Amanda M. Dettmer, Executive Secretary Volume 41, Number 3

Summer 2017

A Message from the President...



Summer! This just might be my favorite season. While it is almost always sunny and warm here in south-central Texas, the air is just a bit crisper and the sun a little more perfectly intense during these summer months.

As I have an academic appointment, and I do not teach over the summer, these months are crammed with an ambitious agenda of research, writing, and travel -- though I also have a deep desire to spend my summer days lazily swimming. I suspect many of you also have such competing demands for your summer. Nevertheless, one event we all look forward to each summer is the annual ASP meeting.

Have you made arrangements to attend the 40th Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., our society's Ruby Anniversary? This year's meeting is sponsored by the National Primate Research Centers, George Washington University's (GWU) Columbia College of Arts & Sciences, Lab Diet, and Karger Publishers. The Program Committee has put together a fantastic program, available on the website, full of scientific workshops, symposia, and oral and poster sessions.

Several celebratory Society-sponsored social events are also listed. The meeting will kick off

with the opening reception at the Smithsonian's National Zoo, sponsored by GWU and Friends of the National Zoo, and we are excited to bring back the student competition Data Blitz, which will start the scientific program on August 25. And, for the first time, ASP will be offering RACE credits for veterinary professionals at our meeting – please spread the word to the vets and vet techs you know and work with!

The deadlines for conference registration (**July 15**) and hotel reservations under the ASP block (**July 25**) are rapidly approaching. We encourage you to stay at the conference hotel where you'll be in the midst of all the action, and to reserve through the ASP block. The Society is contractually obligated to book a set number of rooms in the block - and if we fail to meet that number, the Society has to pay -- which means less dollars for ASP to support research grants and student travel awards.

On Sunday evening (August 27), please plan to attend the Wiley Sponsored Reception in honor of Dr. Paul Garber. Dr. Garber has served as the Editor-in-Chief of the society's journal, the *American Journal of Primatology*, for 10 years.

It's not too late to sign up for the Biological Sciences Congressional District Visits event! This national initiative is an opportunity for scientists across the country to meet with their federal or state elected officials to showcase the people, facilities, and equipment that are required to support and conduct scientific research.

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Participants may either invite an elected official to tour their research facility or can meet at the lawmaker's local office. Meetings will take place mid-July through October. ASP members who participate will receive one-on-one support and online training to prepare them for their tour or meeting. Participation is FREE for ASP members, but registration will close on **July 18, 2017**. Register <u>here</u>.

As you know, ASP is celebrating its Ruby Anniversary this year. This is a tremendous milestone for our Society, and one that deserves celebration. Our journal, *AJP*, continues to be a leader in the field, publishing

some of the highest caliber research in primatology.

However, membership in ASP (and other taxonomic-based societies), has been declining. We interpret this pattern not as a decline in interest in doing primate research, but perhaps a decline in interest in contributing to professional societies like ASP. Marilyn Norconk and I have an Editorial forthcoming in AJP wherein we analyze the demographic characteristics of the Society and reflect upon some challenges in recent years that have likely affected membership. We lay the foundation for the rationale of undergoing strategic planning something that, to our knowledge, has not occurred previously. Strategic planning will allow us to reaffirm our mission statement, identify strengths and challenges, and articulate goals for the Society for the early (next 2-5 years) and sustained (>5 years) future. We are working with an outside consultant to gather and assess data from the membership (and recently lapsed members). When you are contacted by her, please do respond to her questions. Your voice in essential in determining our path forward.

See you in Washington, D.C.!

My best,

Kimberley A. Phillips President, ASP Please don't forget to use the ASP Amazon link (on the ASP homepage: www.asp.org) for all purchases.





Registration for the Biological Sciences Congressional District Visits training closes July 18!



The Midwest Primate Interest Group (MPIG) 2017 Meeting will be held October 20-21 on the beautiful campus of Northwestern University in Evanston, IL.

Hosted by Drs. Liz Mallott & Katie Amato.

Check MPIG's Facebook page for more info!

Ruby Anniversary

Join us for the 40th Anniversary Meeting of the American Society of Primatologists! August 25-28, 2017 • Washington, DC

Sponsored by the National Primate Research Centers



<u>Distinguished Primatologists Address</u> Drs. Dorothy Cheney & Robert Seyfarth, UPenn

Past President's Address Dr. Karen Bales, UC Davis Early Career Award Address
Dr. Bernardo Urbani, IVIC

Interdisciplinary Symposium Marmosets as a Model of Aging President's Forum Supporting & Enhancing Peer Review

Symposia

New Insights Into African Ape Development From Long-Term Field Studies Rearing Macaque Infants in a Captive Setting Genetic Approaches to Primate Behavior

And More!

 Student Lunch and Learn Workshop:
 "From Backpack to Briefcase: Making the transition from Graduate School to the Workplace"

Two-Part Science Policy Roundtable

On-time registration ends July 15 - Register now at www.asp.org/

Plus a Stellar Social Program!

Friday, August 25

- Opening Reception at the National Zoo Sunday, August 27
 - Annual Primate Promenade
 - Trivia Night: 40 Years of ASP
- Wiley Reception Honoring Paul Garber, AJP Editor

Monday, August 28

• Closing Banquet & Awards Ceremony Featuring the Dapper DJs!





There's Still Time to Register! ON-TIME REGISTRATION ends July 15, 2017

HOTEL REGISTRATION

deadline is July 25, 2017

https://www.asp.org/meetings/

#ASPDC2017

Opening Reception August 25, 2017 at the National Zoo!

Hosted by Friends of the National Zoo & The George Washington University's Columbian College of Arts & Sciences







Batang, the baby orangutan born at the National Zoo in September 2016. Photos courtesy of the National Zoo.

The 40th Meeting of ASP Sponsored by





KARGER



COMMITTEE UPDATES

Conservation

The conservation committee received 28 Conservation Small Grants during the 2017 funding cycle. Please join us in congratulating the following five PIs on their successful projects! We cannot wait to see the results of this important research!

<u>Thad Bartlett</u>: Gibbons in Fragmented Habitat: Assessing the Conservation Status of Agile Gibbons (*Hylobates agilis*) in the Bukit Larut Forest Reserve, Malaysia.

<u>Sylvie Grange</u>: Assessment of the gastrointestinal parasites with zoonotic potential in two different communities of chimpanzees from Guinea-Bissau and its implications for conservation.

<u>Salvatore Izzo</u>: Chimpanzee nesting preferences, nest distribution and conservation challenges in Nova Sintra, Guinea-Bissau.

<u>Sunil Khatiwada</u>: Monitoring impact of 2015 Earthquake on Primate species in Langtang region of Nepal.

<u>Michael Reid</u>: Preserving Fragile Ecosystems through Community-Based Fire Management and Education Programs in Ankarafantsika National Park, North-West Madagascar.

We would like to thank the conservation committee for their hard work and on-time review efforts: Sylvia Atsalis, Andrea Baden, Bert Covert, Andrea Eller, Wendy Erb, David Fernandez, Alexander Georgiev, Susan Lappan, Grainne McCabe, Krista Milich, Erin Riley, Juan Carlos Serio Silva, and Chris Shaffer.

The conservation committee is reviewing **Primate Conservation Award** nominations! We will make our recommendations to be announced at the ASP 40th anniversary meeting in Washington, DC. The nominee will be informed of the decision immediately following the meeting and will be published in the ASP Bulletin and posted on the ASP web page.



#ASPDC2017 AUCTION TIME

As you travel and do fieldwork this summer, don't forget to pick up primate art and other souvenirs to donate to the conference auction. We had great success with original art pieces last year, so please keep those coming! Your donations make primate conservation projects happen!

If you need to mail silent auction items ahead of the meeting, please contact the Local Host, Dr. Amanda M. Dettmer.



~Michelle Bezanson and Stacey Tecot, ASP Conservation Committee Co-Chairs

Education Committee

The ASP Education Committee is very pleased to announce the finalists for the 2017 Student Research Presentation Competition. We would like to thank the members of the ASP Education Committee for reviewing these abstracts and helping us come up with a great set of finalists.

Each finalist will participate in the **Data Blitz on Saturday 26 August** after the opening remarks so that they can showcase their research and generate enthusiasm for the competition! Contestants will have 2 minutes to entice the audience to visit their poster or attend their oral presentation with an overview of their investigation and a teasing glimpse at the data. Be sure to attend!

Below is an alphabetical list of finalists:

Oral Presentations

Bobby Habig - R. Habig, D.S. Jansen, L.R. Gesquiere, J. Altmann, S.C. Alberts, & E.A. Archie. (2017). How do a male's physiological and social profiles predict rank duration and mating success?

Elizabeth Passey-Wood - E. Passey-Wood, E.K. Wood, A.N. Skowbo, J.P. Capitanio, & J.D. Higley. (2017). Anxiety mediates alcohol intake in laboratory living rhesus macaques (*Macaca mullatta*).

Christina Pavia - C. Pavia, T. Fitzgerald, B. Anantha, S. Dewald, A. Hallenbeck, A. Brooks, A. Zabinski, & R. Chancellor. (2017). Development of independence in an infant Western Lowland Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) at the Philadelphia Zoo.

Eve Smeltzer - E. Smeltzer & J. Teichroeb. (2017). The finder's advantage does not trump high-rank when wild vervet monkeys (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*) compete for small, dispersed resources during a foraging experiment at Lake Nabugabo, Uganda.

Poster Presentations

Alexander Baxter - A. Baxter, E.K. Wood, J.P. Capitanio, & J.D. Higley (2017). Sexual Dimorphism in 2D:4D Digit Ratio is Linked to Anxiety in Indoor- and Outdoor-Housed Rhesus Macaques (*Macaca mulatta*).

Ching-Wen Huang - C. Huang (2017). Copulation calls of female Taiwanese macaque (*Macaca cyclopis*) at Nanhua Area in southern Taiwan.

Gina Vaira - G. Vaira & P. Nealan (2017). The forgotten ape: Exploring the cognitive abilities of *Symphalangus syndactylus*.

The ASP Education Committee is also excited to announce a workshop luncheon for students at the Annual Meeting entitled: From Backpack to Briefcase: Making the Transition from Graduate School to the Workplace on Sunday August 27 at 11:30 am. Each presenter will share real world experience to help prepare our student members for the daunting life changes facing them. Karen Hambright will discuss Do's and Don'ts for the academic job search and interview process; Ben Ragen will explain how to use skills that aren't specific to primatology to obtain employment in a variety of non-traditional career options; and Eliza Bliss-Moreau will discuss so Dos and Don'ts for professional communication.



Students may either pre-register by emailing education@asp.org or when they check in at the conference registration table. Attendance with a box lunch is limited to the first 50 registered. Others may attend and bring their own lunch. The workshop is free and open to all members.

We look forward to seeing you all in Washington DC in August!

~Karen Hambright and Michael Reid, ASP Education Committee Co-Chairs

Membership & Finance Committee

Treasurer's Report

IPS/ASP 2016 Joint Meeting

The Joint Congress of ASP and IPS in Chicago 2016 was extremely successful! Not only was the science and collegiality amazing at this meeting, but it was also profitable with ASP making **\$12,500**. Thank you to the organizers of that great meeting!

The 2017 meeting in Washington DC currently has over 225 individuals registered to attend and we are looking forward to a wonderful scientific meeting that is a financial success for the society!

Membership

While membership over the past few years has declined, the membership numbers for 2017 are higher than 2016. At the end of the 2016 year the total membership was 347. Currently the society has 364 members with Full (210), Student (138), Retired (16); 27 of our members are complimentary habitat country members. As a reminder, the Membership and Finance Committee created "Join ASP" posters a few years ago that can be downloaded from the ASP Members section of the website. Please consider posting these posters in your department or organization.

~Cory Ross, Membership & Finance Committee Chair/ASP Treasurer



Publications Committee

We have had a busy year. I want to thank each of the members for their service, **Entang Iskandar**, **Joyce Parga and Carrie Veilleux.** Specifically, there are 3 efforts I would like to highlight.

- 1) **Joyce Parga** has worked with chairs of other committees and with **Nancy Capitanio** to update links and provide current information on the ASP website. We also gave the journal a more prominent access point on the main web page.
- 2) **Carrie Veilleux** has been in discussion with **Christopher Schmitt** about the wisdom and possibility of merging the Publications Committee with the Social Media Committee. Those discussions are ongoing. s
- 3) Entang and I served on the search committee for a new editor-in-chief of the American Journal of Primatology. The recommendation of the search committee has been forwarded to the Board of Directors and a public announcement of this information should be coming soon.

~Matthew Novak, Publications Committee Chair

Student Committee

Science Policy Roundtable Discussion at ASP 2017!

Because of the success of our panel discussion at ASP 2016, the ASP Student Committee is working with **Dr. Amy Ryan** to plan another panel discussion for this year's conference! This year's roundtable session will focus on the ways that scientists can affect or effect science policy either directly (through working with lawmakers) or indirectly (through communications strategies aimed at general audiences). The accepted abstract for this session reads as follows:

Scientists increasingly recognize a need to be proactive in communicating both their results and the value of their research to policymakers. For example, recent changes to the NIH's management of research using nonhuman primates has brought science policy to the attention of many primatologists. Furthermore, as scientific phenomena such as evolution and climate change are increasingly viewed not as objective facts but through polarized political lenses, primatologists are vulnerable to losing funding for both research and conservation purposes. In this roundtable, primatologists will learn about different strategies they can use to inform policies set for scientific research. To do this, expert panelists will address the following three topics. First, panel members will lend their experience in providing best practices in communicating with a broad array of audiences. Second, the panel will briefly describe recent changes to ethical regulations governing research involving nonhuman primates. Third, the panel will broach the topic of how individual scientists, from graduate students to principal investigators, can help to shape policies and regulations outlining research using nonhuman primates. Audience members will have ample opportunity to pose their own questions to the panel, and we hope that this discursive format will foster an informative and productive discussion.

So far, our confirmed panelists will include **Carrie Wolinetz**, Director, <u>NIH Office of Science Policy</u> and **Matthew Bailey**, President, <u>National Association for Biomedical Research</u>, and we are working to secure other panelists so that we have a diverse and balanced group.

If you have any questions or if you would like to join the ASP Student Committee, please contact Morgan Chaney (mchaney1@kent.edu) or Brett Frye (bfrye@g.clemson.edu). We hope to see you in DC!

~Morgan Chaney and Brett Frye, ASP Student Committee Co-Chairs



IN MEMORIAM: DUANE RUMBAUGH

ASP is devastated by the death of Duane M. Rumbaugh, who passed peacefully in New Jersey on June 24, 2016, following a stroke. He would have been 88 next month.

Duane was a Regents Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Biology at Georgia State University, and was the founding Director of the <u>Language Research Center</u>. He joined the university in 1971 as Professor and Chair of Psychology, where he led the department for 18 years, guiding it through growth and transition, and promoting its focus on science to understand and to address important problems. Duane earned his PhD (University of Colorado, Boulder, 1955) in general-experimental psychology, and made his most influential contributions to the field of comparative psychology, including developing methods for assessing intelligence across species, innovating apparatus for the comparative study of cognition. He is widely recognized for the pioneering ape-language research that he directed, beginning in 1971 with a chimpanzee named Lana. The work with <u>Lana</u> would attract widespread attention both within the scientific community and from the popular media, and would become the inspiration for many subsequent studies of symbol-learning and use by nonhuman primates. This success of these ape-language studies also motivated Rumbaugh to form the Language Research Center at Georgia State University in 1981.

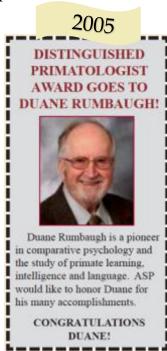
Professor Rumbaugh served as Director of the LRC until his retirement in 2001. His research was supported for more than four decades by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and also attracted support from many other agencies. Rumbaugh's scholarly efforts yielded more than 250 published articles and chapters, and several authored or edited books, including Language Learning by a Chimpanzee: The LANA Project (1977), The Intelligence of Apes and Other Rational Beings (2004), and With Apes in Mind (2013). Across his career, he was recognized with many honors, most recently the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society for Experimental Psychology and Cognitive Science (Division 3 of the American Psychological Association, 2016). Each year, Georgia State University recognizes a graduate student with the Duane M. Rumbaugh Fellowship in his honor.

Duane was awarded ASP's highest honor, the Distinguished Primatologist Award, in 2005 at the annual meeting in Portland, OR. He also served ASP in many roles over the years, most notably as a member of the Research & Development Committee (1998-1990), the Publications Committee (2000-2002), and the Awards & Recognition Committee (2008-2010).

Duane will be truly missed by ASP. ASP extends its deepest sympathies to all who were impacted by Duane – his family, friends, students, collaborators, and colleagues.







Job Announcements

COLONY ADMINISTRATOR

Southwest National Primate Research Center Job # 17-065



The Southwest National Primate Research Center is seeking a Colony Administrator who will be responsible for the oversight of three breeding colony resources – a baboon colony, a rhesus macaque colony and a common marmoset colony. The person in this position will be a Staff Scientist. A Staff Scientist is not required but is eligible to seek independent research funding. This position will report to the SNPRC Associate Director for Research. Three colony managers will report to the Colony Administrator.

Responsibilities will include:

- Oversee the strategic plan for colony breeding. The strategic plan may include parameters such as
 colony size, genetic diversity, pedigree, purpose breeding for genotypes or phenotypes, and
 specific pathogen free characteristics.
- Chair the species advisory committees.
- Translate the strategic plans into breeding and management plans for the colony managers.
- Oversee the appropriate percentage of animals are assigned to breeding or projects.
- Oversee animal assignments to studies or sales.
- Project future animal needs and animal production based on past and present research use.
- Establish short- and long-term genetic management plans in conjunction with the Genomics Core.
- Write the colony components for the P51 grant renewal and write the annual progress report for the colony components.
- Be a member of the NPRC's Breeding Colony Management Consortium. Attends monthly teleconferences and annual in-person meetings.
- Function as a resource for investigators on the basic biology of species and study design.
- Conduct and publish resource-related research.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE/SKILLS: REQUIRED: A doctoral-level degree with at least two years of post-doctoral experience. PREFERRED: A doctoral degree in primatology or biological anthropology. Five years of post-doctoral experience is preferred.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS: POTENTIAL HAZARDS: Work may involve occasional, unpleasant work conditions such as exposure to unpleasant odors or adverse weather conditions. May work in areas in which infectious agents (such as herpes B virus, SIV, HIV, STLV, Vaccinia, Tuberculosis, and Shigella) or toxic chemicals are present.

Potential exists for animal bites and animal scratches and exposure to zoonotic diseases. This position may require participation in a medical monitoring and surveillance program to include hepatitis B or other inoculations. Safety training, equipment, clothing and supplies will be provided when required.

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OTHER: This is a full-time salaried (exempt) position. Texas Biomed business hours are Monday through Friday - 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Texas Biomed is committed to a drug-free workplace. Pre-employment drug screen is required.

Apply online at http://www.txbiomed.org/about/employment. Application packets are accepted electronically or in hard copy. A completed application packet is a requirement for all positions. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Equal Employment Opportunity /M/F/Disability/Protected Veteran Status.

Applications will be reviewed beginning July 31, 2017, and will continue until the position is filled.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Project Chimps, Inc.

Project Chimps is a 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2014 to provide sanctuary to chimpanzees coming out of private research laboratories. The sanctuary is located on 236 acres of land in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of Georgia and currently cares for 22 chimpanzees, but is building capacity to house up to 250 chimpanzees. Project Chimps is seeking an Executive Director who will lead the organization and ensure a sustainable future for the sanctuary and its chimpanzee residents. The Executive Director will have overall strategic and operational responsibility for Project Chimps' staff, programs, expansion, and execution of its mission. The Executive Director will report directly to the Board of Directors. Salary will be commensurate with responsibilities.

This position will have the following responsibilities:

Management and administration

- Provide general oversight of all Project Chimps' activities and assure an efficient, effective and stable organization.
- Oversee development and implementation of facility policies, safety procedures, volunteer policies and animal care standards.
- Translate the organization's vision and mission into a business strategy with measurable metrics.
- Oversee habitat design, construction and associated budget.



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Financing

- Formulate and produce annual and multi-year budgets.
- Work with the Board and oversee work of the Director of Philanthropy to ensure funds that will support short- and long-term goals of the organization.

Public and donor relations

- Participate actively in identifying, cultivating and soliciting donor prospects.
- Engage and respond to donors, volunteers, local community, sanctuary community, members of the media and other stakeholders in order to maximize relationships and engagement with these key constituencies.

Mission, policy and planning

• Create an organizational culture that promotes Project Chimps' values, mission and vision.

Governance and legal compliance

• Ensure compliance with all legal and regulatory requirements.

Qualifications

Education and Experience

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent in nonprofit management, animal sciences, or wildlife biology/zoology.
- Minimum of ten years of experience in senior leadership roles in nonprofit organizations or translatable management experience. Previous work with rescue and rehabilitation of animals preferred.
- Proven track record of success implementing process improvements and managing projects within a growing organization.
- Excellent judgment and creative problem solving skills. Flexible, collaborative and proactive.
- Experience in budget development and oversight of multimillion dollar organization.

Necessary Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Business acumen, negotiation skills, and a demonstrated attention to detail.
- The ability to build/foster relationships by reinforcing trust and respect, and demonstrating high standards of tact, diplomacy and discretion.
- Professional executive presence, and ability to run and facilitate meetings and conduct public presentations.
- A hardworking attitude and a willingness to make extra effort to achieve organizational goals.

Please submit a cover letter and resume to <u>careers@projectchimps.org</u>. This position is located in Morganton, GA but remote candidates will be considered.

Qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability, marital or parental status or protected veteran status.

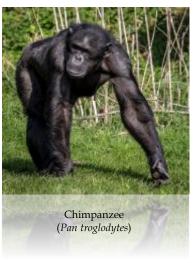
Primates in the News!

The notion of chimpanzee "super strength" was contradicted in a recent study, shedding light on human muscle evolution.

Since the early 20th century, anecdotes and a few studies have suggested that, compared to humans, chimpanzees possess a "super strength" that is many times greater than that of humans. But recent research led by Brian Umberger, an expert in musculoskeletal biomechanics in kinesiology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and Matthew O'Neill of the University of Arizona College of Medicine, yields findings contrary to this belief.

By isolating and analyzing muscle fiber preparations and combining this approach with experiments and computer simulations, the team found that chimpanzees muscles' maximum dynamic force and power output is actually only about 1.35 times higher than human muscles of similar size – a "modest" difference compared to past historical accounts. Muscle fibers come in two general types – fast-twitch and slow-twitch – and the researchers found that "within fiber types, chimp and human muscle fibers were actually very similar.

However...chimps have about twice as many fast-twitch fibers as humans," said Umberger. These are the muscle fibers that are fast and powerful, but fatigue quickly. "The flip side is that humans, with a high percentage of slow-twitch fibers, are adapted for endurance...at the expense of strength and power."



The authors conclude that chimps' advantage comes not from intrinsic properties in muscle cells, but the global characteristics of whole muscles: chimps' muscle fibers are longer than humans, and contain more fast-twitch fibers. Thus, "Contrary to some long-standing hypotheses, evolution has not altered the basic force, velocity, or power-producing capabilities of skeletal muscles...Instead, natural selection appears to have altered more global characteristics of muscle tissue" which account for the marked differences between chimpanzees and humans in walking, running, climbing, and throwing capabilities.

The research appears in the early online edition of <u>PNAS</u>.

Save the Date! ASP 2018

August 8 – 11, 2018 at the Hyatt Regency
San Antonio, TX
Hosted by Dr. Kimberley Phillips
Registration opens Jan 6, 2018
Symposia/Workshop abstracts due Feb 3, 2018
Oral & Poster abstracts due March 17, 2018
#ASPSATX2018