

DLC STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS JULY 1, 2013-JUNE 30, 2014

Statement of Operations July 2013 - June 2014

REVENUE		
Annual University Allocation	9	1,096,754
Other University Support (including Facilities)	9	640,700
Endowment Income	5	148,210
*Annual Giving (donations)	9	465,547
Tours, Education & Merchandising	9	426,953
Research & Research Cabin Fees	5	52,822
Grants		
Government	9	415,336
Foundations	9	48,763
Other	9	61,571
Reserve from prior year	9	1,434,509
Т	otal Income	1 701 165

DLC RESEARCH BY THE NUMBERS

	Total Evnense	4 791 16
Reserve for future programming		1,333,39
Capital/Renovation Projects		176,48
Equipment/Acquisitions		58,85
Undergraduate Research Awards		2,63
Other Research		86,85
SAVA Conservation Programs		117,54
Education & Merchandising		103,90
Development & Public Relations		45,81
Research Department		6,41
DLC Facilities		18,01
Student/Animal Training		5,23
Curator		7,42
Veterinary Department		32,17
Animal Department		68,35
Animal Care & Operations		
General/Administrative Operations		165,21
University Facilities (building & utilities)		540,70
Salary & Fringes (all staff)		2,022,15

july 1, 2013-june 30, 2014		
	# researchers	# projects
Faculty/Professional/PostDoc PIs	31	34
Graduate Student PIs	24	21
Undergraduate Student PIs	14	14
University classes (n=9)	123	unk
High School Student PIs	1	1
Research Assistants	24	-
DLC Research Interns	17	14
DLC Work Study Students	5	1
TOTAL	239	85





A BANNER YEAR AT THE DLC

BY ANNE YODER, DIRECTOR

2014 has been a banner year at the DLC. Indeed, it is hard to believe that so much can have happened in such a short period! As you will learn when you read through this Annual Report, the DLC is a literally buzzing with activity.

On site, great strides are being made in our training program, our volunteers are proving invaluable in keeping the place functioning at levels that we could never achieve without the extra hands, and even school children are doing their part to help the Center preserve and protect lemurs. On a more global level, our resident paleontologist and Director of the Fossil Division, continues to roam the world in search of remarkable new fossil discoveries; and, importantly, we are now engaged in a truly global effort to save lemurs thanks to a new partnership with aye-aye breeding programs in Japan and Europe.

After more than 48 years, our exhaustive veterinary and life history records for each and every lemur to live or have lived at the DLC are available on-line. This is an achievement that I never thought could become a reality. I cannot stress enough just how monumental of an accomplishment this is. Previously, our records were scattered all over the place, and in virtually every format that you can imagine, from excel spreadsheets (the best case scenario), to hard drives, to floppy disks, to paper records. Indeed, I first came to understand the magnitude of the problem when Dr. Bobby Schopler came rushing into my office, several years ago, in desperate search of a "floppy disk". I assumed that he meant the more modern (though still long-outdated) 3.5-inch "hard" floppy. But no, he meant an actual 8-inch soft floppy disk, the kind in use in the 1980's! I was both astonished and disconcerted, though he assured me that this was at least better than paper records, a point on which I had to agree. But now, we have finally joined the digital age, and from the comfort of your living room couch (or wherever else you like to surf the web), you can find out everything an inquiring mind would want to know about the personal lives of every lemur to have lived at the DLC --- though I hasten to add that we sincerely hope that these data will be of greatest interest to biologists who are interested in the causes and consequences of longevity, fecundity, and all of the other life-history features of primate life. The data doors are open; come on in world!

You can read all about the ups and downs of this monumental project in Data Czar, Dr. Sara Zehr's, heartfelt tribute to Richard Roach, the long-term SAS specialist, who with his wife Freda Cameron, guided



us along the path to successful database development. Tragically, we lost Richard to cancer last spring, and we feel his absence every single day. We are grateful for the time that he shared with us, and also, to the many many friends who chose to honor him with their donations to the DLC. Richard Roach will live always in the hearts of the DLC staff, and in the future of the lemurs whose life stories he immortalized.

DLC involvement in Madagascar continues to strengthen and evolve. Our SAVA Initiative has really gotten its legs under it thanks in large part to a generous grant from the Helmsley Charitable Trust. The three-year grant will cover a variety of SAVA project expenses and will allow SAVA staff to move much quicker in achieving our ambitious conservation goals in Northeastern Madagascar. Stays tuned for updates, and expect to hear about exciting new developments in the SAVA project in the near future!

Finally, in another exciting development in Madagascar, the DLC is strengthening connections to Vahatra, a Malagasy NGO whose mission it is to promote Malagasy science by Malagasy scientists. Vahatra's director, Dr. Achille Raselimanana, is someone whom I have known for years, and indeed, he was at one time a postdoc in my lab when I was on faculty at Yale. To now be forming connections between our two organizations is beyond satisfying --- it is a dream come true. It truly feels like the uniting of goals and ambitions that we have held dear for so many years; goals that have motivated and sustained us through many challenging times, both at the DLC and in Madagascar. And now, by combining our expertise and our passion for biodiversity science, the future looks bright and the possibilities open for conserving lemurs and other Malagasy biodiversity. We would never have arrived at this moment had it not been for the unwavering support of our devoted donors. So let me end by saying, "misaotra betsaka" --- Thank you very much!

Anna D. God PhD, Director

KIDS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

NIKI BARNETT. EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS MANAGER

Now, more than ever, kids are supporting the Duke Lemur Center with both in-kind and monetary donations. Masses of school children arrive with enrichment items during their tours, hold bakes sales at school, collect aluminum cans ,and ask for donations for the lemurs in lieu of presents for their birthday. I am humbled by their generosity and inspired every day by their enthusiasm and spirit. I wanted to take a moment to say, "THANK YOU!" I realize it takes a village, so "THANK YOU," to all of the parents and school teachers instilling the virtue of giving into our next generation as well. Kids can make a difference, and I see it every day!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

LAUREN HAGEDORN

Position at the DLC: Technician Assistant and Animal Husbandry Intern (Summer 2014)

How long have you been volunteering? 1 year

Why do you volunteer at the DLC? I LOVE the DLC!!! Volunteering at the Lemur Center brings me so much joy it's ridiculous! The lemurs are spectacular – so fascinating, fun, and funny! – and the staff is incredible!! They inspire me to no end with their passion, wisdom, creativity, and thoughtfulness. Each time I volunteer, I am in awe at how lucky I am to have such an extraordinary place just a hop, skip, and a jump from where I'm studying! For a crazy lemurlover like me, the DLC is paradise.



What do you do outside of the DLC?

I enjoy life as a Blue Devil at Duke
University, pursuing my passion for
psychology, sustainability and conservation,
photography, and documentary studies!
Some of my favorite activities (aside from
volunteering at the DLC, of course!) include
having oodles of fun with Special Olympics,
training with Club Triathlon, taking pictures
for Duke Nutrition and Health Services,
Club Running, and Honor Council,
engaging people, exploring Durham, and
taking advantage of every opportunity to
learn something new!

Favorite Species: Varecia rubra (red-ruffed lemur). Special shout-out to Cordelia, Avior, Puck, Carme, Titan, Hunter, and Pyxis!

NEARLY 50 YEARS OF LEMUR DATA NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

BY ROBIN SMITH, SCIENCE WRITER

A 48-year archive of life history data for the world's largest and most diverse collection of endangered primates is now digital and available online. The Duke Lemur Center database allows visitors to view and download data for more than 3600 animals representing 27 species of lemurs, lorises and galagos distant primate cousins who predate monkeys and apes — with more data to be uploaded in the future.

Staff at the center observe and record virtually every aspect of an animal's life from cradle to grave. For each animal they know when it was born, who its parents were, how fast it grew, what it ate, which animals it mated with, how many offspring it had, and when and why it died.

Hiddleston is one of them. Hiddleston is a blue-eyed black lemur, which makes him one of the 25 most endangered primates in the world. Since he was born in March 2013, staff at the Duke Lemur Center have catalogued minute details of his life in their daily logbooks. They know how big he was at birth and when he tried his first solid foods. They monitor his weight and note how he interacts. They even tracked his first attempts to climb a tree. Hiddleston isn't alone. When Research Scientist Sarah Zehr first arrived at the Duke Lemur Center in 2007, she found a treasure trove of data about the lives, health and habits of more than 4000 animals, dating from the center's beginnings in 1966.

The fact that lemurs are at risk of dying out makes it unlikely that a collection of similar size will ever be recreated, Zehr said. "Many of these species are critically endangered in the wild, so they're unlikely to be held in captivity again. This means that the data are irreproducible." Getting at this one-of-a-kind



data, however, was a difficult task. Much of the data were locked up in handwritten notebooks or typed paper records. "The downside of the paper records is they're vulnerable, they're not digitized, and we only have a single copy — so they're impossible to analyze," Zehr said. The center migrated to electronic records in the 1990s, but that still left much of the data buried in odd computer files or hard-to-use databases. That began to change in 2012, when Zehr and software developers Freda Cameron and the late Richard Roach, formerly of SAS, started working on a project to assemble the information from the various source files and convert it into a single, easily searchable format.

It took them three years to compile and digitize the data and put it online. Visitors to the new database will find birth and death dates for each animal, IDs and ages for its parents, any litter mates or siblings, lifelong weight records, breeding season, gestation length and number of offspring — much of which would be difficult if not impossible to collect at a similar level of detail for lemurs living in the wild. Users can also find out whether any biological samples are available for an animal.

The database will also allow generations of future researchers to tackle a wide range of questions. Researchers studying aging and longevity, for example, will be able to compare maximum lifespans in captivity for different primate species, and pinpoint cellular and molecular traits that distinguish long-lived primates from short-lived ones.

The project was supported by the National **Evolutionary Synthesis Center and the National** Science Foundation (DB 1258440). Additional support was provided by the Duke Lemur Center and Duke's Natural Sciences Division. Visit http:// lemur.duke.edu/duke-lemur-center-database to check out the data for yourself!

TAP FORAGING **IN JAPANESE**

BY DAVID HARING, REGISTRAR/PHOTOGRAPHER

It was 4:30am late last August 26th, and the Lemur Center's Toyota Tundra slowly traveled down Lemur Lane on its way to Raleigh Durham Airport (RDU). The vehicle contained three very sleepy DLC staff and one extremely angry aye-aye. The staff members were myself (animal transporter extraordinaire) and Primate Technicians Julie McKinney and Jenna Templeton. The aye-aye was a four year old female named Styx, who had been seriously offended an hour earlier, when Julie and Jenna grabbed her from her cozy nest and put her into her transport crate, rudely interrupting her beauty sleep.

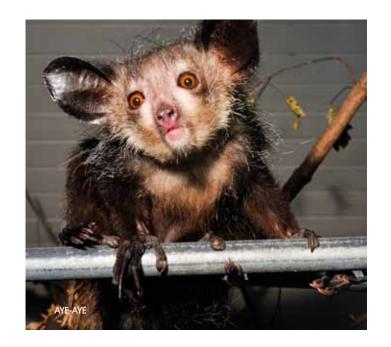
We were heading to the Fed Ex terminal at RDU, where a couple of hours later, the two techs and the still angry Styx boarded a massive cargo plane heading (after a brief eight hour layover in Memphis) to San Diego. Julie and Jenna boarded by conventional means, a set of stairs rolled into place, while the single medium sized plastic kennel, weighing about 22lbs containing Styx (the kennel was reinforced with an inner steel cage since any aye-aye worth her salt could chew through a flimsy plastic shell in a matter of minutes), was carefully placed in the center of a huge pallet, then slowly raised via a hydraulic lift, large enough to easily lift an elephant, upward to the cargo door and then into the belly of the plane.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Lemur Center established one of the first captive breeding programs for aye-aye by importing eight wild caught animals from Madagascar. established in other parts of the globe. Aye-ayes were imported from Madagascar to Japan (where the current population is now ten animals) and to Europe, where 15 aye-aye live today. Thanks to the original eight wild caught founders brought to the Lemur Center (five of which are still



alive!), aye-aye breeding in North America has been by far the most successful of any region of the world. Those founders, and their offspring have been responsible for the births of 36 infants at the Lemur Center and at a handful of American zoos, and a remarkable 24 of those offspring are still alive. The total captive aye-aye population in our part of the globe, spread out among seven institutions (all descendants of the original eight founders) stands at 28 (13 males, 15 females), giving a total world population of 53 individuals (27 males, 26 females).

Thirteen hours after departing from RDU, the Fed Ex plane touched down in sunny San Diego, and Julie, Jenna and Styx (still furious!) were met by the very excited San Diego Zoo Curator of Primates, Dean Gibson. Dean was inflicted with a passion for all things ave-ave during her tenure as About the same time, captive colonies were being Assistant Director of the Lemur Center in the early 2000s, and had been trying to bring aye-ayes to San Diego for years. After clearing quarantine in late September, a month after arrival, Styx will be introduced to a male named Nirina to form a new breeding pair. Nirina arrived in San Diego from the Ueno Zoo in Tokyo, Japan a few weeks prior



to Styx and had already cleared quarantine. The DLC has been sending ave-ave on breeding loans to other zoos in the U.S for a number of years (Merlin and Caliban were the first, travelling to the San Francisco Zoo in August 1997, followed by Salem and Ozony-Avelo to Denver in June 2008, and Medusa and Tolkien to the Philadelphia aye-aye from the Denver Zoo were also shipped Zoo in July 2009, with the Cincinnati Zoo and the Henry Doorly zoo also receiving animals). But none of those transactions had the decidedly international flair of Styx's pairing with the Japanese born Nirina.

In 2013, the San Diego Zoo held the first international captive aye-aye management workshop. Analysis of the population revealed that without adding additional wild caught animals (which due to a variety to reasons, was never an option), the genetics of captive population would suffer unless unrelated animals were exchanged between the US, Europe and Japan. Because the Lemur Center had the most success breeding aye-aye, the meeting recommended the transfer of six animals from North America to Europe (three males, three females, all DLC stock), one male from North America to Japan, one male from Japan to North America and one female from Japan to Europe.

Due to the fact that all lemurs are endangered and receive the highest level of protection by the government agencies assigned to protect them, it is a long and arduous process to get a CITES (Convention on International Trade in

Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) permit, which is a requirement for international transport of endangered animals between zoological institutions. It is a process that can take months or even years, and when natural disasters intervene, such as the Japanese earthquake and tsunami of 2012, which delayed Nirina's shipment to the US by months, even more challenges arise.

Despite the various hurdles, the long overdue exchange of captive bred ave-aves and their much needed genetic diversity has begun to flow between Japan and Europe and the United states the past few years. It all started with the shipment of Hitchcock (born at the DLC in 2005) to the Ueno zoo in November 2011. Then, in August, 2014 Japan sent Nirina, to the San Diego. At the publication of this newsletter the infusion of fresh aye-aye genes to Europe continues to be a work in progress. Sabrina (born at the DLC in 2003 to Poe and Morticia) was shipped from the San Francisco Zoo to the Bristol zoo in the UK in July 2014, and and two to the UK just weeks ago on September 15th-Pan (born at Denver) to the Jersey Zoo, and the DLC born Salem (daughter of Ardrey, and the first ayeaye born to a mother herself born in captivity) to the London Zoo. Waiting in the wings are two additional aye-ayes at the San Francisco Zoo who will be Europe-bound in a few weeks.

More international shipments of aye-aye will follow in the years to come. Hopefully this will result in increased breeding in Europe and overall improved genetic health of the global population. Meanwhile, Styx is reported to be doing well as she nears the end of her quarantine period in San Diego. One can imagine her as a much happier animal than the furious aye-aye who left the Lemur Center nearly a month ago. It might be a bit far-fetched to think of Styx practicing on feeding with chopsticks (after all, aye-aye are born with a middle finger as close to a chopstick as anything existing in the animal kingdom), and dreaming of the exotic Japanese suitor who awaits her! But at the very least we can hope that Styx and Nirina are a compatible match, and that they will produce many infants in the decades to follow!

LEMUR TRAINING UPDATE

BY MEG DYE. BEHAVIORAL MANAGEMENT AND STUDENT PROJECT COORDINATOR

I have a poorly kept secret to share: I LOVE training! I love everything about our positive interactions with the animals as we teach them to cooperate in their health care, participate in research and amaze our guests during education tours. The only thing that can top my love of training is working with other people who share my enthusiasm for training. Fortunately for me, I work with just such a team, comprised of dedicated technicians who enjoy and understand the value of training in the overall care of the animals and the mission of the Duke Lemur Center (DLC).

At the beginning of the summer, the tech team initiated a new daily schedule which included dedicated time for animal training. Our primary goals were to re-establish behaviors with animals that had experienced a lapse in their training sessions, and to initiate training with animals that had not participated in the training program. One of our largest challenges came with our smallest lemur species, the mouse lemur. With lofty training goals such as voluntary scale (the animals hop onto a scale so they can be weighed), voluntary kennel, and participation in touch screen cognition trials, the challenge was to figure out how to get a family of four mouse lemurs to each stay still in front of their own technician. In addition, the technicians





needed a safe way to deliver reinforcement to those tiny mouths (filled with tiny but very sharp teeth!) without being bitten. After months of much, much patience, the technicians can now reinforce the mouse lemurs for coming to station, remaining in front of a technician and, in some cases, touching their nose to a Q-tip. What keeps a mouse lemur's attention and can be safely delivered to their mouths? Drops of dilute agave juice from a syringe.

Other training accomplishments this summer have included using voluntary kenneling to move animals from one location to another within DLC, voluntary collaring of a female sifaka, teaching a protected -contact blue-eyed black lemur to present its back, voluntary vaginal swabs from a female ayeaye to monitor estrus cycles, voluntary ID tail shaves with black and white ruffed lemurs and teaching ring-tail lemurs to participate in a suspensory locomotion research project. And this was just the first few months of training! Accomplishments such as these are the result of a team of technicians who work extremely hard each day to not only provide the best care for the lemurs but are committed to creating time each day to be leaders in lemur husbandry, research and education through the application of animal training.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

MARK CHANDLER

Position at the DLC: Tour guide, painter

How long have you been volunteering? More than 10 years.

Why do you volunteer at the DLC? I

have always been interested in animals and so when I learned of the Duke Lemur Center it seemed like a wonderful opportunity to see fascinating creatures every week. I also enjoy teaching and the lemur tours gives me a chance to talk with adults and children about nature.

What do you do outside of the

DLC? I am a psychiatrist with specialty training in Child and Neuropsychiatry My private practice is in Durham, just a few minutes from the Lemur Center. As a physician, I am very interested in Evolutionary Medicine and the crossover between primate veterinary care and our understanding of diseases in humans.

Favorite Species: Do I have to choose? Aye-aye



EXCITING NEWS FOR DLC-SAVA **CONSERVATION FUNDING!**

BY CHARLIE WELCH, CONSERVATION COORDINATOR

Our DLC SAVA Conservation project received some very uplifting news earlier this year. The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust notified us that our application has been accepted. The Helmsley grant will cover a variety of project expenses ranging from salaries to teacher training activities, hence it will be critical to basic project operation and will allow us to move more rapidly toward our conservation objectives in the SAVA region. It is a very exciting moment for SAVA Conservation, and puts us on the most secure financial footing that we have enjoyed yet – and for the next three years!

The DLC-SAVA Conservation project operates on grants and donations, so this is a particularly important moment in the project's history and development. A heartfelt thanks to the Helmsley Charitable Trust and their staff who, over the two years between first contact and making the award, worked patiently with us to get the submission into peak form. And thanks also to the newest member of the DLC Management Team, grant writer Valorie Sterling Cook, for her part in assembling the submission.

To our faithful donors who have so generously brought the SAVA Conservation project to where we are today, I would also like to offer a heartfelt THANK YOU. Without your loyal support, we would never have achieved the success that demonstrated to Helmsley our ability to put conservation actions on the ground. That said, your support remains crucial for the project to move forward as rapidly as possible to address the environmental needs of Madagascar and the SAVA region. There is much work to do, and the unique forests of the SAVA continue to contract at an alarming rate

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DFP REPORT BY GREGG GUNNELL. DIRECTOR DFP

Paleontologists live for the summer because it brings with it field work – the chance to get out from behind a desk and go off to some far-flung place to look for fossils. While it sounds idyllic in an Indiana Jones sort of way, the truth is the work is often very difficult and anything but glamorous. For the kinds of fossils we seek here at DFP (vertebrates, preferably mammals), the places we need to go to find them are seldom near at hand and the environments are seldom hospitable so patience and fortitude come in handy during a field season.

Such was the case this past August when, with the generous support of the National Geographic Society and the Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation, DFP Director Gregg Gunnell along with Duke Evolutionary Anthropologist Doug Boyer travelled to Indonesia in search of fossil vertebrates. The Duke contingent was joined by colleagues from the University of Iowa, Penn State University, the University of Florida, and the University of Alberta. We all converged on Jakarta in early August where we were met by colleagues from the Institute of Technology in Bandung (Java) to complete our field team.

Our first target was the Sawahlunto Formation in the Barisan Mountains in west-central Sumatra We flew from Jakarta to Padang and then drove four hours into the interior of Sumatra to a field area we had visited three times before. Sumatra is a rugged island of volcanoes and low mountains that are covered by forests and rice paddies. Finding places where rocks stick out of the ground can be challenging but having been there before we returned to places that we knew. We spent 11 days excavating two sites, one along a road cut and another in a local coal mine. The rocks in the coal mine produced spectacular fossil plants including well preserved whole leaves. At the road cut site we guarried at the very base of the Sawahlunto Formation and discovered a treasure trove of fossil vertebrates



including mammals, turtles, crocodiles, fish and amphibians. All told we collected 137 individual vertebrate specimens which have been brought back to Duke for further study. The fossil plants are being shipped to Penn State where they will be studied by our paleobotanist colleague Dr. Peter Wilf.

After our successful work in Sumatra we set off for a new, unexplored area in Kalimantan (Borneo) in hopes of finding vertebrates in the Tanjung Formation. We flew to Banjarmasin in southern Kalimantan and from there drove four hours to a vast coal mine where the Wahana Baratama Mining Company hosted us. They provided great (air conditioned) accommodations, great food and two fourwheel drive vehicles for our use. We spent four days exploring the mine and the Tanjung Formation looking for vertebrates. Kalimantan (at least the southern part) is vastly different from Sumatra being much flatter and MUCH hotter making the work very difficult. In the end we discovered another series of good plant localities and some pieces of vertebrate bone (including a fish skull) giving us hope for future work there. Also in the Wahana mine we discovered an extensive surface covered with trace fossils (mostly burrows, insect tracks and bird footprints) – this trace fossil assemblage was fully documented in the field and will be studied in detail by Dr. John-Paul Zonneveld, our colleague from the University of Alberta. We plan to return to Kalimantan in 2016 and pick up where we left off. We believe that persistence and a little luck will produce better results next time.

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DONOR PROFILE ATIS AND PAUL ZIKMANIS

Atis and Paul are longtime supporters of the Lemur Center. They recently spent an entire day here, participating in our "Keeper for the Day" program. Afterwards we sent them a list of five questions asking why they support the Center, but they were too excited about their Keeper for the Day experiences (recounted below) to answer all the questions!

Why we love lemurs and support the DLC.....

We love lemurs because they are so fun and so beautiful. Just look into their curious, playful eyes and you can't help but love them. We support the DLC for two reasons. First, to say thanks to the staff who do the hard work of caring for the lemurs. Second, to lead by example in hoping many others will help sustain and preserve forever these natural treasures.

We have been supporting the DLC for more than 11 years. Each year we have adopted a different species of lemur. As long time supporters we made a special trip from California as we wanted to experience all the DLC had to offer!

We started our day at 6:15am prepping meals for the lemurs with Julie and Mack, two very fun lemur technicians! We learned that each lemur receives a unique diet and learned how to read all the diet prep boards.

We then attended the daily technician meeting to learn what each technician was responsible for each day and to hear about the priorities for the day. After the meeting, we had breakfast with Charlie Welch and Andrea Katz. They are responsible for the conservation work in Madagascar and managing the DLC colony of lemurs.

After breakfast we were off to hang out with the lemurs in the forest while they ate the food we prepared. Steve, the keeper introduced to each of the lemurs and we were able to watch their personalities on display during feeding and play time.

We were treated to lunch with the DLC education department and Dr. Cathy Williams, the senior vet and were able to ask all about her daily work and her exciting adventures in Madagascar saving wild populations of lemurs.

After lunch we changed into scrubs and made aveave gruel and had the glamorous job of cleaning out

enclosures! This gave us close up time with the enclosures residents! Paul had his phone stolen by a red ruffed lemur and Atis had his bald head tapped by an Aye-Aye!

After 11 years of support, we were able to spend 11 hours at the DLC meeting nearly the entire staff and, of course - the lemurs! The lemurs did not disappoint! We had an amazing time at the DLC! This is one day in our lives that we will never forget!

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DONOR **PROFILE** DANA GOETTLER

1. How did you discover the DLC?

I fell in love with lemurs at a very early age, and wanted to be sure that my limited donation was used well by people who love lemurs as much as I do. A friend told me about the DLC, and it seemed like the obvious choice; a visit confirmed that.

2. How long have you been supporting the DLC?

The day after I found out it exists! I have been supporting the DLC since age eight (I'm twelve now), visiting every year (from Connecticut!) and adopting a lemur or two. I save every dollar I get to donate, and continue to request donations on my birthdays.

3. Why is it important to you to support to the DLC?

I love lemurs. As I learned more about the world's most endangered mammals. I realized that I needed to take on more of an active conservationist role. There can never be enough attention, but I'll do my part and encourage others to do the same. As far as I can tell, the DLC is the most effective organization for protecting lemurs (and the staff is great!), making it the clear choice.

4. What do you do outside of the DLC?

I'm a lemur-loving seventh grader, independently studying primate biology and conservation: I can't wait to continue my studies at Duke University! I enjoy wandering through the woods in my free time, climbing trees and spying on squirrels and the like.

5. Favorite Species:

My favorite species of lemur (or any animal) is a diademed sifaka. They're intelligent, quirky, pretty, athletic, and remarkably understated; too few people know they exist. I really wanted to meet Romeo! I love every lemur though, even the ones that are extinct or have yet to be discovered.

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MY DATABASE **SUPERHERO**

BY SARAH ZEHR **RESEARCH SCIENTIST**

The year was 2011, and I had just undertaken a mission to gather together all the raggedy bits of lemur data found skulking around every corner at the DLC in all their varied and ugly forms. I vowed to clean them up and unite them, creating an army of data to be unleashed upon the unsuspecting researchers, educators, and lemur lovers of the world. What I needed was a database! Unfortunately, at the time, this average Jane knew little enough about databases and next to nothing about programming them. I didn't know where to turn.

Suddenly, in walked Database Superhero Richard Roach and his Database Sidekick (and wife) Freda Cameron to save the day! Having spent many years in superhero training at local software company SAS, they deftly worked out the solution to all of my data woes. What evil lurks in the heart of incompatible files, Richard knows. What we needed was a SAS-based analytic database, and soon! Programming faster than a speeding bullet, creating a database more powerful than a locomotive, able to join disparate data formats in a single bound, this incompatibility-fighting duo built the foundation of the DLC database, home to all of the glorious animal data that has recently been released into the world.

But then, as in the stories of so many great superheroes, tragedy struck. In the fall of last year, Richard told me that I would have to stop relying on his superpowers and focus on developing some of my own. With the guidance of his programming legacy, I stepped into the SAS world, creating programs that while not particularly fast, powerful, or streamlined, keep the database going. For you see, I lost my superhero in May. Although he did not survive long enough to see the data he so carefully helped compile furiously streaming out across the internet to the delight of scientists everywhere, I was able to show him the accepted manuscript before he died, so he knew with certainty we had succeeded in our mission. I

miss my superhero, and will strive to make him proud by continuing the good fight toward public accessibility of lemur data far, far into the future.

