSAUR SPECIES GETS A TOUCH OF HARRY POTTER  
WITH HELP FROM PHMC STAFFER**

*Dracorex hogwartsia is Tribute to J. K. Rowling Series*

**HARRISBURG** – Visitors to the State Museum can get a taste of Harry Potter and brush with prehistoric America with a newly discovered dinosaur species that got its name thanks to the help of a Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission paleontologist.

PHMC paleontologist Robert M. Sullivan helped world-renowned paleontologist Robert T. Bakker come up with the name *Dracorex hogwartsia* in honor of the fictional “Hogwarts Academy” from the popular books and films based on Harry Potter’s adventures by British author J. K. Rowling. The scientific name *Dracorex hogwartsia* means “dragon king.”

A cast of the skull of the dragon-like, spiked-headed dinosaur found in South Dakota in 2003 is on display at The State Museum of Pennsylvania starting today.

“The naming of *Dracorex hogwartsia* is easily the most unexpected honor to have come my way since the publication of the Harry Potter books,” Rowling said.

“Having the skull replica in the State Museum will capture children’s imaginations and encourage them to learn more about the dinosaurs that walked the earth millions-of-years ago,” said PHMC Executive Director Barbara Franco.

The 66-million-year-old reptile is a pachycephalosaurid dinosaur whose skull is covered with knobs and spikes. This species of plant-eating dinosaurs lived in Asia and North America during the late Cretaceous Period, 96 to 65 million years ago.

##MORE##

**THE STATE MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA**

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Administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

A paper by Sullivan and Bakker on the find was released today in the New Mexico Museum of Natural History Bulletin. Sullivan, Bakker, et al., could name the dino because they did the research and wrote the scientific paper about the discovery. The unveiling of the original dinosaur skull takes place today at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis.

Sullivan, senior curator of paleontology at the State Museum, was amazed by the condition of the skull. "It is truly a magnificent specimen that is rarely found in such a complete state," he said.

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission is the official history agency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Illustrations of *Dracorex hogwartsia* are available by contacting PHMC press secretary Jane Crawford at (717) 783-9882.

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