

Respected Authorities Share Experience with Disney's Animal Programs

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. -- During the design and development of Disney's Animal Kingdom, an advisory committee selected from the nation's leading zoologists and conservationists contributed their vast expertise to help make this new species of theme park a stand-out place both for animals and guests. This distinguished group assisted Disney Imagineers in shaping the park into a place that informs millions about the importance of conservation through the powerful medium of entertainment, and today they continue to provide their perspectives related to animal care and conservation -- not only at Disney's Animal Kingdom but at The Living Seas at Epcot as well.

Advisors offer input on facility designs, conservation information programs, animal management policies and guidelines for an expanded animal conservation program. The expertise each advisor brings to the ongoing evolution of Disney's Animal Kingdom is diverse, ranging from primatology expertise to field conservation program operations to animal welfare and enrichment.

The members of Disney's Animal Kingdom Advisory Board include:

Karen Allen - Karen Allen is a conservation communication specialist with The Communications Office, Inc., a company which she founded in 1994. Ms. Allen has broad experience with environmental

He also served as President of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) in 2000. He is a graduate of Ohio State University with a Master's degree in Business Administration and a Bachelor's degree in Journalism/Zoology. Over the past twenty years he has filled the roles of Director/CEO of the Fort Worth Zoological Park, Executive Director of the Knoxville Zoological Gardens and Associate Director at Brookfield Zoo.

P. Dee Boersma, Ph.D. - Dee Boersma is a professor in the Department of Zoology and the Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Washington, Seattle, Wash. She is a research fellow for the Wildlife Conservation Society, which supports her field research of Magellanic Penguins at Punto Tombo, Argentina. She has trained Argentine students in conservation biology and has been outspoken in the need to conserve biodiversity. She is a past president and a member of the Board of Governors of the Society for Conservation Biology, and a member of the board of directors for The Peregrine Fund and the Bullitt Foundation.

William Burnham, Ph.D. - William Burnham is president and CEO of The Peregrine Fund as well as the director of the World Center for Birds of Prey. Dr. Burnham received his Ph.D. in wildlife biology from Colorado State University and M.Sc. in zoology from Brigham Young University. As an adjunct professor at Boise State University (Zoology Department and Graduate School), he supervises and advises graduate students in raptor biology -- a one of a kind program he helped establish at the university. His expertise on birds of prey makes him a highly sought advisor to conservation groups around the globe.

Roger Caras – The late Roger Caras, president emeritus of the American Society for the Prevention

Linda Chapin - A life-long resident of Central Florida, an environmental advocate and champion for the purchase of environmentally sensitive lands, Mrs. Chapin is affiliated with numerous organizations, including the Orlando Science Center and Florida's Environmental Lands Management Committee. As the first Chairman of Orange County Government from 1992-1998, she led efforts to create urban water quality standards, has focused on recycling and conservation education issues, and has been a strong proponent of environmentally-oriented development.

William Conway, Sc.D. - William Conway is senior conservationist, and former president and general director, of the Wildlife Conservation Society (founded in 1895 as the New York Zoological Society). He has played a leading role in the redevelopment of zoological gardens and aquariums as environmental science and conservation centers. Known as the father of the Species Survival Program of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, he has been honored with the zoological profession's highest honor, the Marlin Perkins Award. He has also received the prestigious conservation honor, the Order of the Golden Ark from Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands.

Michael Hutchins, Ph.D. - As director of Conservation and Science for the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, Michael Hutchins is responsible for facilitating the cooperative conservation and scientific activities of more than 180 of North America's best zoological institutions. Dr. Hutchins is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Maryland's graduate program in Sustainable Development and Conservation Biology. He has worked in the professional zoo and aquarium and wildlife conservation fields for 25 years and has authored over 115 technical and popular articles and books covering various

John Lukas - John Lukas is director of the White Oak Conservation Center, an expansive private conservation, research and educational preserve located in Northeast Florida. Active in international conservation, he oversees a project in the rainforest of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which protects the wild population of okapi through the support of zoos around the world. Mr. Lukas is also the president of the International Rhino Foundation which funds in situ protection and research studies for rhinos in ten countries worldwide.

Terry Maple, Ph.D. – Best known for developing Zoo Atlanta into one of the country's premier zoos, Dr. Maple is professor of Psychology at the Georgia Institute of Technology, former CEO of Zoo Atlanta, past president of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, , and Affiliate Scientist at Yerkes Primate Center of Emory University. Dr. Maple is author and editor of over 100 scientific publications focusing on great ape behavior and environmental psychology. He has been instrumental in establishing protocols for the re-socialization of solitary gorillas, such as Ivan, famous for having lived in a shopping mall for 25 years and featured in the National Geographic television special "Urban Gorilla."

Ray Mendez - Ray Mendez has served as a scientific assistant in entomology and principal artist in the exhibits department for the American Museum of Natural History. He remains a field associate for that institution. He owns a movie special effects/educational exhibit design firm, combining his knowledge of natural history with his talent in media. Mr. Mendez has worked on more than 200 television commercials, ads and movies, and has been a principal photographer in over 50 animal-related magazine articles. He has

Russell Mittermeier, Ph.D. - Russell Mittermeier is president of Conservation International, an organization dedicated to field-based conservation in highly threatened, biologically rich areas of the world. Prior to his current position, he served as Vice President for Science at the World Wildlife Fund. He received his B.A. from Dartmouth in 1971, and his Ph.D. from Harvard in biological anthropology in 1977. Dr. Mittermeier is a research associate at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University, and an adjunct associate professor at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. His publications include five books and over 225 articles on primates, reptiles, tropical forests and biodiversity. A world-renowned primatologist, he has conducted field work on three continents and in more than 20 countries.

Seema Paul - Ms. Paul has been a Program Officer for Biodiversity at the United Nations Foundation in Washington, DC since 1999. Prior to that she was Senior Research Analyst, World Resources Institute, and has served as Special Correspondent/Reporter, Environment and Development. She is a member of the board of the Exxon/Mobil Save The Tiger Fund, and has filled role of Chair of the Awards Committee, Society for Conservation Biology. She is a Board Member of the South Asian Journalists Association, Advisory Board and Steering Committee Member of International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN); and Steering Committee Member of UNESCO Africa World Heritage Forestry Initiative. She holds a Mid-Career Master's Degree in Public Policy (Focus: Environment) from University of Maryland, 1998; a Master's Degree from University of Delhi and a Bachelor's Degree from St. Stephens College (India).