

ZOO CONSERVATION OUTREACH GROUP ANNOUNCES CREATION OF THE DEVRA G. KLEIMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



Devra Kleiman

Zoo Conservation Outreach Group (ZCOG) is pleased to announce the creation of the Devra G. Kleiman Memorial Scholarship for Wildlife Conservation. The scholarship, which honors the life, work, and memory of Dr. Devra Gail Kleiman, former assistant research director and senior research scientist at the Smithsonian National Zoological Park in Washington,

DC, will provide annual funding to support the participation of Brazilian zoo and aquarium personnel in professional training courses offered by the Association of Zoos & Aquarium's (AZA).

Widely regarded as a pioneer in the field of conservation biology, Dr. Kleiman was also the author of over 150 scientific and popular publications, editor or coeditor of several books, including the much-referenced *Wild Mammals in Captivity*, and a mentor to hundreds of students throughout the world. Dr. Kleiman is also well recognized for her contributions to environmental conservation in Brazil, most notably, for leading a cooperative international effort to save the golden lion tamarin and its Atlantic Coast rainforest habitat.

"Devra was passionate about her wildlife conservation work in Brazil, and she viewed professional education and international collaboration as integral components to that work," explains Ian Yeoman, professional photographer and Devra's husband. "She always believed that training and mentoring Brazilian professionals would be central to the long-term success of the golden lion tamarin reintroduction program," he emphasized.

To celebrate her contributions to wildlife conservation and local capacity building in Brazil, Peter Kibbee, retired information systems specialist at the Smithsonian Institution and member of ZCOG's Board of Directors, has committed annual support for a memorial training scholarship in Devra's name. The scholarship will be funded through Mr. Kibbee's multi-year financial commitment to help create an endowed trust that will be managed by ZCOG.

"Devra's contributions to wildlife conservation and local capacity building in Brazil are an inspiration to us all, and I wanted to do something that would both honor and continue her life's work," states Mr. Kibbee.

Dr. Daniel Hilliard, CEO and Executive Director of Zoo Conservation Outreach Group (ZCOG), an organization that supports capacity building in Latin American zoos and aquariums and sponsors wildlife conservation projects throughout the Americas, described Dr. Kleiman as "a tireless advocate of the collaborative, consortium approach to wildlife conserva-

tion," and "a visionary conservationist that spent a lifetime incorporating education and capacity building into reintroduction and field research efforts."

"Devra's collaborative, participatory model for wildlife conservation is one that has informed all of ZCOG's programmatic activities since the group's founding in 1988," states Dr. Hilliard. "We are grateful for Peter's gift, and honored to help carry on capacity building and collaborative wildlife conservation in Devra's name."

The Devra G. Kleiman Memorial Scholarship for Wildlife Conservation becomes one of fourteen awards offered through ZCOG's Conservation Training Scholarship Program, which helps build professional capacity in Latin American zoological institutions and related facilities, and assists in the training and development of the region's future conservation leaders. Since 2000, the program has awarded over \$250,000 (U.S.) in scholarship funding to over one hundred zoo, aquarium, and wildlife conservation professionals from fifteen different countries throughout the Latin America and the Caribbean Basin. Twelve of ZCOG's scholarships are offered annually in partnership with the AZA's Professional Training Program.

For details on how you can help support the Devra G. Kleiman Memorial Scholarship for Wildlife Conservation please contact Daniel Hilliard, PhD, executive director, Zoo Conservation Outreach Group (ZCOG) at dhilliard@auduboninstitute.org



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