

KIRTLANDIA[®]

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History

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PRESENTATION OF THE DAVID S. INGALLS, JR. AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE*

PRESENTATION OF THE AWARD

MIRIAM SMEAD

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We have gathered tonight to pay tribute to the world's foremost authority on the chimpanzee, Dr. Jane Goodall. In over thirty-five years of patient observation at the Gombe Game Reserve in East Africa, she has reached across eons of time to our evolutionary past and completely changed our understanding of the most intelligent of the great apes. Stephen Jay Gould, who received this award in 1993, has noted that Jane Goodall's work with chimpanzees is one of the world's great scientific achievements.

Jane Goodall was born in London, England. Her father was an engineer; her mother an internationally known novelist. As a child she had a great fascination for animals. Her dream was to someday go to Africa to study animals. In 1957 that opportunity arose. She was invited to visit a friend's parents' farm in Kenya. She worked diligently to earn her passage. At the age of twenty-three she left England by ocean liner for Mombasa on the East African coast. Following the visit, she set off for Nairobi to find the famed anthropologist Louis Leakey.

Dr. Leakey was greatly impressed by this young woman's intense interest in animals and hired her as an assistant secretary. In time he gained great confidence in her abilities and was impressed by her endless patience. He

encouraged this young woman, who had no formal training, to begin a long-term study of the chimpanzees in the jungles of Africa. Little did he know how gifted she would become at communicating with these non-human primates.

Thus, in July of 1960, with her beloved mother as her companion, Jane Goodall began over a quarter century of observations and discoveries of man's closest relative at the Gombe Game Reserve (now Gombe National Park). This was the beginning of the longest continuous field study of animals in their natural habitat.

In 1962, with Leakey's urging, she began work toward a Ph.D. at Cambridge University. In 1965 she was awarded her doctorate in ethology. She became the eighth person in the history of Cambridge to be awarded a Ph.D. without having first earned a bachelor's degree.

She returned to Africa to found the Gombe Stream Research Center. Her work continues there today, through the efforts of her research team, providing insights into the lives of non-human primates. The scientific world, at first critical of her research methodology, today lauds her approach of patient observation, of letting the chimpanzees tell about themselves. Today her method is the standard used by fellow ethologists.

*On April 18, 1997, the David S. Ingalls, Jr. Award for Excellence was presented to Jane Goodall. A slightly shortened version of Miriam Smead's speech on that occasion is printed here. Jane Goodall's remarks, which follow on p. 103-104, are excerpted from her acceptance speech.

Through the years Dr. Goodall's research and fascinating discoveries have become known to the world through many avenues: her writings, television appearances, National Geographic articles, and documentaries. She is the author of four books for adults and two for children. Through her books, *In the Shadow of Man* (1971), *The Chimpanzees of Gombe* (1986), and *Through a Window* (1990), she has enchanted us with her anecdotes about her Gombe chimps. We have met and come to know the individuals whose lives she has observed. We now understand that they have behavioral patterns, cognitive abilities, emotions like our own with the capacity for affection and tenderness, and that they are capable of making and using tools. And yes, like us, they also have a dark side to their nature and can be just as brutal as humans. Through her books that mirror chimpanzee life, we see our own lives reflected and become starkly aware of how closely we are related.

In 1977 she established the Jane Goodall Institute for Wildlife Research, Education, and Conservation. Based in Silver Spring, Maryland, it promotes animal research throughout the world, and provides support for research on wild chimpanzees. It also provides funding for sanctuaries in a number of African locations for the humane, long-term care of orphaned chimpanzees. Tragically, increased demand for them, not only by scientists, but by circuses, zoos and film studios, has resulted in an increase of illegal trade in these primates.

Aware that field research must be augmented by conservation education to preserve wild chimpanzees and their habitats, she began a "Roots and Shoots" program in Africa as an effort to involve young people in conservation. In 1993 Dr. Goodall and a delegation of children made an appearance at the United Nations Environmental Conference. Following this the "Roots and Shoots" movement spread to many countries throughout the world.

She is the founder of "ChimpanZoo," a program for students, keepers, and volunteers to study chimpanzee behavior in zoo groups. Such programs have helped to greatly improve chimpanzee life in zoos, with larger enclosures, more nutritious food, and activities to help dispel boredom.

With grave concerns for the dwindling populations of chimpanzees, in 1986 she helped found the Committee for the Conservation and Care of Chimpanzees. She lobbied the United States government to give added protection to chimpanzees by reclassifying them as "endangered" rather than as "threatened species." By appearing on prime television programs she has helped to educate the public concerning conservation issues.

Another concern has been the treatment of chimps and other animals in today's medical research practices. She is dedicated to making improvements in this area. As our ambassador for the chimpanzees, her plea in her own words is, "Surely we must speak for them – for they cannot speak for themselves."

Dr. Goodall has been the recipient of numerous scientific awards: the National Geographic Society's Hubbard Medal,



Jane Goodall, April 18, 1997.

the Golden Medal of Conservation from the San Diego Zoological Society, the Kilimanjaro Medal for Wildlife Conservation Prize, and the J. Paul Getty Wildlife Conservation Prize, to name a few. This Museum's David S. Ingalls, Jr. Award for Excellence is awarded to an individual for excellence in research, education or conservation in one of the fields of natural science represented by The Cleveland Museum of Natural History. The individual chosen will have made a major contribution that is recognized by the national or international scientific community.

Dr. Jane Goodall, we are indeed indebted to you, not only for the more than thirty-five years in which your gift of communication with the chimpanzees has dispelled myths and revealed profound scientific discoveries, but also for your ability to communicate and share with us the excitement and the truths of your research. In so doing you have won countless numbers of human supporters of all ages for these non-human primates, our closest relatives.

It is my distinct honor, on behalf of the Board of Trustees of The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, to present to you the David S. Ingalls, Jr. Award for Excellence.

INTRODUCING JANE GOODALL

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On Monday, April 14th, 1997, *USA Today* reported that the most popular American television commercial of 1997 so far, as determined by reader survey, is an HBO commercial featuring Jane Goodall and the chimpanzees of Gombe. Upon reading this, I could only smile and shake my head: firstly, because I was in Kigoma, Tanzania, when the HBO film crew passed through town and so wondered what they were up to, and secondly, because it showed yet again that when tonight's recipient puts her mind to a project, it will have an impact.

I feel honored to be asked to introduce Jane Goodall this evening, but I also feel daunted. After all, we have known one another for more than a quarter of a century, yet the organizers of this evening's ceremonies told me to confine my remarks to only 10 minutes, 15 at the most! So, from the many lives of Jane Goodall, I have chosen just three: Jane Goodall as scientist, Jane Goodall as educator, and Jane Goodall as conservationist. This omits several other aspects, admittedly, but then, any one of these three could have taken up all the time allotted!

Jane Goodall as scientist must be, first and foremost, the main reason that we are assembled here at one of the nation's most renowned natural history museums. And, even if our recipient had never inspired a single student nor saved a single ape, her place tonight would be secure for her research and scholarship alone. She is, I suspect, the most widely-known and respected woman scientist in the world. Yet she got to be that way by a most unorthodox route: She never went to a university as an undergraduate; her mentor, Louis Leakey, who sent her out to do field work, was a prehistorian and not a primatologist; and instead of joining an established research team at a well-known field site, she was sent to start from scratch, accompanied by her mother! (Although anyone who knows Vanne Goodall will realize what a happy choice that was!) To pile one metaphor upon another, Jane Goodall was thrown in at the deep end and made to re-invent the wheel when it came to field primatology.

The result? The person who had never seen a wild chimpanzee when she began in July, 1960 at the Gombe Stream Reserve in western Tanzania, became the world's expert on the species in less than a decade. How that came about would take a lecture in itself, but by 1963 she had told us of chimpanzees being hunters and sharers of meat and, a year later, she revealed ape technology in a masterly little letter to *Nature*. Then she was off to the University of Cambridge to tackle a Ph.D. with one of the world's foremost ethologists, Robert Hinde, and the resulting thesis became her comprehensive monograph on the lives of Gombe's chimpanzees, published in 1968. Scores of articles in learned jour-

nals and chapters in edited volumes followed, but her *magnum opus* appeared in 1986. *The Chimpanzees of Gombe*, published by Harvard University Press, all 673 pages of it, became the "bible" for chimpology. No other primatologist, before or since, has produced such a volume.

What makes her science so good? I suggest three elements. First, she took careful note of the spontaneous acts of individuals, and I stress that last word. From the time that the apes could be identified, she perceived them as individuals, refusing to lump them by age, sex, or rank. In effect, she "listened" to what each chimpanzee had to say and came to understand their rich social world accordingly. Second, she persevered. Jane committed herself and her colleagues, Tanzanians and expatriates, to the long-term study of an organism whose life span is measured in decades. This now amounts in some cases (most famously with the "F" family) to four generations of chimpanzees. Third, she never permitted herself to become ensnared in dogma. She went to Gombe with an open mind and kept it open. If the chimpanzees showed her infanticide and cannibalism as well as maternal devotion, then she reported it all. When after almost 15 years of apparently harmless though noisy threats and displays, the apes showed her inter-community warfare that led even to fatality, then she duly expanded her conception of chimpanzee nature.

What about Jane Goodall as educator? She has never held a permanent faculty position and so has never officially supervised a graduate student, yet her influence on learners has been immense. At a recent Wenner-Gren Foundation conference on The Great Apes, 21 primatological experts convened. These were the world's finest researchers on gorillas, orangutans, and bonobos, as well as chimpanzees. Fully a third of them, 7 in all, had worked with Jane at Gombe. Jane has mentored undergraduates, graduate students, and post-doctoral fellows, who are now to be found at the nation's best institutions of higher learning. Any one of us could stand here this evening and tell you of the crucial nature of Jane's contribution to our intellectual development at Gombe.

Yet, Jane Goodall's pedagogy goes far beyond the halls of academe. As early as 1967, she had begun to educate the general public, with the publication of *My Friends, the Wild Chimpanzees*, which grew out of her National Geographic articles and television documentaries. She broke new ground, sometimes astonishingly so. In 1971, her obituary for old Flo, the matriarch of the Gombe chimpanzees, was published in the *Sunday Times*. She wrote not one, but two best-selling popular accounts of Gombe: *In the Shadow of Man* in 1971, covered Gombe's first 10 years, and *Through a Window* in 1990, chronicled the next 15 years.

Yet, as an academic, I must return to what may be Jane's most significant, yet least recognized, impact, that of an educator. In 1997, one of my students at Miami University, Amy McClain, undertook a project to assess the extent of Jane Goodall's influence at large. She combed through 40 introductory college textbooks, meticulously noting every mention of chimpanzees. Jane's presence was ubiquitous — whether in anthropology, biology, or psychology, Jane Goodall was chimpanzees. She was cited even more often in cultural anthropology textbooks (a field of the discipline supposedly restricted to human beings) than in biological anthropology textbooks! In terms of the dissemination of knowledge in the widest sense, she is surely primatology's answer to Margaret Mead.

Jane Goodall spends most of her waking hours these days as a conservationist and campaigner on behalf of the welfare and preservation of chimpanzees, both in captivity and in nature. This is most readily seen in the fund-raising and speaking engagements that go to support the Jane Goodall Institute for Wildlife Research, Education and Conservation, with its variety of activities worldwide. Most direct of these are the refuges, or sanctuaries, in countries like Congo, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda, that take in confiscated, orphaned or abandoned chimpanzees. On another front, she

founded ChimpanZoo, a consortium of North American zoos who through collective research on their charges have raised the consciousness of keepers and administrators to the conditions of confinement. Elsewhere, Jane is committed to Roots and Shoots, her conservation organization focused on young people, now in the process of being expanded to include college students. It is no accident that its motto is: "Every individual can make a difference." Her writing reflects these applied interests. Goodall's 1993 book, *Visions of Caliban*, written with Dale Peterson, recounts the complex and sometimes painful relations between humans and their ape cousins.

Some people have questioned Jane Goodall's now overriding commitment to conservation, but it seems a perfectly straight-forward development: in coming to know another species, you come to value it, and if that means working to save it, then so be it. Besides, Jane Goodall has always been a conservationist. Does anyone really believe that Gombe Stream Reserve would have been upgraded to a national park in 1968, had she not done chimpanzee research there?

So, my time is up, although there is still much more that could be said, but I think you've heard enough from me. I am pleased to be able to say a few words about such a scientist, educator, conservationist, and friend of all chimpanzees everywhere, Dr. Jane Goodall.

REPLY

JANE GOODALL*Jane Goodall Institute**P.O. Box 14890**Silver Spring, Maryland 20911*

Thank you, what an honor to be here and to receive this wonderful, prestigious prize. And thank all of you for coming to share this special moment. Standing up here now in front of you all I can't help but be reminded of an old Texas saying, "If you see a turtle on top of a 10-foot pole you sure as heck know she didn't get there by herself." As one climbs up the ten foot pole of life, indeed there are so many people to provide help and support. I've been incredibly fortunate during my life to have had all those students, people like Bill McGrew and Linda, who helped to collect the data over the years, the wonderful Tanzanian field staff, and all the staff of the Jane Goodall Institute.

Of all the people who helped me throughout my life, colleagues and friends, scientists, and just ordinary people out there, the one that I feel I owe the most to is my mother. I told her this morning that I was getting this award, and she wished she could be here. She is 93 years old now and she is as sharp as she ever was. Right from the beginning she has been there to support and help. When I had taken a whole handful of earthworms up to bed when I was just eighteen months old, she didn't say "yuck," and throw them out of the window. She said, "Jane, if you leave them here they will soon be dead." So, I ran with them into the garden. A few years later, I went off to spend time with my father's family in the country. Here's this little girl from a city, loving animals, who is suddenly out in the fields among the cows, the pigs and the horses. One of my jobs, as I went through these marvelous learning days, was to help collect the hens' eggs. As I collected the eggs and put them in my basket, I began to be curious. There's the egg, so where is the hole in the hen big enough for that egg to come out of? I couldn't see it. I kept asking everyone and nobody obviously told me to my satisfaction, so I decided, in my little four-and-a-half-year-old mind, that I had to find out by myself. I saw a hen walking up the gang plank to her little wooden house and I crawled after her. She flew out. So, I hid in the back of the hen house and I waited and I waited. My father's family called the police. And as dusk was falling, and my mother was still out searching, she suddenly saw this little creature rushing toward the house, covered in straw. She didn't grab, as so many mothers would, and ask, "Where have you been? Don't you know how worried we have been?" She saw my excitement and sat down to hear the wonderful story of how a hen lays an egg.

As soon as I began to read, I wanted to read books about animals. Dr. Doolittle was one of my early childhood heroes. Then I met Tarzan, and by the time I was eight or nine I was madly in love with him and terribly jealous of Tarzan's Jane. I thought that I would have made a much better mate for Tarzan myself. So, by this time I was dreaming about going to Africa, of living with animals, and writing books about them. My family had no money, my father was off fighting in the war. My mother's friends apparently kept saying to her, "Why don't you tell Jane to dream about something she can achieve? She'll never get to Africa." But you see, this remarkable mother used to say to me, "Jane, if you really want something, and if you take advantage of opportunity, if you never give up, you'll find a way." So, the way I found is history. I worked as a waitress saving up the wages and the tips, and I received that wonderful letter inviting me to Africa. I set off at the age of twenty-three on this big ship, by myself, to stay with my school friend. That was when I heard about Louis Leakey.

Every time I come to a place like this, I sort of go back to those early days in Kenya, to Louis Leakey and the natural history museum in Nairobi. I could answer most of the questions he asked me about the animals. That's why he gave me a job. Then he allowed me to go with his wife and one other young English girl and himself, of course, to Olduvai Gorge. In those days Olduvai wasn't known at all because no human fossilized remains had been found, so there was no road, there was no trail, there was nothing.

Everyday after the hard work of chipping away under the hot sun, we were allowed to go out on the plains, and in those days there were so many animals: the giraffes, the zebras, and the antelopes. And one evening there was a rhino, and two young male lions that followed us curiously about, which was a little bit frightening—but just magic. I wonder if you can imagine what it was like for this young girl who had dreamed of Africa all her life. Every morning when I woke up, I was in my dream, and my dream was suddenly a reality. I think that's when Louis Leakey decided I was the person he had been looking for, to go and try and find out about our closest living relative.

He was far ahead of his time, a giant and genius of a man, another of the great inspirational forces in shaping my career. He argued that if we found behavior that was common to

humans today and chimpanzees today, that behavior may well have been present in an apelike, humanlike creature that led to the stock leading to today's chimpanzees and humans. If behavior common to chimpanzees and humans today was present in the common ancestor millions of years ago, then probably we could guess what has happened in our own earliest known ancestors. And so this was Louis Leakey's argument, and as Bill so eloquently said, there are very few textbooks today that deal with human evolution that don't mention chimpanzee behavior to some extent. They usually specifically mention the Gombe chimpanzees, so Louis was tremendously vindicated.

It wasn't very easy to get the money for me to go there. I was untrained as you've heard, and who was going to give him money? In those days young people, especially young women, did not go tramping off into the forest living with animals. Moreover, I didn't have any kind of university education; but finally Louis found a wealthy American business man who provided money for six months. It still wasn't the end of Louis' problems, because in those days Tanganyika was a British protectorate. British authorities found a young girl on her own in the bush to be preposterous. However, Leakey never gave up, eventually he persuaded them to allow me to go, providing I took a companion. That was when my mother volunteered to accompany me. She stayed for three months.

Looking back over these 37 years, back over the facts that have been related to you tonight, teaching us about our closest living relatives, I think the thing that is the most striking is the ways in which they do so much resemble us. Yes, there are all the biological similarities, the close resemblance in the structure of the blood and the immune system and the fact that the chimpanzee brain and central nervous system is more like ours than that of any other creature. The fact that the DNA of chimpanzees and humans differs by only just over one percent. These are only interesting to the scientists, particularly those working on medical research. These researchers are trying to learn about the nature of certain diseases which chimpanzees, because they are so like us, can be infected with.

It was rather tragic that for so long, the behavioral similarities that are logically to be expected from those similarities in the brain and central nervous system were denied. That is what enabled chimpanzees in medical laboratories around the world to be confined in tiny cages for a life span that may be up to sixty years. Research on the Gombe chimpanzees showed them to have vivid personalities, and tool using and cooperative behavior. Their nonverbal communication patterns—kissing, embracing, holding hands, patting on the back, swaggering, and threatening—are so like ours.

So in all these ways we find the chimpanzees resembling us far more than anybody had thought. And should it surprise us that they also have emotions similar to ours? Given these

similarities, along with the similar brain and central nervous system, I don't think so. This leads to ethical problems, when we then consider how we use and abuse so many of these amazing non-human beings, often without really thinking of what we are doing. Knowing all of this about the chimpanzees, how tragic to find that they are disappearing so fast in Africa due to habitat destruction and to the increased numbers of the human population and to logging.

If we look around the world today, we can see cruelty, not only to the chimpanzees and other animals, but the cruelty that we inflict on each other. We can see massive deforestation going on, not only in the developing world, but also in the last remaining forests and woodlands of North America and Europe. We can look at the rate of the spread of deserts as a result of deforestation. We can look at the pollution, sometimes massive pollution. I think the question I get asked most often is, "Jane, do you think there's hope?"

I have three reasons for hope and I'd like to end up by sharing those three reasons with you. The first lies in the incredible brain that each one of us is endowed with. Even though we're so close biologically to chimpanzees, the intellectual performances of the human really do dwarf those of even the most gifted of chimpanzees, and there are some very gifted chimpanzees. So, given this amazing brain, don't you think we can get together around the world and start healing the scars and finding ways of living in better harmony with nature? This leads into my second reason for hope, which is that, as young people around the world get more and more educated, so does their commitment and energy for conservation become enormous. There's a wonderful energy in young people and this is what led me to develop the Roots and Shoots Program. Roots creep under the ground to make firm foundations; shoots seem small, but to reach the light they can break brick walls. Let's think of the brick walls as all those problems that I already mentioned. The message of Roots and Shoots is one of hope. Hundreds and thousands of Roots and Shoots, young people from preschool to universities around the world, together can break through, can change the course of the planet today.

My final reason for hope is human spirit. As I travel around the world, I meet people who are so truly remarkable, people who tackle problems they're told are impossible, but who will succeed or blaze the trail for others to follow. People who overcome the most amazing disabilities, physical disabilities or what have you, and somehow lead a life that is a shining example to those around them. I traveled around the world with a few symbols of hope. Just at supper time today, I asked for something that would be a symbol of hope for Cleveland. I had heard about Lake Erie and the surrounding rivers and the fire hazards that were there not so very long ago. Now the water is much cleaner. So Aaron gave me a little piece of driftwood that he collected from the lake as a symbol of hope for Cleveland. This also shows the amazing recuperative power of nature, if we give her a chance.



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