



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 22, 2011

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Kate Lipscomb, Marketing and PR Manager
205.601.9949 cell
klipscomb@birminghamzoo.com

Katrina Cade, VP of Marketing and Media
205.533.0254 cell
kcade@birminghamzoo.com

Samford University and the Birmingham Zoo join forces for Conservation Efforts

Birmingham, AL—World renowned Dr. Charles Foley, of the Tarangire Elephant Project, speaks today, March 22 at 3:00 p.m. at the Planetarium at Samford University. Dr. Charles Foley is known for his role in Tarangire National Park, home to over 2,000 elephants, in northern Tanzania where for nearly 20 years he studied the elephant population. It is considered to be one of the best parks in Africa to view large herds of wild elephants. Dr. Foley's presentation highlights elephants of Tarangire. He will discuss their fascinating social structure and describe the essential role that elephants play in their ecosystem. Increasingly, the human population outside the park threatens blockage of the critical migration corridors and dispersal areas of the Tarangire elephants. His means of elephant conservation is successful because it actually employs and empowers local people and creates added value to protect wildlife. Dr. Foley will discuss ways to protect elephant migration areas. Foley's work on elephants covers a variety of different topics, including demography, behavior, genetics, human-elephant conflict and conservation. The project's conservation work has expanded beyond the national park boundary to identify migration corridors and work with local communities to ensure elephants long-term protection. This initiative is in line with the Zoo's mission of "inspiring passion for the natural world through emphasizing conservation, education scientific study and recreation in all aspects." Charles studied Zoology for his undergraduate degree at Oxford University and completed his PhD at Princeton University on the long-term effects of poaching on elephant social systems. The project has been featured in several wildlife documentaries, news programs and popular wildlife magazines including *BBC Wildlife* and *Wildlife Conservation*.

For more information about the Birmingham Zoo please visit www.birminghamzoo.com.

###