

Jane Goodall to Receive Atlas Award at AAG Meeting

The AAG is pleased to announce that Jane Goodall has been named the first recipient of the *AAG Atlas Award*. Dr. Goodall will receive the award at the AAG Annual Meeting on April 16, 2010, in Washington, D.C., where she will deliver a presentation for the media and to an expected gathering of more than 7,000 geographers and other attendees from around the world.

The Atlas Award is designed to recognize and celebrate outstanding accomplishments that advance world understanding in exceptional ways. The image of Atlas bearing the weight of the world on his shoulders is a powerful metaphor for this award program, as our nominees are those who have taken the weight of the world on their shoulders and moved it forward, whether in science, politics, scholarship, the arts, or in war and peace.



Goodall

CREDIT: JEFF ORLOWSKI

In addition to a substantial cash prize, an Atlas statuette will be presented to Goodall and all future awardees to serve as a compelling keepsake for them and an inspiring symbol for the award program itself. The Atlas statue also conveys the international nature of this award clearly and graphically.

Jane Goodall truly embodies the ideals and goals of the AAG Atlas Award, and we are delighted that she will inaugurate this new award by the Association of American Geographers. Dr. Goodall began her landmark research on chimpanzees at Gombe Stream in Tanzania in 1960, under the mentorship of anthropologist and paleontologist Louis Leakey. Her work there became the foundation for most subsequent primate research and led to redefined

Continued on page 2

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Jane Goodall continued from page 1

concepts about the relationship between humans and animals.

Goodall received her PhD from Cambridge University in 1965, and became the Scientific Director of the Gombe Stream Research Center 1967. In 1977, she established the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI), which continues the Gombe research and is a global leader in the effort to protect chimpanzees and their habitats. The Institute is widely recognized for establishing innovative, community-centered conservation and development programs in Africa, and its "Roots & Shoots" global environmental and humanitarian youth program has almost 100,000 members in nearly 100 countries.

Jane Goodall's many honors include the Medal of Tanzania, Japan's Kyoto Prize, Spain's Prince of Asturias Award for Technical and Scientific Research, the Benjamin Franklin Medal in Life Science, and the Gandhi/King Award for Nonviolence. In April 2002, Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed Dr. Goodall to serve as a United Nations Messenger of Peace, and she was reappointed in June 2007 by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. In 2006, Goodall received the French Legion of Honor, as well as the UNESCO Gold Medal.

Goodall's many publications include two overviews of her work at Gombe—*In the Shadow of Man* and *Through a Window*—as well as the best-selling autobiography, *Reason for Hope*. Her book, *The Chimpanzees of Gombe: Patterns of Behavior* is recognized as the definitive work on chimpanzees. She has been the subject of numerous television documentaries and films, including the recent *Almost Human*.

Goodall's receipt of the AAG Atlas Award in 2010 also coincides with the 50th Anniversary of the beginning of her seminal research with chimpanzee communities in Africa at Gombe Stream. The Jane Goodall Institute today continues to support the Gombe research station and works to protect and sustain the Greater Gombe Ecosystem (GGE), which is considered a natural treasure. At Gombe, while chimpanzees are subjects of global importance and national

pride, many plant and animal species within the ecosystem are increasingly endangered or the subjects of international conservation concern.

The unique Greater Gombe Ecosystem also has Tanzania's highest human population growth rate. The Jane Goodall Institute has initiated holistic strategies designed to restore and improve the ecosystem for the benefit of

chimpanzees as well as the surrounding human communities. Many of these strategies depend on GIS, high resolution imagery, and geographic analysis to monitor ongoing habitat fragmentation and to help develop innovative approaches to try to meet the needs of the humans and chimpanzees who both rely on the ecosystem for their subsistence. As a result of our recent meetings, the AAG has begun working together with the Jane

Goodall Institute on these efforts, which offers an intriguing ongoing dimension to the Atlas Award program.

The creation of the new AAG Atlas Award was made possible by generous contributions from many geographers, including significant founding gifts by Harm de Blij and Tom Baerwald, both of whom provided not only substantial donations toward the funding of the award, but also thoughtful insight to the AAG Council and the award committee regarding the launch of the new award.

Of course, an endeavor of this magnitude can only be successful with the support of all AAG members. To that end, the AAG welcomes matching donations that will help increase and sustain the award funding and its international visibility. For more information on the Atlas Award or about the Jane Goodall Institute, and how you can help, please visit www.aag.org.

I would like to invite you to join Jane Goodall and the AAG in Washington, D.C. on April 16, 2010, to celebrate her extraordinary accomplishments of the past half century, and to discuss with her and with geographers from around the world our plans for a sustainable future for our planet. ■

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