It all began with a vision from our director, Anne Yoder. Over the past few years the Duke Lemur Center has undergone a major face lift. Old caging has been torn down, state of the art housing built, and new landscaping that puts visitors in awe as they arrive at the Center. You wouldn’t recognize the place! And now, a new immersive summer tour path. The area behind our main building has always been one of Anne’s favorite areas of the DLC campus: quiet, peaceful and wooded. It exemplifies the kind of environment we want to provide our lemurs and our visitors.

The vision for transforming native North Carolina woodland into a tropical oasis could not have been made real without the generous support of our donors. Our guests and lemurs get to enjoy a cooler, shaded, beautiful tour path that not only features lemur species from all over Madagascar, but tropical plants from all over the globe. This tour path allows visitors to have an up close and personal look at these amazing animals while being surrounded by beauty. By next summer the plants will have flourished even more so and the experience even more wonderful for the lemurs and our guests. So thank YOU for making our vision a reality. Please come out and enjoy this wonderful experience if you have yet to!
Looking back over the past year, I feel a remarkable sense of progress towards the fundamental goals of the Duke Lemur Center. The Center has three core missions of research, education, and conservation, with each of these missions experiencing significant enhancements. Lemurs and their loriform cousins are critically endangered. They are not a renewable resource, and it would be impossible to recreate the taxonomic diversity represented at the DLC. The colony is the product of more than 40 years of captive breeding, institutional exchange, and animals caught in the wild. The Duke Lemur Center is the only place in the world where lemurs and lorises are so carefully maintained, and where biological samples, medical records, and other data - collected today and over its 40-year history - allow for detailed investigations of their biology.

Within the past four years, Duke University has invested more than $10 million to improve infrastructure at the Center and to professionalize its staff. The new Research Department, founded in 2007, has fundamentally advanced research capacity at the Center, as is reflected in a dramatic increase in research activity. For example, whereas less than 38% of the living collection was used in research protocols in 2006, that number has steadily increased to more than 85% in the first half of the 2010 calendar year. The number of biological disciplines has also shown significant expansion, with projects spanning disciplines as diverse as genomics, virology, cognition, biomechanics, physiology, behavior and ecology - and this list is by no means exhaustive. With increased sophistication in non-invasive methods of data collection, the DLC serves as a model institution for the collection of maximum data with minimal disturbance of vertebrate subjects. Moreover, the non-invasive research methods employed by the DLC contribute to the DLC’s system of educational activities via the hiring of undergraduate work-study students and the training of veterinary students, primarily from the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine. The latter training takes the form of clinical rotations and externships in fields as diverse as primate medicine, pathology, pharmacology, epidemiology, and animal behavior.

The DLC also strives to impact research, conservation, and education abroad, particularly in Madagascar. Over the past several years, we have brought to Duke and trained several Malagasy scholars in fields as diverse as molecular evolution, conservation genetics, genomics, and veterinary medicine. The DLC sponsored extended visits for three Malagasy scientists for research and training in 2007 - 2009. The three scholars worked in the DLC Director’s lab for two months, where they perfected genetic research methods and completed further work on their own data sets focusing on Malagasy reptiles and mammals. The DLC also hosted three Malagasy veterinary students and young veterinary professionals who have a strong interest in wildlife medicine. The veterinary internships have been particularly successful in that each of the three trainees has already acquired a professional position in Madagascar that is directly attributable to his or her training at the DLC.

We are tireless in our efforts to build upon and advance these critical activities in conservation, research and education, and in the partnership of Duke University, the National Science Foundation, and you, our loyal supporters, that makes our work possible. Thank you. Together we can make a difference.

Anne D. Yoder, PhD
Director

By Herb Englishman with Betsy Englishman
two tireless Lemur Center volunteers from Durham, NC

In the early spring of 2000, we planned our move to North Carolina. Thirty years of northern New Jersey’s cold and sometimes uncertain weather, along with the risks and demands of raising children in Durham in the late summer, needed something to do to fill time and help us cope with our “empty- nest” syndrome.

There was a place called “The Duke University Pri- mate Center.” We scheduled a tour and immediately fell in love with the lemurs. Becoming a tour guide was probably the last thing we even considered. After all, we were birders, hikers, history lovers, and followers not leaders. After some thought, I inquired, “How do you become a guide?” I wanted to learn about lemurs and then be able to pass on lemur facts along with the realization that these animals may have some connection to us (humans) today.

Becoming a tour guide wasn’t easy. The staff gave me a thick notebook filled with facts and pictures to study. It was like being in college again and being enrolled in Lemurs 101. After some trepidation, I proceeded to give the required training tours, eventually satisfying the requirements to become a guide.

At the time, the tour path, visitors’ center, office, and staff space were secluded. They consisted of several desks in a hallway, a computer on a desk, and the smallest gift shop imaginable. It gave the impression that this was not the primary focus of the Center. The largest visible feature was the beautiful Metasequoia Tree in the front of the building.

The tour of the facilities was a combination of some outside enclosures, entering near the “Leaky Building” site, passing Romeo’s (the only Diademed sifaka in captivity) space, entering into the “dark world of the aye-ayes and the lorises,” returning into a hall which had a room housing “fossils,” a giant elephant bird with a “egg displayed next to a hummingbird egg in a display case. Interesting displays. The tour con- tinued, passing a Natural Habitat Enclosure, where you could see Golden crowned Sifakas in captivity and playing. Near-by, some Sanford were busy talking in their stilt. Next, we passed by an enclosure housing male ring-tails and several older animals (reminded me of a man place to visit and learn about lemurs. I remember that at one time Romeo shared quarters with Titus, a small, beautiful Golden Crowned Sifaka in an enclosure near the nocturnal building. (Loved these guys!) Titus has since passed on of natural causes, but his memory continues.

Although somewhat reminiscent of a zoo, the facilities seemed sufficient at the time for housing and caring for lemurs. We have always appreciated the beauty and gentle appearance of the lemurs, as well as their exquisite care at the Center. We would have known the future plans of the then Duke Primate Center!

Today there are major changes in both phil- osophy and housing. First, the name changed from Duke University Primate Center (We don’t house monkeys or apes) to the Duke Lemur Center. The second, perhaps most exciting change, has been the new living quarters. The new buildings are state-of-the-art for hous- ing these primates. The new quarters are easier to clean, large enough to provide comfort, offer the animals many choices of locations, and are easy to view on the tour. The animals seem to enjoy their new homes. In addition, the students have opportunities to work with the animals in a natural setting, as well as working close-up in their indoor quarters.

This is a most impressive place to work as a volunteer. Having seen the Center (old and new) it is truly the place to visit and learn about lemurs. Only a trip to Madagascar would be more rewarding. My bags are packed! As a volunteer, I invite those reading this article to the Center and enjoy the animals. Support them with your time as a volunteer and through your contributions. Participate in the “Share-the-Care” program (used to be Adopt a lemur) You will be able to watch your animal grow and mature and learn about its species through quarterly updates. Enjoy!
By David Haring, DLC Registrar, Photographer, and Historian

Amor update

By Charlie Welch, DLC Conservation Coordinator

TRAVEL

Amor was just one of the many things that happened this year to his group (consisting of Amor, his mate Kizzy, and their five sons), in what has proven to be an exceptionally eventful one. Just a little over two weeks after his surgery, Amor was acting and eating fine, and was released back to free range with sons Magellan, Krok and Eros. A couple of weeks later, in mid May, the youngest son, Magellan, not even a year old, suddenly became extremely ill. One day he was bounding around the cage to tree to tree, and the next he was laying around all day, when it gets warm you are more likely to find Amor lounging on the cool concrete pad of Aty Al’s main outdoor hallway, flat out on his back, or sprawled on his belly depending on how hot it is.

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The Madagascar Fauna Group (MFG) is a conservation consortium of 27 institutions, mostly zoos, in the US and Europe, that are committed to protecting Madagascar’s stunning biodiversity. Duke Lemur Center (DLC) is a founding and managing level member of the consortium. The MFG maintains in-country projects at Ivoloina Conservation Center, and Betampona Nature Reserve, both in eastern Madagascar, near the city of Tamatave. The MFG main office includes a natural history library, and is located in Tamatave. In the US the MFG is based at the St. Louis Zoo where Chair Dr. Eric Miller, and vice chair Ingrid Porton both work.

As the MFG projects are long term, now running at over 20 years, the conservation impact in the region from various project components, continues to build and expand. Relationships are built and expanded at all levels and are probably the single most important aspect moving any conservation project forward. Long term is important. Relationships are vital.

At last year’s Madagascar Fauna Group meeting in Paris, the DLC offered to host the 2011 meeting. A bold offer indeed, to follow up ANY meeting taking place in Paris. Not sure that I would call Durham the Paris of the US, or southeast, or even NC… I would however venture to say that this month’s MFG meeting here was a success. The MFG steering committee meets each year, to review the year’s projects activities, and set the budget for the upcoming year. Since we lack large enough meeting space here at DLC for the committee plus observers, the meeting was held at the comfortable and accommodating R. David Thomas Conference Center on campus. It was a perfect venue. MFG Program Manager, An Bollen was here from Madagascar, and presented the impressive list of the year’s conservation activities. The activities include environmental education, sustainable agriculture, capacity building, conservation-based research, and so much more. An seemed to go on endlessly presenting all that the MFG is doing. Unfortunately, the MFG will be losing An, as she has decided to move on in a different direction. Replacing her will be extremely difficult. Each time that I am in Madagascar, and pass through Tamatave, I am always impressed with An’s commitment, dedication, and just plain tirelessness! She just keeps going, under conditions which could generously be called sub-optimal. We will miss her enormously, but all wish An the very best in her next challenge.

The meeting concluded with an evening visit to DLC, which everyone seemed to enjoy thoroughly, despite the incinerating summer heat. All had been looking forward to escaping from computers, and actually getting to see lemurs, and our new facility. The lemurs did not disappoint, with the sifakas and aye-aye as easy to predict high points. And, of course, what meeting held in North Carolina would be complete without a traditional NC bar-b-que. Not available in Paris, I might add!

As most of you know, DLC is in the process of starting an independent conservation initiative, in a different region of Madagascar. Of course, the DLC will continue to support the MFG. We recognize that what the MFG achieves in terms of conservation is not only remarkable, but continues to grow and evolve. Some other members of the MFG also have their own independent conservation projects in Madagascar, yet remain long term active members of the MFG, and that speaks volumes. Those who really know conservation and Madagascar see that the MFG is a truly effective organization when it comes to achieving real grass roots conservation results. I guess the bottom line is that there are certainly no shortage of conservation needs in such a biodiversity hotspot as Madagascar, hence room for plenty of projects and initiatives. We appreciate to all the gracious supporters who have helped both the DLC and the MFG get this far! Much remains to be done.

LEAVE A LEGACY

You can help give lemurs a future, help Duke Lemur Center protect, study, and care for these unique endangered animals, and leave a legacy all at one time. Call Lari at 919.401.7252 or email Lari.Hatley@duke.edu for more information on Planned Giving.

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By Sarah Zehr, PhD, DLC Research Coordinator

**Research**

**Fiscal Year 2010-2011**

Total number of research projects: 90
Undergraduate Principle Investigators (Pis): 18
Graduate student PIs: 18
Undergraduate Research Assistants: 37
Graduate student research assistants: 14
Animals used in non-invasive research projects: 211

As anyone who has written a grant proposal knows, research is not all just the fun and games of data collection and analysis. Therefore, we aim to give our student researchers a taste of the rigor of submitting project proposals for approval and obtaining funding for their research. There are two sources of funding that are specifically geared toward undergraduates, namely, the Molly Glander Fund (administered by the DLC) and the Duke Office of Undergraduate Research Support.

Financial support from these two sources allows our students to learn to consider and describe the significance of their research, design and adhere to a project budget, and experience the joy of successful grant writing. On behalf of our undergraduate researchers, the DLC would like to acknowledge the important role these funding agencies play in undergraduate education and offer our sincerest gratitude.

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**Travel**

Duke Alumni Travel is planning a trip to Madagascar. Our own, Charlie Welch will be the guide. This trip will showcase a different season and new areas of Madagascar than our last trip. So, it should be a fascinating experience for all. Let us know if you are interested. We will keep you updated as the plans progress. Call Lari at 919.401.7252 or email Lari.Hatley@duke.edu for more information.

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**GIFTS**

Since January, 2011:

- 342 tours were led by 324 people. 121 people completed training and served as Technicians' Assistants (TAs)
- The TAs donated a total of 863 hours of service
- 3 people served as interns – 2 with the technicians and 1 with the Veterinary Department
- 1 Research Assistant

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Hatley in memory of Helen Katz
Mr. Bradley Lewis Campbell Mrs. Nadia B. Edwards in memory of James Martens
Ms. Dominique Bideau de Rozario in memory of Mrs. Suzanne and Mrs. Colette de Rozario

In-kind giving
- Dr. Ed Breitschwerdt
- Dr. John Cullen
- Dr. Gigi Davidson
- Dr. Alex English
- Dr. Brian Lloyd
- Dr. Cindy Godschalk
- Jeff Hatley
- Health Hillier
- Carol Holman
- Dr. Don Hoover
- Dr. Dennis Marcelin
- Dr. Don Meuten
- Dr. Barbara Sherman
- Ruth P. Stanton
- Dr. Michael Stoskopf

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**Statement of Operations July 2010 - June 2011**

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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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**By the numbers:**

538 donors gave 761 gifts for a total of $294,970.18

**Thanks to all!**

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many, many thanks!