

A Message from the President...



Dear Colleagues,

As President of ASP, I have gained a new appreciation for the complexities of doing captive research on primates in the U.S. The challenges are significant and have required us, as a community, to dig deep and become educated on both past

governmental regulations and current events. I thought this Bulletin would be an appropriate forum for me to express my views on recent events, but as a separate commentary. I sincerely hope that you will respond with your own insights and perspectives via email (mnorconk@kent.edu). And in the midst of it all, I wish you a wonderful holiday season. If you are doing internet shopping, don't forget to go to the ASP website and click on the Amazon.com link to benefit our conservation efforts.

SOME THOUGHTS ON RECENT CHALLENGES TO BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH ON PRIMATES

My education on captive primates received a huge boost in recent weeks with two events – the PETA letter sent to the “neighbors” of the head of the NIH, Dr. Francis Collins, making public his and Dr. Steven Suomi’s home addresses and other contact information, and Collins’ announcement that all remaining chimpanzees in NIH facilities would be released to sanctuaries and withdrawn from research.

The [letter](#) sent to Dr. Collins in late November was intended to pressure him to shut down early developmental studies on macaques at the Poolesville, MD, facility. In the words of the PETA official, the request for Collins’ neighbors to “ask him (in person or by letter, phone, or e-mail) to redirect his efforts to superior and humane non-animal research methods” is not only “a bit unusual,” it is a tactic that is known to have resulted in dangerous consequences in the U.S. and Europe (see the recent commentary by [Speaking of Research](#)) last week. The letter is also unusual since a little over a year ago PETA requested a review of those studies. The review was conducted and the [results](#) were published in December 2014. The reviewers were unanimous in their finding that “only by using NHPs [non-human primates] can the investigators address behaviors and manipulate a social environment that might model human cognitive development and psychology.” Thus, instead of refusing PETA’s request, they made recommendations on how to improve oversight and how to reduce the impact on the monkeys. This is how responsible science should work: identify areas that can be improved, suggest revisions, and review them again. The next review of the facility and the protocols is scheduled to take place in 2016.

Ironically, as the story was unfolding about the PETA letter to Collins’ neighbors, he released a [memo](#) stating, “effective immediately, NIH will no longer maintain a colony of 50 chimpanzees for future research. All NIH-owned chimpanzees that reside outside of the Federal Sanctuary System. . .

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will be eligible for retirement.” Two reasons were given for this decision. First, there have been no proposals for biomedical projects on chimpanzees that have been approved since [June 2013](#), when new criteria were designated. Second, and perhaps most influential, was the recent decision by the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) (FWS) to raise the status of captive chimpanzees to “endangered” (“facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild,” IUCN Red List Database). This document is essential to understanding the reasoning behind the split conservation status between wild and captive chimpanzees. It provides critical information about the current status of chimpanzees in the wild and successful uses of human medicines to treat wild chimpanzees (e.g., the polio epidemic at Gombe Stream in 1966). Interestingly, the thinking in 1988 was that breeding chimpanzees in captivity could reduce the “incentive to remove animals from the wild” (p. 34500). We know, however, that populations in the wild have continued to decline due to many factors – habitat loss, bushmeat, pet trade, and disease.

Following up on these recent memoranda and decrees, there are many things that are not clear to me. If chimpanzee welfare is at the heart of the decision, the [Foundation for Biomedical Research](#) questions the wisdom of removing them from facilities where they already receive high-quality care. If all research is halted, will that have an adverse impact on the development of treatments that might be game-changers for wild chimpanzees, e.g., an [Ebola vaccine](#) that could benefit wild chimpanzees? Would the latter fall into an acceptable category for continued research? In lieu of actually returning captive animals to the wild (which seems unimaginable at this point), how else can captive chimpanzees improve the well-being of wild ones?

According to Comments section of the FWS document, “it is not our intent to prevent any biomedical research. However, research involving chimpanzees that could cause harm to the animal (i.e., ‘take’) will require a take permit under the Act” (p. 34516). A “take” is not defined in the document,

but it continues: “For activities that may result in a prohibited act such as a taking, permits may be issued for scientific purposes or to enhance the propagation or survival of the species. Enhancement may be direct, such as developing a vaccination to be administered to chimpanzees in the wild (*in situ*), or indirect such as contributions that are made to *in situ* conservation.” Is this policy in conflict with Francis Collins’ decision of last week? Does it apply only to NIH-funded work?

Finally, we should remember that the high degree of oversight and protection for the well-being of chimpanzees was developed in research institutions. The ASP is very concerned about the number of unregulated occurrences of apes and monkeys in circuses, the pet trade and private homes, and other facilities that do not fall under federal regulations. The Endangered Species designation ([Final Rule](#)) on the one hand, strengthens the regulations for buying, selling and transporting chimpanzees across state or federal lines, but on the other does not control “loans” of animals. This appears to me to be a serious loophole that could invite abuse.

I have touched on only a few of the issues that many of you may be thinking about and dealing with in the near future. There is no doubt that chimpanzees should receive all the benefits accorded by “endangered” species status, regardless of their captive or wild status. I find the most compelling reason for continued work on captive chimpanzees to be research that will improve the status of wild populations – most likely related to reducing the risk of disease that can result in local population extinctions. But, I certainly appreciate that others of you have immediate concerns about the future of your research, and I hope ASP can serve as a forum for productive discussions of this issue.

- Marilyn

Joint Meeting of
The American Society of Primatologists
and
The International Primatological Society
August 21-27, 2016



We remind everyone of the American Society of Primatologists and the International Primatological Society joint meeting in Chicago, Illinois, from August 21-27, 2016. We have a great slate of invited speakers including:

2014 IPS Lifetime Achievement Award
Jeanne Altmann, Ph.D.
Princeton University

IPS President's Address
Tetsuro Matsuzawa, Ph.D.
Primate Research Institute, Kyoto University

2015 ASP Distinguished Primatologist
Frans de Waal, Ph.D.
Emory University

2014 ASP Early Career Award Winner's Address
Katie Hinde, Ph.D.
Arizona State University

We have accepted 42 symposia, three workshops, and eight round-tables, and look forward to review the over 1200 submitted oral and poster presentations. Coming soon, we will announce the *ASP Interdisciplinary Symposium!* Be sure to check the conference website regularly: www.IPSChicago.org

Get Social With [#IPSASP16](https://twitter.com/IPSASP16)

Are you on the twitter? What about the facebook?
Be sure to connect with ASP, IPS, and the
upcoming meeting!

[@IPS 2016](https://twitter.com/IPS2016) | [@ASPVoice](https://twitter.com/ASPVoice)

Remember, ASP members can join the private
ASP members only Facebook page via the
members only section of www.ASP.org.

**Please remember to start all of your
amazon.com shopping trips at ASP.org!**

When you start your shopping trip at
ASP.org, a percentage of your purchases at
Amazon go to the Conservation Fund.

amazon.com[®]

Committee Update: Conservation Committee

The ASP Conservation Committee supports conservation research and education around the world. The committee raises funds and distributes them to recipients of the Conservationist Award and Conservation Grants. We rely on members to help us raise funds in several ways.

Help primate conservation just by shopping! This holiday season is a great time to use the ASP Amazon link (on the ASP homepage: www.asp.org) for your purchases. ASP receives a portion of each purchase at no extra cost, and this helps us raise quite a bit of funds! You can choose ASP from the Amazon Smile page (<http://smile.amazon.com>), so each time you log into Amazon it remembers that you want to help ASP.

ASP is selling **Primate Connections** calendars again this year. This year's calendar has a foreword by Dr. Jane Goodall. As in the past, the calendar includes information about many primate organizations (including grant deadlines), and proceeds help primate conservation around the world. In addition, ASP will receive a portion of the proceeds from each purchase, but only if you click through our ASP-specific link! Please share the link and help us raise more funds for conservation awards and grants. These calendars make great gifts, especially for future primatologists! Buy your calendars via our link: <http://bit.ly/PC16ASP>

Donate and Create! 2016 will be the largest ASP/IPS meeting and the Conservation Committee would like to remind all ASP members to begin collecting auction items for our next meeting early! In addition, we are going to highlight art by primatologists at the auction! If you have some artistic talent, please help us by contributing to the auction. If you know other primatologists with artistic talent, please request a donation, or put the Chairs of the Committee in touch with the primatologist/artist. And help us spread the word!

Grants and Awards. This year's Primate Conservationist is **Razafitsalama Mamy**, the Madagascar Country Director and Operations

Manager of Planet Madagascar, a non-profit conservation organization. Mamy works directly with community members on conservation issues. He has been active in research projects on several threatened species, including sportive lemurs, sifaka, and brown lemurs. He has worked with Population Services International on child health and family planning, and malaria prevention with USAID, showing his multi-pronged dedication to conservation. We are very proud to announce that Mamy was awarded a plaque and \$750 to continue his work with primate conservation and education.

Upcoming deadlines. The Conservation Committee invites applications for the ASP Conservation Grants. The maximum grant request has been raised from \$1,500 to \$2,000. Applications are due January 31st, 2016.

Please consider nominating a primatologist for the Primate Conservationist Award. This award provides recognition and financial support for students and early career investigators from primate habitat countries who demonstrate potential for making significant and continuing contributions to primate conservation. Past awards have been presented by U.S. Ambassadors or other senior officials, thereby obtaining favorable publicity for the award, its recipient, and primate conservation in the recipient's country. Nominations are due April 2, 2016. More information on grants and awards can be found at: <https://asp.org/grants>

Committee Members. The Conservation Committee welcomes several new members this year: **David Fernandez, Kathy Jack, Chris Schaffer, and Wendy Erb.** The 2015-2016 committee members include: **Sylvia Atsalis, Bert Covert, Wendy Erb, David Fernandez, Alex Georgiev, Katherine Jack, Susan Lappan, Grainne McCabe, Krista Milich, Erin Riley, Chris Schaffer, Juan Carlos Serio Silva, Emma Cancelliere, Andrea Eller.**

- **Michelle Bezanson and Stacey Tecot,**
Co-Chairs

Committee Update: Education Committee

The ASP [Education Committee](#) (ASPEC) serves the society by conducting public outreach events to educate about primates in research and conservation: by conducting workshops for K-12 educators seeking to implement primates and primatology into their curriculum; by hosting symposia at annual meetings for ASP attendees focused on effective science communication, education, and career skills; and by organizing the annual [Student Competition](#) at each meeting.

The ASPEC will represent ASP in 2015 as an Official Partner of the [USA Science & Engineering Festival](#). The next festival will be held April 15-17, 2016 in Washington, D.C. As in past years, we will have the “Are You Smarter Than a Monkey?” booth to engage the public in primatology, research, conservation, etc. *We seek volunteers from the ASP community to help with this event.* This was a huge success in 2014 and we had ASP members from all across the country come help out! NOTE: Some funds may be available to help defray the costs of travel and/or lodging. Please contact [education@asp.org](#) to volunteer.

The ASPEC is actively working on putting together an outreach event in conjunction with the ASP/ISP meeting in Chicago, IL, in August 2016. This will

most likely occur prior to the meeting. *Please email [education@asp.org](#) if you are interested in volunteering at this outreach event.*

Finally, the ASPEC is working on revising education materials and developing new ones, including guidelines for poster and oral presentations. **If you have high-quality materials you would like to submit for this effort, please send them to [education@asp.org](#).**

We welcome new committee members throughout the year. If you are interested in joining the Education Committee, please email [education@asp.org](#) for more information. This committee is open to student and full members of ASP. Committee members include: **Allison Howard, Anja Deppe, Annika Paukner, Cory Ross, Eliza Bliss-Moreau, Franny Vidal-Garcia, Jessica Vandeleest, Kathy West, Katie Chun, Lynne Miller, Matthew Novak, Tamara Weinstein**

Have a wonderful end to 2015, and Happy New Year!

- **Amanda Dettmer and Karen Hambricht,**
Co-Chairs

Conservation Small Grant Awards for 2015

The Conservation Committee awarded six grants for conservation education and research projects:

- **Travis Steffens**, “Fire prevention and monitoring in NW Madagascar” (\$1500)
- **Dereje Tesfaye-Delkaso**, “Distribution pattern and conservation status of *Colobus guereza gallarum*, a subspecies of colobus monkey endemic to Ethiopia” (\$1493)
- **Simplicious Gessa**, “Communication for Conservation: Effects of message framing on tourist adherence to rules during mountain gorilla ecotourism” (\$1400)
- **Mariano Hougbedji**, “Saving Threatened Primates of the Dahomey Gap: Training Workshop” (\$1500)
- **Amanda Mancini**, “Impact of anthropogenic habitat fragmentation on the genetic diversity and structure of a critically endangered primate (*Varecia variegata*)” (\$1500)
- **Julie Monteiro de Almeida Rocha**, “What affects the occurrence of the golden-headed lion tamarin, *Leontopithecus chrysomelas*, in brazilian cocoa agroforests?” (\$1000)

Congratulations to all those who received funding!

Bits-N-Pieces: New Hotel Option for ASP+ISP 2016

We hope everyone took advantage of the early-bird registration and are now set to attend the Joint Meeting of the American Society of Primatologists and the International Primatological Society, August 21-27, 2016 in Chicago.

Summer in Chicago is exciting and busy so making your hotel arrangements early is important. There are THREE official hotels for the Meeting: the *Hyatt Regency Chicago*, the *Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers*, and now the *InterContinental Hotel*. These hotels are offering stellar rates as low as \$139/night for single and double occupancy but all have a limited number of rooms. Also note that by staying at these hotels, you are helping make a contribution to the IPS Primate Conservation Fund! Visit the conference website for more information on accommodations and book your room soon!

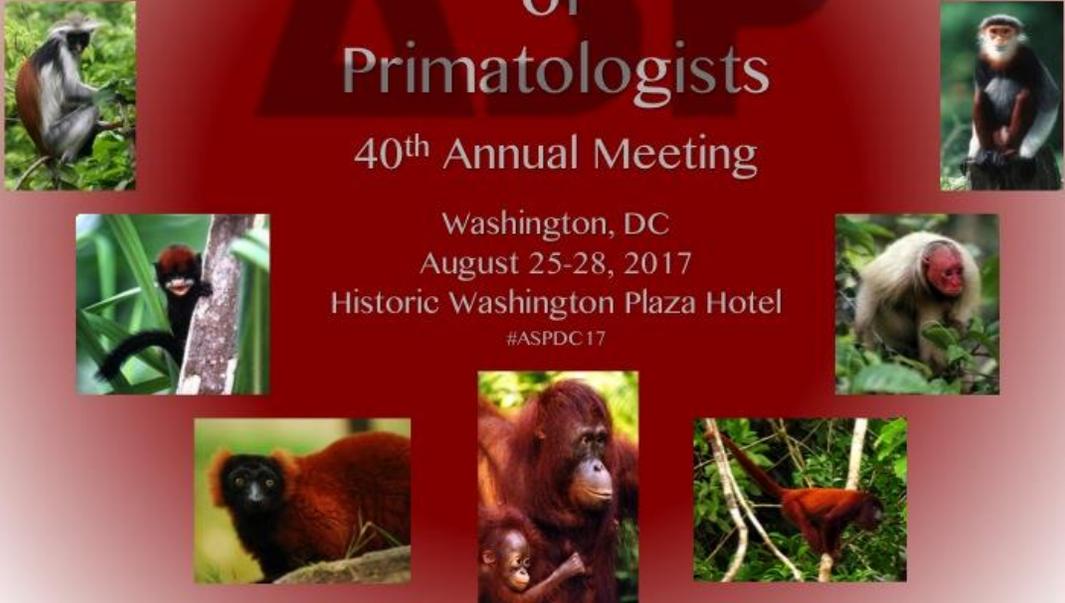
<http://www.ipschicago.org/accommodations/>

And also...

For those coming to Chicago for the IPS/ASP meeting, you might consider coming a few days early to attend the fourth of the Understanding Chimpanzees Symposium entitled "Chimpanzees in Context". There is very limited space for the symposium and we are over half sold-out. Visit the website at www.chimpsymposium.org for more information about registration and much more.

RUBY ANNIVERSARY
American Society
of
Primatologists
40th Annual Meeting

Washington, DC
August 25-28, 2017
Historic Washington Plaza Hotel
#ASPDC17



From top left: Zanzibar red colobus (Procolobus senegalensis), Credit: Robert Siegel; Red-capped langur (Presbytis pardalis), Credit: Lutz Chazotte; Lar (Presbytis pardalis), Credit: Felix Völz; "The Red Ape" (Presbytis pardalis), Credit: Helen Buckland; Puna red howler monkey (Alouatta palliata), Credit: D. Gordon E. Robertson; Red squirrel monkey (Saimiri sciureus), Credit: Mattias Ahnesjö; Red-throated black lemur (Eulemur ruber), Credit: Marco Allwey.

Committee Update: Student Committee (*ad hoc*)

Are you a grad student? Are you looking to use your time *very* wisely? If so, you should join the mailing list for the ASP Student Committee! The purpose of this committee is to enhance student membership of the ASP by providing the following services to student members: offering resources for professional development, representing the interests of students to the ASP executive board, promoting the research of our members, and organizing student-oriented programming.

We are organizing a roundtable discussion on the public communication of primatology as well as hosting a student social-event at this year's IPS/ASP conference in Chicago, so we could certainly use you. Please email either **Brett Frye** (bfrye.g.clemson.edu) or **Morgan Chaney** (mchaney1@kent.edu) to join the ASP Student Committee!

- **Brett Frye** and **Morgan Chaney**,
Co-Chairs

Primate Connections Calendar Now On Sale!

A holiday gift with stunning photos, important dates, and for a good cause. All proceeds go to the Conservation Committee! Order your calendars now via our exclusive link:

<http://bit.ly/PC16ASP>



Society Awards and Honors: Call for Nominations

The deadline for nominations is May 1, 2016.

The Awards and Recognition Committee (ARC) would like to encourage you to nominate for special recognition primatologists who have made substantial contributions to our discipline or to the ASP. The following awards fall under the purview of the ARC:

- **Distinguished Primatologist Award** for career achievement in primatology.
- **Senior Research Award** for research achievement by one who has not received the highest academic degree in his/her field.
- **Early Career Award** for exceptional contributions by a primatologist who is less than seven years past receiving the Ph.D.
- **Distinguished Service Award** for long-term contributions to the Society.
- **Special Recognition/Achievement Award** for exceptional one-time or short-term service to the Society.

Please see <https://asp.org/grants/awards/index.cfm> for details on the nomination process. The nomination deadline is May 1, 2016, but you don't have to wait until the last minute to send them in.

Nominate early! Nominate often!

- **Lynne Isbell**, Chair

Candidates for the 2016 ASP Elections

We are pleased to present the following candidates for ASP office. Elections will be available in the Members Only section of the ASP website, beginning January 1, 2016 and will continue for the entire month of January. You must be a 2016 member to vote. Please renew your membership and vote!

Remember, according to our Constitution, you must be an **active** or **retired** member to be eligible to vote (**student** members are *not* eligible to vote).

Candidates for President-Elect Mollie Bloomsith and Lynne Isbell

Mollie Bloomsith

Biosketch: My research interests are in primate welfare science and social behavior, and I've conducted research in laboratory and zoo settings focusing mainly on Old World monkeys and great apes. I have directed the Behavioral Management program at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center since 2002. I am a founding Board member of Chimp Haven (a chimpanzee sanctuary), and have enjoyed working with that group for 22 years. I worked at Zoo Atlanta for six years, and have served on the Chimpanzee Species Survival Plan within the zoo community since 1988.

Education: B.S. in Animal Behavior, University of California at Davis, 1982; Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology, Georgia Institute of Technology, 1987.

ASP Activities: I have been actively participating in ASP for about 30 years. I'm the Chair of the Primate Care Committee (2010-current). As a part of that committee I have worked closely with the Board of Directors in developing a number of ASP statements (*Response to USDA Regarding the Petition to Develop Specific Ethologically Appropriate Standards for Nonhuman Primates in Research, Social Housing for Nonhuman Primates, Comments on the IOM Chimpanzee Committee Report, Input to the Working Group on the Use of*

Chimpanzees in Research, Comments on the Chimpanzee Working Group Report). I serve on the AAALAC International Board of Trustees representing ASP (2010-current). I was a member of the Program Committee (1994-1997), and was Chair of the Program Committee (1997-2000). I also chaired the ASP Elections Committee (1998), the Nominations Committee (2006) and I served on a committee that wrote our response to the USDA Draft Policy on Environmental Enrichment (1999).

Candidate's statement: I have been lucky enough to work as a primatologist in laboratory, zoo and sanctuary settings, and I've been involved in training graduate and undergraduate students at universities, and training those caring for primates through teaching workshops. Maybe this broad experience is why I am so at home within ASP. The diversity of ASP's membership in background, academic discipline, site of working with primates, and perspective is fundamentally our greatest strength. I want as many primatologists as possible to have this same feeling of comfort within ASP. Recent efforts have broadened ASP's membership to include more primatologists from Canada, Central America and South America, and that is terrific. I would work to increase our membership by attracting more zoo professionals and veterinarians to ASP. Many zoo primate curators, keepers, and researchers, as well as veterinarians and veterinary technicians working in all captive settings with nonhuman primates would benefit from being involved in ASP. Combining new members from these arenas with continued efforts to enlarge our existing membership base of field and laboratory-based researchers would be an exciting way of advancing ASP's interdisciplinary nature.

ASP is doing so much, so very well. Our high quality annual conference is the centerpiece of our organization, our journal is critically important to advancing our science, and we fund valuable research and conservation projects. The education programs are significant and expanding, and we are recognizing the contributions of outstanding

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primatologists. We must nurture all of these successful programs. In recent years ASP has been developing its public voice by speaking out on a wide variety of issues. Our website includes a growing list of resolutions, policies and statements and I have been involved in developing a number of those. As our country's largest group of scientific primatologists, I think it is imperative that we engage on these issues in an objective and balanced manner.

Lynne Isbell

Biosketch: I am a Professor in the Department of Anthropology at UC Davis where I have been since 1996. My long-term research focus has been socioecology and in that context I have studied social behavior, hormones and behavior, predators of primates, predation on primates, dispersal, ranging behavior and habitat use, and multiple aspects of food (e.g., food competition, spatial and temporal distribution, abundance, and nutrition). I have studied free-ranging galagos, red colobus, vervets, patas monkeys, olive baboons, and gray-cheeked mangabeys during multi-year fieldwork in Uganda and Kenya, along with briefer forays to observe primates in Ecuador, Madagascar, Tanzania, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I have also studied social behavior in captive rhesus and bonnet macaques at the California National Primate Research Center. I wrote a book (*The Fruit, the Tree, and the Serpent: Why We See So Well*, Harvard University Press, 2009) that presents a new theory about how primates originated. It has inspired both neuroscientific and behavioral research on the interactions between primates and snakes (yes, snakes, you read that right), and has earned several honors, including being named as an Outstanding Academic Title by *Choice* and receiving the 2014 W.W. Howells Book Award, given by the Biological Anthropology Section of the American Anthropological Association. I am an elected Fellow of the California Academy of Sciences.

Education: B.A. in Ethology, Johnston College of the University of Redlands, Redlands, CA, 1976; Ph.D. in Animal Behavior, University of California,

Davis, 1990.

ASP activities: Attended my first ASP meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, 1982. Editorial board, *American Journal of Primatology* (1999-2002, 2004-2006); manuscript reviewer for many more years; Member, Local Arrangements Committee (1990), Publications Committee (2008-2012), Membership and Finance Committee (2012-2014), and Awards and Recognition Committee (2012-2014); Chair, Awards and Recognition Committee (2015-2017); Symposium organizer, 2015 meeting in Bend, Oregon.

Candidate's statement: I decided a while back to focus on the ASP as *my* community. Many of us belong to multiple professional societies but I've chosen to put the majority of my societal service into the ASP for several reasons. First, it is small enough that one person really can make a difference. I've seen this firsthand as I've observed those who have served on committees and in executive positions in the past. Their energy is impressive and their efforts on behalf of the ASP are inspiring. I decided I want to contribute to that energy. Second, because of the small size of the society the annual meetings are intimate, fun, and relaxed, while also continuing to be educational. Finally, the ASP is a professional society whose purpose is to gather together people with a common interest in the study of primates. We can all be labeled in different ways but I am very proud to be called a primatologist.

I've been asked to provide my vision for the ASP. I see the ASP of the future as very healthy and continuing to benefit from the extraordinary past efforts of others, which can be described as emphasizing inclusion in the broadest sense: 1) encouraging student members to join and contribute to the society with incentives including offering research opportunities through the small research grant program, offering travel grants to annual meetings, playing a role in the Maderas Rainforest Conservancy field school scholarship program, recognizing outstanding student presentations and posters at the meetings, and forming the Student

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Committee; 2) seeing the ASP as a society for North, Central, and South American primatologists, and; 3) welcoming a wide range of research topics and methodologies at the annual meetings and as publications in the *American Journal of Primatology*, and making this more visible by the breadth of ASP committees, which range from education to conservation to captive primate care, and by establishing the Interdisciplinary Symposium at the annual meetings. My view is that there is room in the ASP for anyone who is seriously interested in primatology, i.e., the study of primates, whatever form or approach that might take. At the meeting in Bend, we were offered a choice of stickers with descriptive phrases that we could attach to our nametags. One of the most selected was “Plays well with others”. That is my vision for the ASP and I am glad that so many share it.

Candidates for Treasurer Erin Riley and Cory Ross

Erin Riley

Biosketch: I am currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at San Diego State University. My research primarily focuses on primate behavioral and ecological flexibility in the face of anthropogenic change and the conservation implications of the ecological and cultural interconnections between human and nonhuman primates. With notable publications in *American Anthropologist*, *Evolutionary Anthropology*, *American Journal of Primatology*, and the *International Journal of Primatology*, my work has spearheaded the field of “ethnoprimatology.” I currently have two on-going field research projects on the human-macaque interface: one along the Silver River in north central Florida, and the other in Sulawesi, Indonesia, where I have worked for the past 13 years.

Education: B.A., Beloit College, 1995; Ph.D. University of Georgia, 2005.

ASP activities: The first academic conference I ever attended was an ASP meeting (Georgetown, Texas

in 1998). I joined ASP the following year (1999), and have remained committed to ASP since that time. I served as the chair of the Conservation Committee from 2010-2014, during which I oversaw the review and distribution of four cycles of the ASP Conservation Small Grant (total funds awarded = \$35,790) and ASP Conservationist Award (\$750/year); initiated an art-based raffle at the annual meetings to generate funds for the Conservation Fund; and, conducted an analysis of the conservation impact of the ASP Conservation Small Grant program from 1997 – 2012. I continue to serve on the Conservation Committee. I was one of the leading members of an international steering committee working to develop a set of “Best Practices” to help primatologists worldwide engage in ethically informed field research. This “Best Practices” document was recently approved by the International Primatological Society (IPS) and ASP and is freely available online. I would be honored to play a leadership role for ASP and believe that my previous committee experience combined with my international field research experience make me a strong candidate for the position.

Cory Ross

Biosketch: I am currently an Assistant Professor of Biology at Texas A & M University San Antonio, and a KL2 scholar for the Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio. My research focuses on marmoset developmental programming, healthspan intervention testing, reproductive physiology and the development of obesity.

Education: B.S. Cornell University, 1997; M.A. University of Nebraska at Omaha, 1999; Ph.D. University of Nebraska Lincoln, 2005.

ASP activities: I have been a member of ASP since 1999 and have attended every annual meeting since I joined (with the exception of the Boulder meeting in 2000 since I was due to deliver my son that

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weekend). I am currently serving as the Treasurer and Chair of the Membership and Finance Committee. I have been a member of the Education Committee since 2002 and served as the chair of that committee from 2006-2010. I have also served on the Media and Public Engagement Committee since 2010 and was the co-chair from 2012-2014. I had the pleasure to serve on an *Ad hoc* committee to review the updates to the ASP website. I often serve as an *Ad hoc* reviewer for the *American Journal of Primatology*, as well as for the ASP Program Committee.

Candidates for Executive Secretary Justin McNulty and Amanda Dettmer

Justin McNulty

Biosketch: I am currently the Senior Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) & Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) manager at The University of Texas at Austin.

Education: B.S. Biology, University of Washington, 2004; B.S. Psychology, University of Washington, 2004; M.L.A.S. (Master in Laboratory Animal Science), Drexel University 2014.

ASP Activities: I have been a member of ASP since 2001, and have been involved with many different committees: Education Committee (2004-2005), Membership & Finance Committee (2006-2015), and the Media & Public Engagement Committee (2012-current). In 2011, I organized the annual meeting in Austin, Texas. I currently serve as the Society's Executive Secretary.

Amanda Dettmer

Biosketch: I am currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development (NICHD) at NIH. My research focuses on early life factors, from prenatal to postnatal, contributing to biobehavioral development with an emphasis on stress sensitivity in rhesus macaques.

Education: B.S. University of Washington 2001; M.S. University of Massachusetts Amherst 2007; PhD. University of Massachusetts Amherst 2009.

ASP activities: I have been a member of ASP since 2002, and I have attended every annual meeting since that year's Silver Anniversary of ASP in Oklahoma City. I am currently serving as the Chair of the Education Committee, a position I have held since 2012. I have been a member of the Education Committee since 2009, and I served on the Program Committee from 2007-2010. I often serve as an *Ad hoc* reviewer for the *American Journal of Primatology*. I am excited to serve the Society in other capacities to both extend my service further and to learn more about the inner workings of the Society.

Special Report: Impact of ASP's Conservation Small Grant Program

Over half of all 695 or so primate species and subspecies are currently threatened with extinction. They are losing habitat, they are being hunted for food or killed as pests. Some are even targeted by the pet trade. There is hardly a place left in the world, not even in the most remote and inaccessible national parks, where human activities of one sort or another are not affecting the daily lives and the long-term survival prospects of this group of animals. The picture was not hugely less bleak in 1989 when the American Society of Primatologists (ASP) started its Conservation Small Grant Program. In the years since, a total of 185 awards varying in size from \$500 to \$1,500 have gone out to support work on 74 different primates species in a total of 41 countries. Most of these studies (68%) focused on species that the International Union for the Conservation of Nature classifies as threatened with extinction (i.e., Critically Endangered, Endangered, and Vulnerable). The majority of projects had a research focus (87%). Thirteen percent were described as educationally focused. Has the small grant program of the ASP made a difference? And how do we define what 'a difference' is?

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This is what Riley and Zak¹ set out to find out in a study published online this October in *Primate Conservation*. To assess the impact of the conservation grants of ASP, Riley and Zak carried out an online survey among grant winners from 1997 to 2012 and asked them to respond to several open-ended questions about the projects funded by the Society. In particular, they wanted to find out (1) whether results have been published or otherwise disseminated; (2) whether the work has led to further research; (3) whether the project involved capacity-building; (4) what were the direct or indirect conservation outcomes; (5) what were the factors that limited conservation outcomes; and (6) what would have helped achieve more conservation outcomes.

As expected for grantees funded by a learned society, almost all respondents (93%) disseminated the results of their work. About half of respondents published their findings in peer-reviewed journals and this number is up to 64% if we count book chapters, too. The top three venues, where findings from ASP-funded work were published were specialized primate journals (*American Journal of Primatology*, *International Journal of Primatology*, and *Folia Primatologica*). Most encouragingly of all, the work funded by ASP led to further research in 89% of cases – a sign that the studies, which were selected have long-term potential to contribute to both science and conservation effort.

Other more tangible outcomes were also reported. Capacity building (e.g. training and employment of students and local people) was a key result: 81% of grantees identified at least one such outcome from their work. Most grantees (79%) also reported at least one further conservation outcome. The first is rather obvious given the emphasis on research in most projects: an increased scientific understanding of the study species. The second is not so obvious but perhaps equally, if not more, important. The mere presence of researchers in the field helped raise awareness and interest among local people for the study species and their habitat. ‘Awareness’ is a tricky concept to define, measure or assess in terms of its impact on human behavior and decision-

making. But for the successful protection of species that are as long-lived as primates are, local enthusiasm and support are essential. ‘Raising awareness’ is an important first step that needs to be an ongoing activity if lasting changes in people’s attitudes to the world around them are to be seen. The presence of researchers and conservationists in the field, engaging with local communities and maintaining long-term relationships with them cannot be underestimated, especially in locations so remote that the nearest access point to social media is days away on a boat.

The importance of long-term commitment is perhaps also evident in the sobering observation that none of the survey respondents reported any ultimate conservation outcomes for their work in terms of, say, improving the conservation status of their target species. Such change takes time but other factors may also be at play. In particular, Riley and Zak discuss the critical role that academic institutions may have in shaping the priorities of many of the recipients of ASP funding. Most universities value basic research and peer-reviewed publications more than applied activities that typically produce less tangible short-term outcomes. This means that many academics need to make some difficult time and money allocation decisions. The ASP and its Conservation Small Grant program have certainly made an important contribution by shifting the funding landscape so that studying and protecting primates in their habitat is a little more affordable for students and early career researchers. It is our joint responsibility as primatologists and academics to highlight the crucial significance of such ‘applied’ work. For without it, within decades there will not be many basic research study subjects left out there in the wild.

¹Riley EP, Zak AA. 2015. The Conservation Impact of the American Society of Primatologists’ Conservation Small Grant Program. *Primate Conservation*. Available online (for free):

<http://bit.ly/RileyZak2015>

Thank you to Alex Georgiev for this special contribution to the ASP Bulletin.

ASP Co-Sponsors Congressional Briefing on Role of Animal Research in Understanding Human Development

ASP, along with the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, the American Psychological Association, the International Study Group Investigating Drugs as Reinforcers, and the Neurobehavioral Teratology Society co-sponsored a congressional briefing on March 27, 2015, titled “Animal Research: What’s at Stake?” The briefing, held in the U.S. Capitol Building, addressed the role of basic research with nonhuman animals within the larger enterprise of applied, clinical and translational research that benefits humans. A major focus of the briefing, which featured three psychological scientists as speakers, was on how research with animals leads to a better understanding of the impact of adverse early experiences in humans and the design of interventions to promote healthy development.

Allyson Bennett, ASP member and faculty member at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, moderated the briefing and opened the session by discussing the history of animal research in the biological and behavioral sciences, including groundbreaking discoveries and treatments that have benefited both humans and other animals, such as the discovery of insulin. She reviewed the ethical and regulatory framework within which laboratory animal research is conducted in the U.S., and underscored the moral obligations of scientists to weigh the potential benefits and harms when designing a study and to attend to the welfare of animal subjects. Bennett recognized that animal research raises complex issues and that people with differing philosophical viewpoints might disagree about the ethical acceptability of such research. However, she emphasized the need for factbased and civil public dialogue that includes recognition of the contributions that animal research has made and continues to make to the advancement of knowledge and the improvement of human welfare.



left to right: Allyson Bennett, Megan Gunnar, Mary Dozier

Megan Gunnar, of the University of Minnesota, presented her research on the role of healthy early attachment relationships in modulating the stress physiology of the developing human child. Her work investigates children who are at risk for stress related mental disorders, due to adverse experiences in early life. She highlighted how research with mice on maternal care served as the basis for her own research with infants, children and teenagers, who had been adopted as infants from orphanages. She also emphasized the cyclical nature of the scientific process through which animal research and research with human participants build on each other to advance knowledge about mechanisms critical to health.

Mary Dozier, of the University of Delaware, addressed how findings from basic animal research have shaped interventions for caregivers of children who may have experienced early maltreatment or neglect. She discussed her work with children in the foster care system, and described specific studies with animals that informed the development of a training program that targets the specific biological and behavioral needs of children with adverse early experiences.

In addition to congressional staff, audience members included representatives from scientific organizations, federal agencies and animal activist groups. Questions and comments from the audience conveyed a wide range of viewpoints about animal research and reflected both curiosity and passion about the topic.

This article was previously published in the APA Science Directorate Newsletter, Psychological Science Agenda (April 2015, Vol. 29, No.4). The article has been slightly modified for the ASP Bulletin.

Final Report

for the project

**Investigation of habituated bonobo (*Pan paniscus*) communities
at Kokolopori Bonobo Reserve, DRC**



prepared by

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for

American Society of Primatologists

1. Summary of proposal

The main objective of this project was to initiate a long-term research program at Kokolopori Bonobo Reserve (KBR) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Bonobos (*Pan paniscus*) are Endangered (IUCN, 2014) and are the last discovered and least studied of the four Great Apes, and the establishment of a permanent research presence at KBR would improve our ability to protect this species.

The specific aims of the study were:

1. to determine the size and composition of two habituated bonobo communities in the Yetee forest at Kokolopori Bonobo Reserve (the Ekalakala and Nkokoalongo communities);
2. to determine ranging patterns and range usage of two habituated communities through the use of GPS units during nest to nest follows;
3. to further the identification efforts of individuals in the two communities;
4. to assess inter-observer reliability of the field assistants currently employed at Kokolopori, and conduct data collection training sessions to improve data collection quality and reliability and to address potential inconsistencies and any other shortcomings;
5. and to assess resource abundance and distribution at Kokolopori.

After a period of training, behavioral and demographic data were to be collected during nest-to-nest follows, during which track-logs would be recorded on a GPS device. A series of 15 transects and a fruit trail were to be established to assess the resource abundance and distribution available to the bonobos of KBR.

2. Project Accomplishments

During this 5 month pilot study conducted from March 25 until August 31, 2014, the Ekalakala and Nkokoalongo bonobo communities were followed from nest to nest (i.e., from dawn until dusk) five days per week. We observed these two communities occasionally interact peacefully, one of the most intriguing and unique features of bonobo sociality. After extensive training of four local field assistants while following one community (Ekalakala) and ensuring a 90% inter-observer reliability (Martin and Bateson, 2007), we began rigorous data collection of the two neighboring habituated groups. During 30-minute scan samples, standardized data collection included details on party size and composition, and activity (i.e., resting, eating/foraging, grooming, travelling). We also recorded all occurrences of foods eaten, grooming, and copulations. Using GPS units, we recorded daily paths and night nests. I am currently analysing these data, and early evidence suggests a strong overlap in habitat use by the two communities, often ranging and even nesting together over several weeks (Figure 1). These results corroborate findings from other field sites where bonobo communities have been found to tolerate the presence of neighboring communities within their territory (Boesch et al., 2002; Furuichi and Thompson, 2008; Gerloff et al., 1999; Idani, 1990; Stanford, 1998; Vigilant, 2007). During nest to nest follows, we also worked to identify and name all of the individuals, and currently 12 of the 19 individuals in the Ekalakala community and 5 of the 30+ individuals in the Nkokoalongo community are identified and named (Figure 2).

Figure 1: Location of night nests of the Ekalakala and Kokolongo communities in April and May, demonstrating the overlapping use of territory

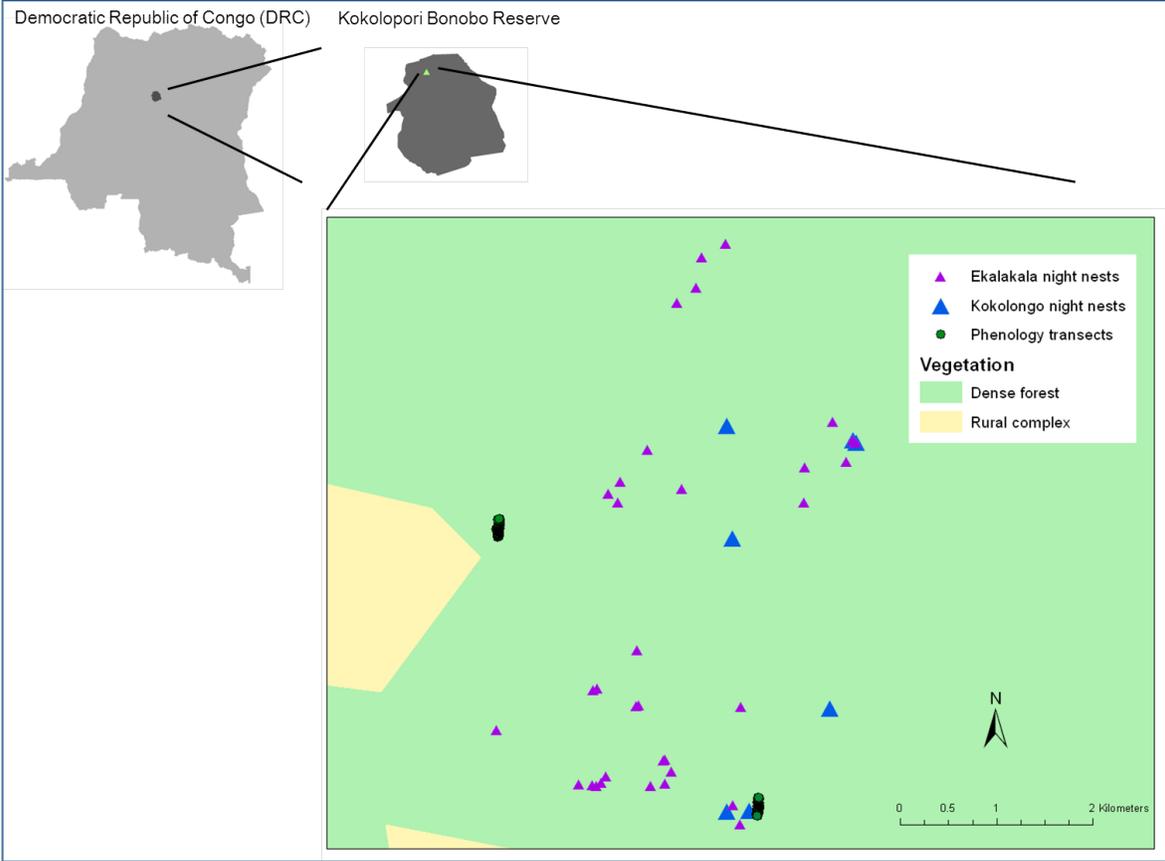


Figure 2: Bonobo juvenile female from the Ekalakala community, known as ChouChou



In addition, we established two phenology transects (200m x 10m) to monitor a total of 700 trees, and two Modified Whitaker vegetation plots (50m x 20m) to monitor terrestrial herbaceous vegetation (THV) (Figure 3). I would certainly like to eventually have the planned 15 transects, however, time and effort seemed better spent following the communities during this limited time period. Further, I wished to determine the ranging patterns of the two communities to better place any future phenology transects. We did not establish any fruit-trail paths, but rather, we established two Modified Whitaker vegetation plots. The unique social behaviours of bonobos, such as female (co)dominance and peaceful intercommunity encounters are thought to be driven by the consumption of terrestrial herbaceous vegetation (Furuichi and Thompson, 2008). The best way to assess the availability of this resource was through these plots, and like the transects, further plots are planned when we are more familiar with the ranging patterns of the two communities. We placed one transect and plot in each of the two community ranges, and collected data every two weeks to determine the resource availability for each of the two bonobo communities. We also collected *ad libitum* data on opportunistic events, and I am currently writing an article on the consumption of a dead infant by the Ekalakala community of bonobos, as well as maintaining an ongoing blog on events at KBR (<http://www.deborahlynmoore.com/blog>).

Figure 3: Four local field assistants (L-R, Michel, Bolard, Medard, Mbangi, and porter Oliver), conducting a phenology transect



3. Training and educational accomplishments

In addition to training four local field assistants in behavioural data collection, the establishment and monitoring of phenology transects and vegetation plots, and the collection of range-data and waypoints on GPS units, I also trained a local woman to supervise the project in my absence. This included training in Excel spreadsheets (maintenance of expenses) and internet (setting up an email account; sending and receiving emails). While there, I met occasionally with staff at African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) stationed in nearby Djolu, and I discussed the possibility of hosting a Master's student from the University of Kisangani upon my return.

4. Conservation accomplishments

The biggest conservation accomplishment of this project is the establishment of a research presence at KBR, which I hope to continue into the future. As stated in the original proposal, the presence of researchers has a positive effect on species' richness (Campbell et al., 2011), and this was particularly evident one day when my team and I encountered a hunter deep in the forest where he was not authorized to hunt. After a brief conversation, the hunter left and we did not encounter another hunter during the project. In addition, the local community was very eager to assist with the project in any way they could, and were excited about the possibility of long-term research at this site, which provides jobs and commerce to this impoverished area.

5. Proposed future activities

My priority over the next 6 months is to analyze the data, submit a manuscript for publication, raise new funds for the continuation of this project, and return to KBR. Currently, I am entering the data into excel spreadsheets, and mapping the track-logs and night nest waypoints. As these data only cover 5 months, and not an entire yearly cycle, I may not be able to publish these results, however, I am confident that these data will be important as we move forward in this project. I am preparing a manuscript recounting an observed act of cannibalism, wherein an infant (presumed to die in the night) was consumed by the community, including the mother of the infant.

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