

OUR IMPACT

2024 ANNUAL REPORT | PUBLISHED APRIL 2025





LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Duke Lemur Center friends and stakeholders,

As you read all that our team accomplished in 2024, I hope you feel the same sense of pride and accomplishment as I do. The Center is so fortunate to have such a talented group of scientists, animal care and welfare professionals, educators, and conservationists all working together to study the lemurs of Madagascar and to protect them from extinction.

While their work is driven by intense passion and commitment, a huge debt of gratitude is owed to many of you who have supported us so generously. Your contributions and continued support make our work possible, now more than ever. It's what allows our thoughts and ideas, strategies and plans to be converted into measurable progress and inspires hope for the future.

On behalf of all of us at the Duke Lemur Center, thank you!

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read "Greg Dye".

GREG DYE

Executive Director, Duke Lemur Center

2024 HIGHLIGHTS: ANIMAL CARE & WELLBEING

The Duke Lemur Center provides world-class care, daily enrichment, and high-quality food for our colony of more than 200 lemurs and bush babies.

The DLC husbandry team hired, on-boarded, and trained five husbandry technicians, four technician supervisors, and two assistant curators in 2024. Thanks to support from the Office of the Provost, we were able to add three new animal care positions to our ranks. This provides the resources needed to maintain the DLC's standard of excellence.

19 new infants were welcomed: three endangered ring-tailed lemurs, three critically endangered Coquerel's sifakas, and 13 mouse lemurs. **IMAGE 1:** Cirilla, born April 19, is one of the smallest surviving ring-tailed lemur infants in DLC history.

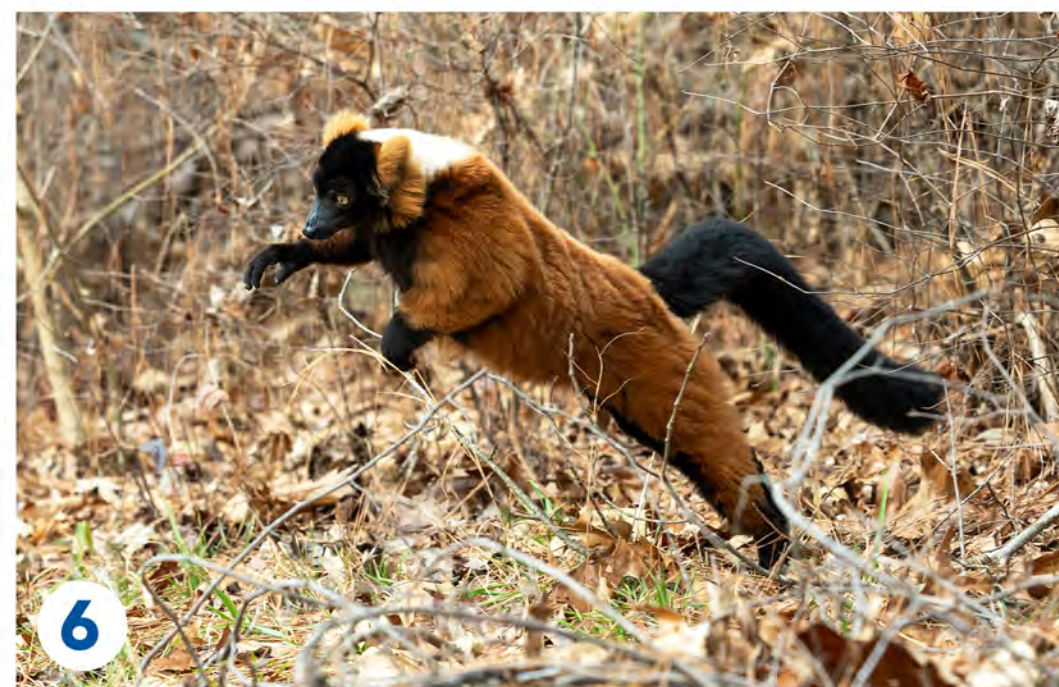
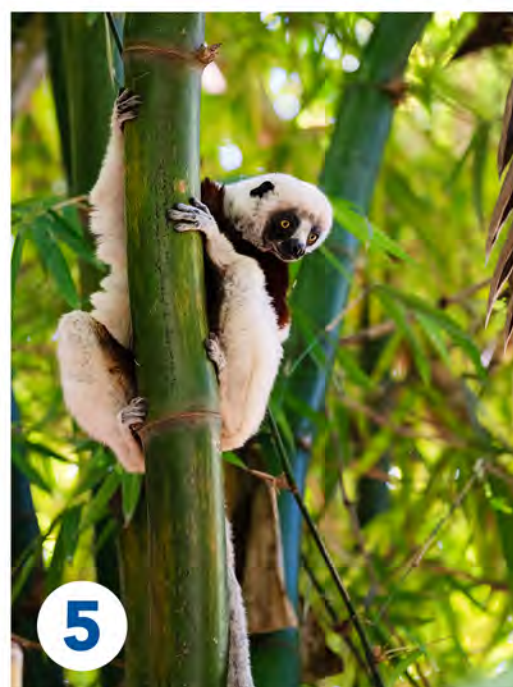
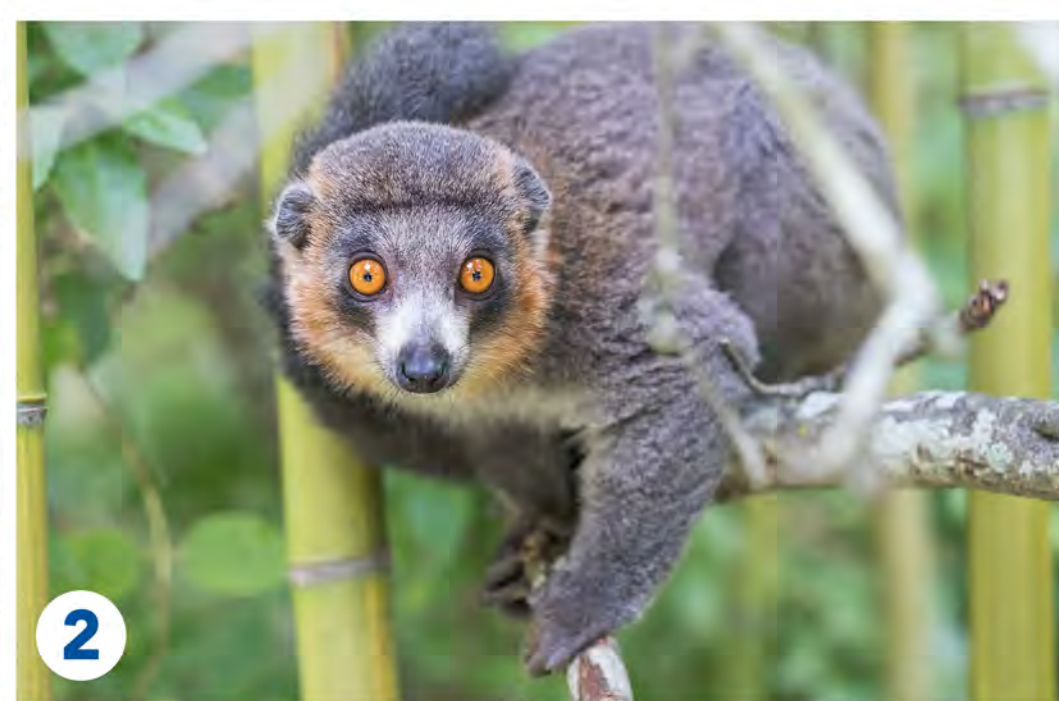
We successfully transferred two male Coquerel's sifakas to Germany to boost the European conservation breeding program, in addition to four mongoose lemurs (two breeding pairs). These transfers were critical for the survival of these species in captivity in Europe. Since 2021, the DLC has transported a total of 10 Coquerel's sifakas to accredited zoos in the U.K. and Germany. By collaborating with our European colleagues, we better protect Coquerel's sifakas and mongoose lemurs—both critically endangered—from being lost forever should they become extinct in the wild. **IMAGE 2:** Nacho, one of four mongoose lemurs who left the DLC and arrived in Berlin in November.

Our relationship with the animal husbandry staff at Parc Ivoloina in Madagascar continues to grow as our team is committed to mentoring, visiting, and exchanging information. In addition to exchanging ideas and providing training, the DLC was able to provide the zoo with much-needed equipment (headlamps, uniforms, enrichment devices for the animals, and other essential supplies) thanks to the generosity of the DLC's supporters. **IMAGES 3, 4:** The DLC's Becca Newton and Danielle Lynch, who both specialize in *Cheirogaleus* health and breeding, examine a dwarf lemur with zookeeper Rodey.

At the request of Madagascar's Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD), the DLC is assisting MEDD and four of Madagascar's licensed zoos with the development of a Coquerel's sifaka studbook and Species Survival Plan. In June, Colony Curator Britt Keith and Assistant Curator Danielle Lynch traveled to Madagascar to observe and verify the lemurs in each park. They also assisted in onsite data collection, delivered the microchips and scanners needed for accurate animal identification, and shared sifaka-specific information and husbandry practices with zoo managers and veterinarians. **IMAGE 5:** A Coquerel's sifaka at Lemurs' Park, Antananarivo.

The DLC successfully implemented a new forest protocol for managing the free-ranging lemurs in our Natural Habitat Enclosures (NHEs). The new protocol allows the lemurs to be given access to the forest in the mornings, then to be recalled into their building enclosures in the afternoons. The change was implemented to improve the safety of the animals and to provide them with significantly more opportunities to free-range throughout the fall and winter, even on cooler days. **IMAGE 6:** Hubble, a red ruffed lemur, springs through the forest. Hubble and his family were among the 39 lemurs to successfully complete a combined total of 798 recalls from the forest with 100% reliability.

In total, the DLC husbandry team completed 2,237 animal training sessions.



2024 HIGHLIGHTS: VETERINARY MEDICINE

As a global leader in lemur medicine, the Duke Lemur Center shares our expertise with students, veterinarians, and zoos around the world, improving the care and health of lemurs everywhere.

The state-of-the-art veterinary facilities in the Anna Codina Borruel Center have attracted talented professionals to our veterinary team and continue to support innovative advancements in veterinary care for our lemur colony. Here are a few examples:

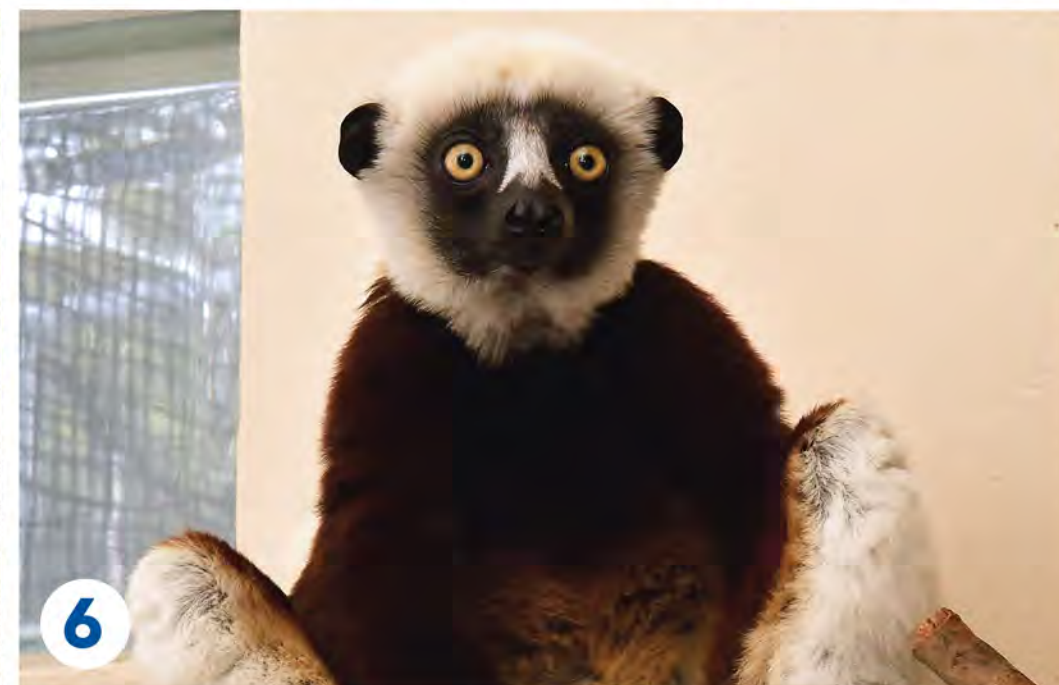
We hosted a talented Malagasy veterinarian, Dr. Santatra Randrianarisoa, to participate in our three-month Malagasy Veterinary Internship Program. Santatra received comprehensive training in lemur medicine and surgery, which will benefit lemur populations in his home country, leading to broader advancements in human, animal, and ecosystem health in Madagascar. **IMAGES 1, 2:** Santatra graduated from veterinary school at the University of Antananarivo in 2022.

Registered veterinary technician Chrissy Conrad joined our team in April 2024. Alongside our seasoned lemur veterinary technician, Cat Ostrowski, she has been devoted to learning the intricacies of lemur veterinary care and handling techniques. Her technical skills have been a valuable addition to our team. **IMAGE 2:** Malagasy veterinarian Dr. Santatra Randrianarisoa with Director of Veterinary Services Dr. Julie Ter Beest, vet tech Cat Ostrowski, vet tech Chrissy Conrad, and Associate Veterinarian Dr. Brendan Johnson. Dr. Johnson just completed his first year at the DLC, and his contributions have had an impressive impact on the health and wellbeing of our colony. He has also greatly expanded the veterinary department's role in teaching, research, and conservation.

In collaboration with Duke otolaryngologist Dr. Matthew Ellison and the DLC husbandry team, the veterinary department successfully treated Griselda, a ring-tailed lemur, for persistent fluid and infection in her ears and nasal passages. To help ease her symptoms, Griselda has been taught, through positive reinforcement training, how to participate in nebulizer treatments. **IMAGE 3:** Assistant Curator Danielle Lynch taught Griselda that she would be rewarded with her favorite snack (banana-flavored baby food, delivered consistently throughout treatment through a syringe) when she places her face inside the nebulizer mask. Now, Griselda will willingly sit for six-minute sessions without any physical handling required from our staff, which minimizes stress and allows her to actively participate in her own healthcare.

Partnerships between our in-house DLC veterinarians and veterinary specialists at NC State University's College of Veterinary Medicine continue to enable top-notch veterinary care for our lemurs. Dr. Tara Harrison, Assistant Professor in the Exotic Animal Medicine Service, provides valuable consultation on our more challenging clinical cases and has been instrumental in facilitating advanced imaging and other valuable diagnostics for our lemurs. Dr. Kursten Pierce, Assistant Professor of Cardiology, also graciously donated her time and expertise to perform heart exams on Coquerel's sifakas Didius and Hercules (**IMAGES 4, 5, 6**), providing clean bills of health prior to their international travels to a zoo in Germany for breeding purposes.

Close collaboration with Dr. Rebecca Bacon, a pathologist at Duke's Division of Laboratory Animal Resources, strengthened our veterinary pathology program in 2024. Her expertise and willingness to teach has led to significant enhancements in our student teaching program, as well as in the care that we provide for our living lemur colony.



2024 HIGHLIGHTS: SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY

The Duke Lemur Center is an internationally renowned center for scientific research. Studying lemurs' health, reproduction, and social dynamics informs their care in captivity and conservation in the wild. This research also helps us understand ourselves and other primates.

2024 was a record-breaking year for DLC Research, especially for research utilizing the lemur colony for behavioral trials (e.g., locomotion, cognition), sample collection (e.g., fresh blood, feces, urine, saliva), and observations (**IMAGE 1**).

91% of the DLC's colony participated in research, showing strong scientific interest across all species. **IMAGES 2, 3:** A ring-tailed lemur and a black and white ruffed lemur travel from one elevated bar to another during locomotion trials.

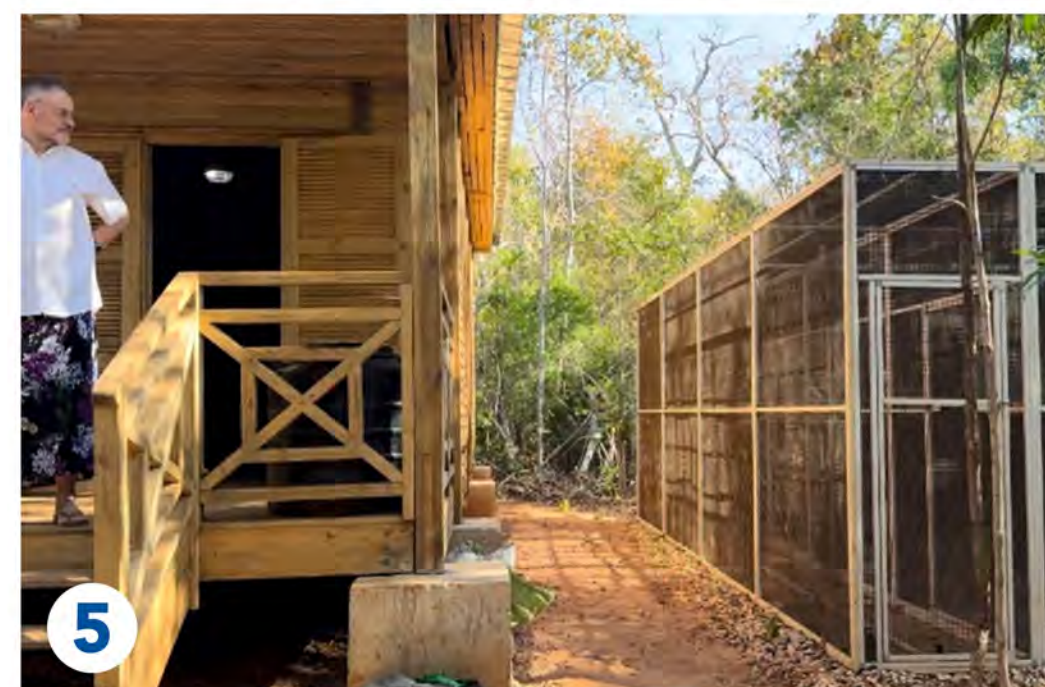
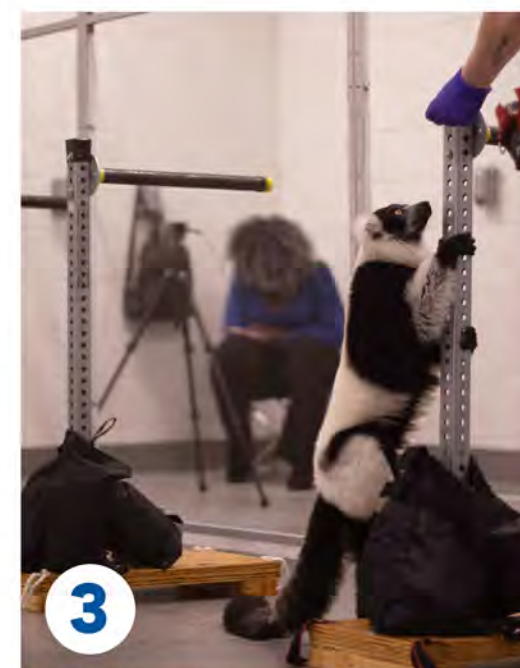
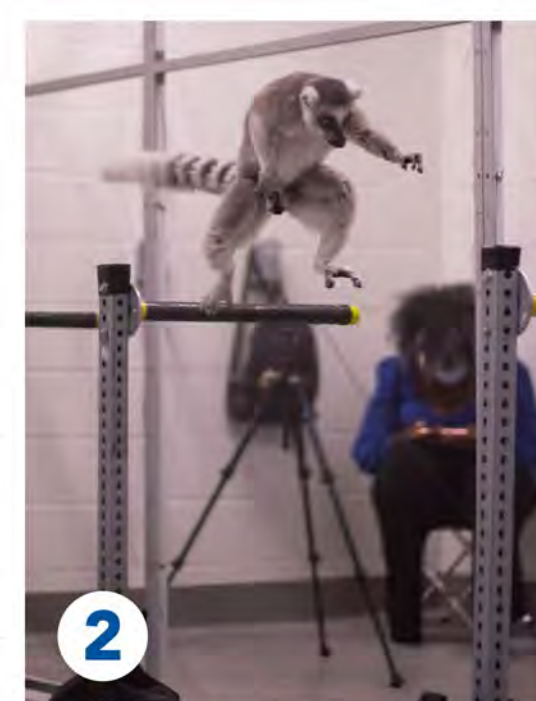
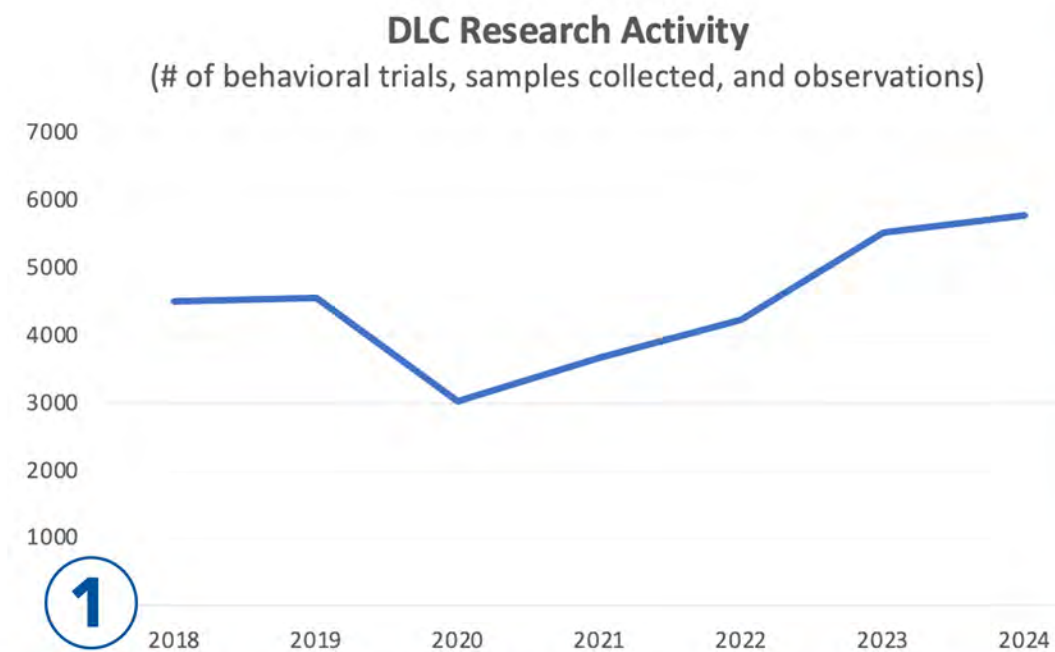
The DLC Research Department continues to grow! Dr. Ana Breit was hired to lead the DLC's hibernation research program. Additionally, to meet the increasing demand of large-scale and staff-intensive research requests, we hired a third Research Technician. **IMAGE 4:** DLC Research Department staff. Front row: Julie McKinney (Research Technician), Alexis Sharp (Research Manager), and Dr. Ana Breit (Research Scientist). Back row: Miriam Gordon (Research Technician), Dr. Erin Ehmke (Director of Research), and Wesley Cochran (Research Technician). Not pictured: Dr. Chris Wall (Assistant Director of Research).

The DLC's Research Station in Anjavy, Madagascar is complete and has already been inhabited—by both human and non-human primates! Construction of the lemur enclosures was completed in 2023. The researcher lodge, completed in 2024, has two bedrooms, a common room, and storage space. Solar panels provide power for lights, a stove, and electrical outlets. The lodge is located just 10 feet from the lemur enclosures, providing efficient researcher access and animal care oversight (**IMAGE 5**).

The purpose of the field station is to bridge the DLC's research programs in Durham and Madagascar, facilitating comparative research between captive and wild lemurs. In late 2024, the field station was utilized by two researchers—a Malagasy Ph.D. student conducting research on dwarf lemur hibernation and a Duke Ph.D. candidate conducting ecological and cognitive research on dwarf and mouse lemurs. The field station will be utilized by Dr. Ana Breit's hibernation research beginning in February 2025. **IMAGE 6:** Ph.D. student Antonin Andriamahaiavana tracking dwarf lemurs in the Anjavy forest.

The DLC awarded nearly \$25,000 in research support to five projects led by undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral associates, and early-career faculty.

The DLC contributed to more than 20 scientific manuscripts published in peer-reviewed journals.



2024 HIGHLIGHTS: MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

By exploring the ecosystems and extinctions of the past, the DLC Museum of Natural History seeks to protect lemurs in the future.

We made new friends through open house events: The DLC Museum staff began hosting free monthly Open Houses (**IMAGE 1**). The last Saturday of each month, visitors explored the exhibit spaces, then went behind the scenes at the museum to see how fossils are prepared for research and archived in the collection. Hundreds of visitors met ancient lemurs, elephants, and engaging experts.

We established a new resource for research in Madagascar: In 2024, the DLC Museum started a collaboration with Beza Mahafaly Reserve in southwestern Madagascar, where researchers have been tracking wild ring-tailed lemurs and sifakas throughout the animals' lives. Duke undergraduate researcher Erika Kraabel (**IMAGE 2**, exhuming a lemur skeleton to add to the Beza osteology collection) and DLC Fossil Preparator Karie Whitman (**IMAGE 3**, holding the skull of a Verreaux's sifaka) began a project in collaboration with Beza staff to organize and digitize the Beza natural history collection. The collaboration activates the Beza collection for researchers, including DLC staff, who can compare the life history of wild lemurs with lemurs at the DLC.

We celebrated additions to our fossil collection:

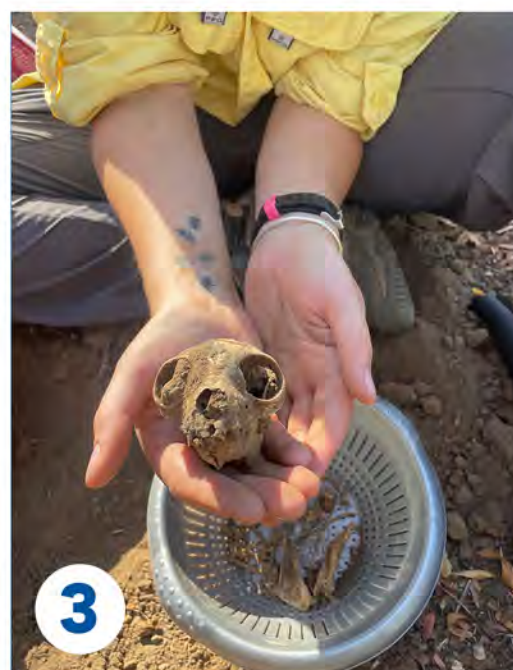
The DLC Museum gained new artifacts in 2024 as a result of our active field research in southwestern Wyoming, where we track the diversification of lemur-like primates in North America 50 million years ago as climate and ecological changes roiled across the continent.

IMAGE 4: Fossil Preparator Karie Whitman and Curator of Fossils Matt Borths prepare a field jacket to safely transport a fossil from the field to the Museum.

We received a generous donation from Trish Kohler, longtime museum volunteer and fossil expert, whose support and personal fossil collection expands our research and teaching collection with specimens she collected and curated through decades of expeditions.

Our collection expanded in collaboration with Duke Professor Rich Kay (**IMAGE 5**, pictured in Bolivia in 1994), who retired from the Department of Evolutionary Anthropology in 2024. Rich helped transition his expansive research collection to the DLC so discoveries can continue to be made using specimens he collected over decades of research in South America, Africa, and Asia.

We launched a custom-built fossils archive: Led by Digital Collections Manager Kate Neely (**IMAGE 6**) and Physical Collections Manager Cat Riddle, the museum database is moving to a custom-built, online archive that will make DLC collection, the largest and most diverse assemblage of fossil primates in North America, accessible to researchers and educators around the world.



2024 HIGHLIGHTS: CONSERVATION

IN SITU CONSERVATION

For 39 years, the DLC has partnered with the people and organizations of Madagascar to protect lemurs and their natural habitat. In the northeastern (SAVA) region of Madagascar, the DLC-SAVA Conservation project is dedicated to preserving the area's natural biodiversity—especially its charismatic lemurs—by empowering local communities to be conservation leaders.

Expansion of collaboration with New Generation School Garden (NGSG): DLC-SAVA environmental education coordinator Evrard Benasoavina (**IMAGE 1**) continues to grow and diversify his environmental education programs both at NGSG and through outreach in the region. Evrard's programs now range from sustainable agriculture to reforestation to teaching the importance of protecting forest and wildlife.

Hiring of Marie Rolande Soazafy as research coordinator: With the support of a Swiss National Science Foundation grant, Dr. Marie Rolande (**IMAGE 2**) was hired for a two-year period as research coordinator in the realm of forest restoration. The research will provide important insights into best methods for rebuilding the SAVA region's wet tropical forests on degraded lands in ways that will serve both local people and biodiversity.

Expansion of sustainable agriculture activities: The evolution of a team of DLC-SAVA agroecology interns into an agricultural cooperative has greatly increased our sustainable agriculture footprint in the SAVA region. In addition to working with home gardens, the cooperative now includes startup assistance and trainings in poultry husbandry (**IMAGES 3, 4**). The cooperative markets some of its products and is moving towards becoming a self-supporting business. Support for this project component by General Mills (GM) has continued and is expanding into 2025 at GM's invitation, which will allow for further expansion of sustainable agriculture activities. Additional support comes from the McQuade Foundation.

EX SITU CONSERVATION

The DLC's conservation breeding program is the world's largest genetic safety net for lemurs. We also collaborate with the Government of Madagascar to implement collaborative breeding programs of critically endangered Coquerel's sifakas between Malagasy zoological organizations.

In 2024, the DLC advanced its conservation work to protect the critically endangered Coquerel's sifaka via its collaborations with the Malagasy Ministry of the Environment and several privately-owned Malagasy parks that house sifakas. The goal is to work together with the parks to create a genetic safety net for this species by forming a robust captive breeding program in Madagascar, using genetic diversity and demography to support breeding or transfer recommendations within private animal parks. This year, two animals were transferred between parks taking the first steps to forming this important alliance. DLC Colony Curator Britt Keith (**IMAGE 5**) is working with our Malagasy colleagues, including Ministry officials, to help choreograph the moves, as well as working with the parks to ensure high standards of care among all the parks involved.

On the DLC's main campus in Durham, NC, 19 new infants were welcomed in 2024. **IMAGE 6:** Gray mouse lemur twins Rhubarb and Taro were born on July 14, 2024.



2024 HIGHLIGHTS: EDUCATION & OUTREACH

We're proud to nurture the next generation of scientists and environmental stewards through tours, educational programs, internships, and research opportunities in Durham, in Madagascar, and beyond, thanks to virtual and social media platforms.

We launched a new version of our Walking with Lemurs tour when the lemurs returned to the Natural Habitat Enclosures in June, inspiring nearly 2,000 visitors with the incredible experience of lemurs free-ranging in the forest. **IMAGE 1:** Guests on our revamped Walking with Lemurs tours saw an even wider range of natural behaviors: ring-tailed lemurs snuggling and grooming each other on the forest floor, Coquerel's sifakas snacking on leaves in the trees, and red ruffed lemurs basking in the sunshine.

We hosted more than 19,000 visitors on tours at the DLC—over 4,000 more people than in 2023! **IMAGE 2:** Visitors on the DLC's General Tours explored the tour path at their own pace during a two-hour period, while DLC staff educators and volunteer docents were stationed at each lemur enclosure to provide information and answer questions.

Of all the animals on Earth, why are we so passionate about lemurs? Of all the islands in the ocean, why is Madagascar remarkable—and so worthy of our conservation attention? Our 2024 annual magazine, dubbed "The 'Why' Issue" (**IMAGE 3**) answered these questions and many more! Read it online at lemur.duke.edu/magazine.

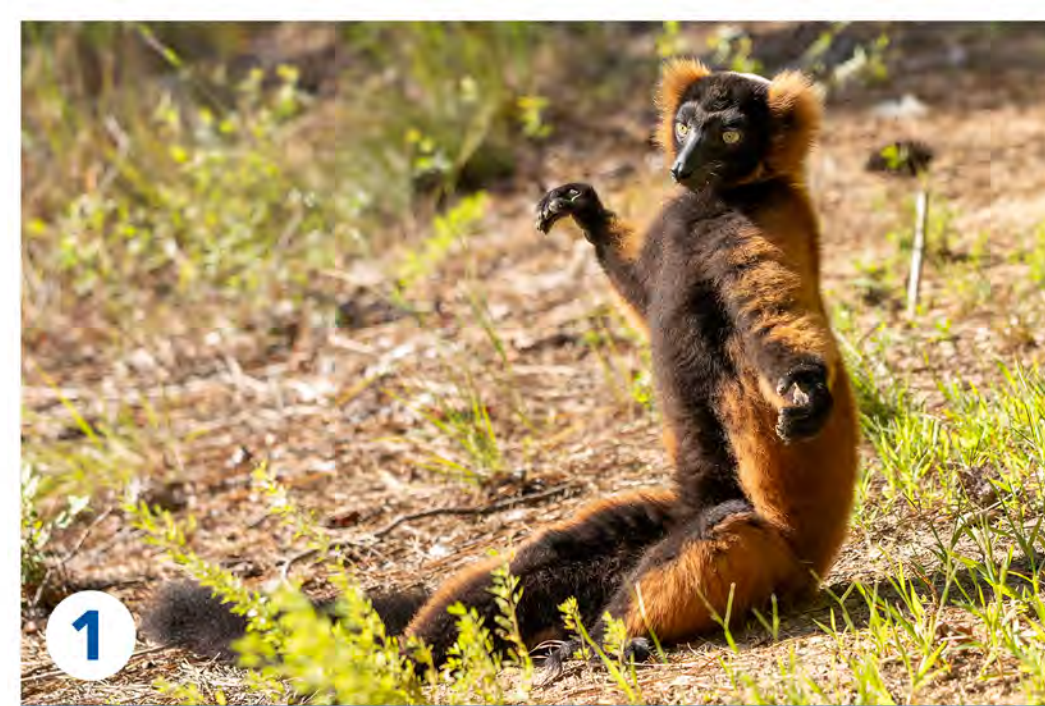
We expanded our partnership with Duke Stores to increase revenue and to provide access to more DLC merchandise to our community throughout the world. **IMAGE 4:** One-of-a-kind masterpieces painted by our finest lemur artists are now available to ship worldwide via Duke Stores.

We launched a new partnership with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Duke to teach a new in-depth course about lemurs. We have more exciting OLLI@Duke collaborations to come this year!

Friends and followers from around the world connected with the DLC's work through hundreds of videos, photos, and updates posted to social media, all featuring the DLC's lemurs and our work in Durham and Madagascar. Our Instagram and Facebook accounts have a combined 98,000 followers.

The DLC's official podcast, Aye-aye Pod, released its fourth season, featuring in-depth interviews and explorations of the wonderful red ruffed and black and white ruffed lemurs (**IMAGE 5**).

Our partnership with Lakewood Montessori Middle School is going strong through its fourth year! We have had more than 400 kids who are inspired by lemurs and engaged in STEM learning. **IMAGE 6:** DLC educator Ethan Moore discusses the weird and wonderful aye-aye during a classroom visit.



Annual Appeal

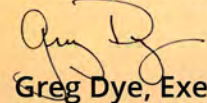
With each new day, the Duke Lemur Center makes the most of opportunities to further our quest: learning from and protecting lemurs and their natural habitat. Lemurs are extraordinary creatures—a living connection to our primate ancestors—yet they are threatened in their native Madagascar, as are many other species of endemic flora and fauna on the island.

The Duke Lemur Center is steadfast in its commitment to make a difference in Madagascar through community-based conservation programs, and by providing a genetic safety net with our lemur colony in Durham, NC. Here, on our own 100-acre “lemur campus” at Duke University, we have created a hub of scientific discovery through collaboration, non-invasive research, veterinary care, education programs, and our Museum of Natural History. We are proud that the center is a site to nurture and inspire the next generation of scientists and environmental stewards through student experiences and internships.

Through your investment in us, you empower our work with critically needed resources. All our conservation work on the island of Madagascar is funded through private donations and grants. And while we are a part of Duke University, we are also responsible for raising more than half of the total annual budget for the Duke Lemur Center’s operations in Durham, so your gift is very important to us!

Don’t delay—seize the day! I invite you to make a new or increased gift to further our work. Unrestricted gifts are especially helpful in allowing us to fund priority needs. To explore other giving opportunities, visit lemur.duke.edu/donate or contact our Development Director, Mary Paisley, at mary.paisley@duke.edu or 919.401.7252.

With appreciation,



Greg Dye, Executive Director



2024 HIGHLIGHTS: DEVELOPMENT

A Year of Generosity and Milestones: In Fiscal Year 2024, ending in June 2024, we received nearly \$1.3 million in contributions from our dedicated supporters. An overview of gifts and commitments through December 31, 2024 is shared below.

Record-breaking Legacy Gifts: We celebrated a surge in planned gifts, enlisting more than \$5 million in future bequests and gifts for the Lemur Center. This notable growth, including the largest legacy gift commitment in our history from Susan D. Cushing, was due in large part to a matching gift opportunity: The Duke 100 Challenge.

\$1 Million Investment in our Fossils Collection and Museum: In FY24, we received an initial gift toward a \$1 million commitment to protect our rare fossils collection and enhance future opportunities for the DLC Museum of Natural History. Trish Kohler and her son Louis established the Patricia Hollins Kohler Fossil Fund. Trish also generously donated her personal fossil collection, enriching our museum's future educational offerings.

Plans to Honor our Conservation Champion: In preparation for the retirement in mid-2025 of our esteemed Conservation Director, Charles Welch, we embarked in late 2024 on an opportunity to honor his legacy. Thanks to the generosity of five founding donors, we established the Charles Welch and Andrea Katz Fund. This endowment will support the Lemur Center in perpetuity and will be an option for our donors to choose for future bequests and gifts. Learn more about the fund at lemur.duke.edu/welch-katz-fund.

Heartfelt Gratitude: We are deeply thankful for the support from individuals, businesses, and foundations that contributed to our work in 2024. Every gift, no matter the size, plays a crucial role in our operations and future plans.

Between July 1, 2023, and December 31, 2024, we received substantial gifts and pledges from the following donors, whose investments in our mission are profoundly appreciated and have made a significant impact on our work. Thank you!

Drs. Russel C. and Elisabeth Cook
Julie Harkness and Darren D. Cooke
Susan D. Cushing
Drs. Marilyn Grolitzer and Bill Dupont *
Thomas Thurman Harward
Dr. and Mrs. Clinton W. Kelly, III *
Ms. Sally Searcy Kleberg *
Bob and Sue Knox
The Patricia Hollins Kohler Fossil Fund
Lisa and Jason Kravitz
Lee Lockwood
Drs. Sara E. Miller and David N. Howell

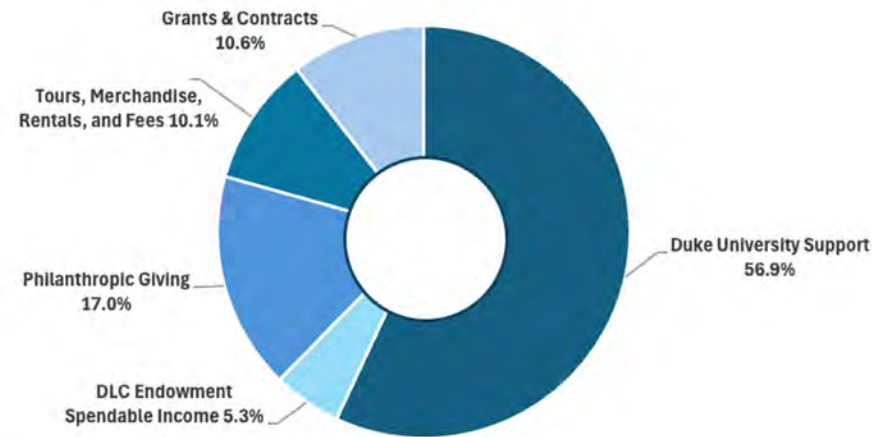
Jonathan Wilfong and Wendy Baker
Kathleen MacDonald
The Estate of Virginia Martin
Sarah Reusswig and Steven A. Olsen
General Mills
Dr. Rose Ann Smiley and David Raderman
Walter and Elizabeth Sinnott-Armstrong *
Mike and Karen Stone
Josiah Charles Trent Memorial Foundation
Endowment Fund
Anne V. Zaldastani and John W. Griffen
Several donors wish to remain anonymous *

* Founding donor/s whose commitment/s established The Charles Welch and Andrea Katz Fund

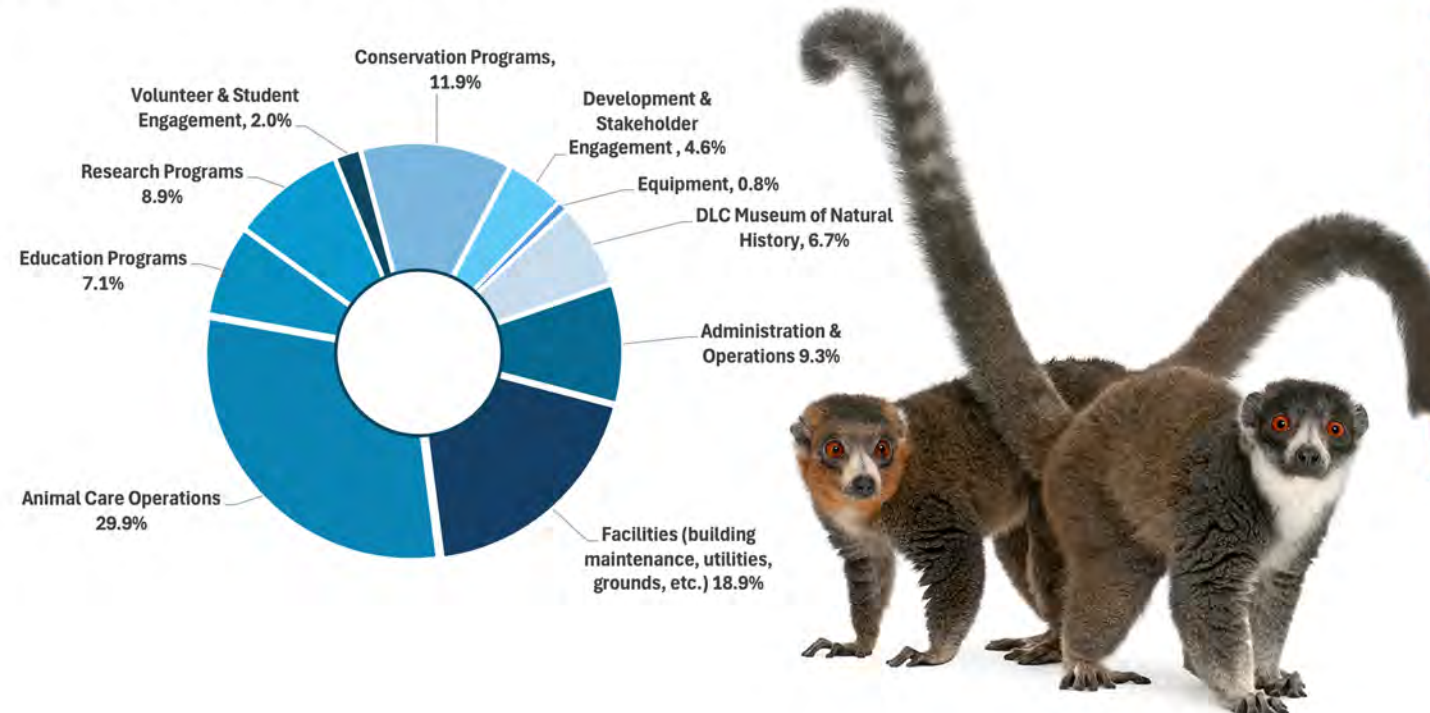
JUNE 2023 - JULY 2024: FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



FISCAL YEAR 2024 INCOME



FISCAL YEAR 2024 EXPENSES



FISCAL YEAR 2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Income	
Duke University Support	\$ 3,153,876
DLC Endowment Spendable Income	\$ 296,097
Philanthropic Giving	\$ 944,097
Tours, Merchandise, Rentals, and Fees	\$ 560,008
Grants and Contracts	\$ 584,351
Total Income	\$ 5,538,429

Expenses	
Administration & Operations	\$ 590,811
Facilities & Maintenance	\$ 1,191,598
Animal Care	\$ 1,890,019
Education Programs	\$ 450,413
Research Programs	\$ 561,780
Volunteer & Student Engagement	\$ 125,439
Conservation Programs	\$ 749,163
Dev't & Stakeholder Engagement	\$ 289,816
Equipment	\$ 48,986
Museum of Natural History	\$ 421,210
Total Expenses	\$ 6,319,235



Duke University
 Duke Lemur Center
 3705 Erwin Road
 Durham, NC 27705

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A WORLD OF IMPACT!

Explore the many ways you can make a lasting impact by investing in the Duke Lemur Center's work: learning from, caring for, and protecting lemurs and their natural habitat.



Visit lemur.duke.edu/donate to learn more, or scan the QR code to give now.

The Duke Lemur Center is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization operating under Duke University (EIN 56-0532129), and is accredited both by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the American Association for Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC).

Thank you to the following premier corporate sponsors and other organizations whose support provided a cornerstone to our success in 2024!



Krasberg
 Mason
 Foundation



THE
 JOSIAH
 CHARLES
 TRENT
 MEMORIAL
 FOUNDATION
 ENDOWMENT
 FUND



Robert W. Wilson
 Charitable Trust

