Paleontologists announce magnificent new find

New species of Dinosaur Princess discovered in Plymouth, Mich. yard

Plymouth, Mich. – A team of scientists working in this small Midwest town today announced a shocking discovery that is already rocking the world of paleontology.

The researchers say they have discovered a new species they have dubbed Dinosaurus principessa, or “dinosaur princess”, alive and living with a local family.

The claim of an entirely new species, much less one that is still living today, has been met with skepticism by prominent scientists.

But the team making the announcement introduced the creature at a press conference this morning in Plymouth’s picturesque downtown, showing to the entire world a tutu-wearing, Disney-adoring, T. Rex-toting three-year-old specimen.

What’s more, the creature spoke to reporters herself, astonishing them with her ability to name more than two dozen of her prehistoric dinosaur friends and a dozen princess colleagues.

“Let there be no doubt, the dinosaur princess is real, and she is here to stay,” said Sean Gavin, Ph.D., co-leader of the team.

“And let there be no doubt, she needs some lunch and a nap, or she’s going to go all Jurassic,” said the other half of the research team, Kara Gavin.

But even in the face of such convincing evidence, some rival scientists refused to accept that the new discovery really represents a new species.

“I think this is a preposterous scam perpetuated by publicity-seeking posers,” says Ima Doubter, Ph.D, chair of paleontology at Whatsamatta University in Walla Walla, Wash. “I mean, the idea of a toddler who can pronounce ‘dipolodocus’ and ‘euoplocephalus’ while simultaneously worshipping Cinderella, Ariel and Belle – it simply cannot be.”

But the discovery team refutes such criticism by simply taking reporters to the creature’s enclosure, which is littered with sparkly magic wands, triceratops models, and assorted pretty dresses. There, in the middle, sat the newly discovered phenomenon, contentedly pretending that Rapunzel was riding a velociraptor.

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The discovery of the dinosaur princess, and her care and feeding, took up much of Sean and Kara Gavin’s time this year. But in their few spare moments, they did manage to accomplish a few other things.

For instance, Kara managed an energy-efficiency project at the Gavin home, gave talks at a national PR conference and her alma mater Lehigh U., and led a number of communications projects at work – including the launch of a new newsletter for employees of the Univ. of Michigan Health System. She also helped at the opening of a new children’s hospital.

Sean spent much of the summer and fall hard at work on research and a grant proposal to fund future research, mentored scores of undergraduates and several grad students, and mourned the death of Steve Jobs by completing his Apple product collection with an iPad2.
Top Row: Moira meets Einstein (in piñata form) at the Wayne State U. Physics picnic, a perfect little lady for her school photo, and riding a dinosaur at the Detroit Zoo’s traveling exhibit – which she visited about 5 times this year.

Middle row: Picking Michigan cherries; swinging on a rope swing at her 3rd birthday gymnastics party in December 2011; and wearing a tutu, fireman boots, an Ariel shirt and no socks at the local petting farm.

Left top: Put your Ariel dolls in the air, and wave ‘em like you just don’t care!

Right: Who knew that tomatoes could be eaten like apples, right out of the garden?

Left: Junior Scientist Gavin explains that the dinosaurs (perhaps those like the diplodocus in her hand) have eaten all the leaves on this tree.

Happy Holidays from the Gavin family!