MISSION

“INSPIRING PASSION FOR THE NATURAL WORLD... THROUGH EMPHASIZING CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, SCIENTIFIC STUDY AND RECREATION IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE BIRMINGHAM ZOO’S EXHIBITS, PROGRAMS, FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES.”

VISION

“TO BE A LEADING ZOOLOGICAL AND BOTANICAL CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC STUDY RESOURCE WITHIN THE U.S. AND THE FAMILY ATTRACTION OF CHOICE THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE REGION.”
Dear Friends of the Zoo,

The Birmingham Zoo has had a whirlwind of a year. Attendance and membership records from 2015 were broken while the Zoo itself was successfully reaccredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, or AZA. Guests delighted in the return of dinosaurs with the all new *Dino Discovery – They’re Back!* exhibit, and several Zoo staff members traveled the globe participating in vital conservation initiatives.

One of the most impressive accomplishments of the year was a 17% increase in attendance, even with major construction underway. The Zoo moved forward with a plan to demolish the old front entrance in 2015, and completed multiple planning phases in 2016 to create a welcoming first impression for our guests. Late in the year, the first pieces of infrastructure were installed, laying the groundwork for a beautiful new event lawn and open green space to be used by the community, as well as for future Zoo activities and celebrations.

To further conservational efforts on a local and global level, the Birmingham Zoo continues to develop its PiCA (Passion into Conservation Action) grant program for Zoo employees. This program provides necessary funding/grants for Birmingham Zoo employees to travel locally, nationally and internationally to support other nonprofit organizations that share in the common goal of preserving the world’s animal populations. The Zoo awarded six grants in 2016, sending its staff members to Zimbabwe, South Africa, the British Channel Islands, California, Belize, Brazil, and Guyana.

Your Birmingham Zoo is passionate about safeguarding endangered and threatened animals and plays an active role in partnering with other institutions accredited by AZA, as well as the Species Survival Plan® (SSP) program. Developed in 1981 by the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums, SSP initiatives help ensure the survival of species by enlisting the resources of zoos and aquariums. The Birmingham Zoo participates in many of these plans, including programs for the African lion, pancake tortoise, California sea lion, and reticulated giraffe.

We look forward to 2017 and all that awaits us as the Zoo continues construction on the new front entrance and welcome plaza. Most importantly, I want to thank each one of you for your support, whether it is through a Zoo membership, a donation, or a visit with family. You, our friends and supporters, truly make a difference to the Birmingham community and your Birmingham Zoo.

Cheers,

William R. Foster, DVM
President & CEO
AZA Grants Accreditation to the Birmingham Zoo

On September 8, 2016 the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) announced that the Birmingham Zoo was granted accreditation by AZA’s independent Accreditation Commission. To be reaccredited, the Birmingham Zoo underwent a thorough investigation to ensure it met and will continue to meet the ever-rising standards, which include animal care, veterinary programs, conservation, education and safety. AZA requires zoos and aquariums to successfully complete this rigorous accreditation process every five years in order to be an accredited member of the Association.

The accreditation process included a detailed application and a meticulous on-site inspection by a team of trained zoo and aquarium professionals. The inspection team observed all aspects of the institution’s operation in areas such as animal care, keeper training, visitor safety, staff and animals, educational programs, conservation efforts, veterinary programs, financial stability, risk management, visitor services and other areas. The inspection team prepared an extensive written report for AZA’s independent Accreditation Commission. Finally, top Zoo officials were interviewed at a formal Commission hearing, after which accreditation was granted.

The Birmingham Zoo received several special notes from the reviewing staff, including mentioning the organization of the Zoo’s Animal Nutrition Center and the cleanliness of the Primate building.

By meeting high Association of Zoos and Aquariums Accreditation Standards once again, the Birmingham Zoo demonstrated it is in the top tier of zoos within North America and around the world.

Dino Discovery – They’re Back!

Through most of 2016, dinosaurs once again roamed through the Alabama Wilds trail. *Dino Discovery – They’re Back!* presented by Vulcan Materials Company, was a temporary exhibit that featured life-sized, animatronic dinosaurs that soared to heights of nearly 20 feet. The dinos weighed almost 7 tons and measured 85 feet in length. Throughout the spring and summer, children marveled at the roaring, squawking, and sometimes spitting dinosaurs as they learned about the beasts that roamed North America over 10 million years ago. Most of the dinos had colors, patterns, and feathers that scientists estimate to be a close representation of how
dinosaurs looked before they went extinct. One dinosaur
in particular, though, was designed by Jesse, a child that
participated in the Zoo’s Dino Discovery Student Coloring
Contest in January. Jesse’s drawing was chosen out of hundreds
of entries as the winner to color the stegosaurus, and as the
lucky winner, he had his picture taken with the life-size
stegosaurus once it arrived at the Zoo.

Green Team Initiative

The Birmingham Zoo launched a new initiative in order to
“live the mission” by creating an all-new Green Team. This
group of individuals is comprised of members representing
every department in the Zoo, from Animal Staff to
Development to Education. The Green Team encouraged the
Zoo’s staff to take on a new mindset in order to conserve our
natural resources. Changes implemented in 2016 include:
turning off computers at night, turning off lights when
employees leave their offices or buildings, and monitoring
water usage and reporting leaks as soon as possible.

In addition to encouraging employees to be more green-
minded, the Green Team placed more recycling containers at
special events, implemented a battery recycling program, and
hosted two clean-up events on Zoo property. On April 22
and September 23, Zoo staff gathered to clean up a retention
pond area on grounds. Approximately 30 bags of trash were
gathered, including items such as bottles and cans, car tires, a
copy machine, and even some poker chips! The team plans to
continue monitoring and cleaning the Zoo’s undeveloped land
and will host a parking lot clean-up and sweep of the Zoo for
trash in early 2017 to welcome the New Year.

Primate Department Report

2016 was a busy year for the both the animals and Animal
Care Professionals in the Primate Department. Two new
staff members were welcomed, as well as a new two-toed sloth
named Reynardo that arrived from Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
in May. Crowned lemurs, which arrived at the Birmingham
Zoo from separate AZA-accredited facilities, were successfully
introduced to one another, and then introduced to the resident
ring tailed lemur group.

Two Animal Care Professionals were recognized for their
work with the Birmingham Zoo’s animals throughout the
year and were asked to speak at conferences throughout the
nation. Dane Jorgensen, lead Animal Care Professional for
the Primate Department, spoke at the American Association
of Zoo Keepers National Conference in Memphis, TN, the
Otter Keeper Workshop in Buffalo, NY, and the International
Marine Animal Trainers’ Association Conference in San
Diego, CA. In each conference he spoke about the work he has
completed with the Zoo’s own two giant river otters, Karina
and Lara. This work was also featured in an article published
in Style Blueprint and highlighted how a good relationship
between trainer and animal can facilitate better care for the
animal, including voluntary participation in healthcare.
Danielle Williams, the Primates Zoological Manager,
completed a career development course to cultivate her skills as a manager in the department, and was asked to be a guest speaker at Birmingham-Southern College for a course titled “The Psychology of Learning.” Danielle has presented for this class several times since 2012 on the applications of training animals at the Birmingham Zoo.

The animals under the care of the Primate Department were just as busy as their keepers learning new behaviors to participate in their own care, as well as stimulation of natural activities found in the wild. One of the DeBrazza’s monkeys, Huey, was trained for voluntary cardiac ultrasounds and regular, voluntary blood draws. Oliver, one of the Zoo’s Sumatran orangutans, was also trained for voluntary cardiac ultrasounds and blood pressure readings to better assess his progressive cardiac disease. The Zoo has been monitoring his heart closely since he was diagnosed with the early stages of this disease late in 2015. Cardiac disease is commonly found in great apes, like orangutans, and is best cared for when caught early. Lipz, one of the Zoo’s female Sumatran orangutans, was trained for voluntary blood draws, and is officially the first great ape at the Birmingham Zoo to participate in this behavior. Karina, a giant river otter, was trained for a radiograph of her forelimb. Due to the risks involved with anesthesia, any voluntary behaviors that animals learn can be critical to their successful care. Regular training makes it safer to interact with the animals as their behaviors become more familiar and predictable, and enhances the relationships Animal Care Professionals have with the animals they train.

**Predator Department Report**

The Birmingham Zoo’s Predator Department had a busy year training animals and people alike. The Animal Care Professionals working with Kumar, the Zoo’s Malayan tiger, successfully performed a voluntary annual physical exam on him. Thanks to their hard work preparing him for blood and urine collection and a visual exam, Kumar did not have to be immobilized for the procedure. The Zoo’s fishing cat brothers, Tegas and Broucek, were also trained for voluntary blood draws. The rock hyrax, Necie, was trained in 10 new behaviors, including having her teeth brushed! Every other animal in the
Predator Department has learned at least two new behaviors, and the sea lions, Farley and Giovanni, learned the most at 20 new behaviors each.

Predator Department Animal Care Professionals were publically recognized for their work with the Birmingham Zoo’s animal collection in 2016. An article was published in Village Living featuring Erin Miller and her training with Necie the hyrax. Scott Kayser had one of his photos of Broucek, the fishing cat, published in the 2016 AZA calendar and on the Zoo’s holiday card. He also became the AZA studbook keeper for Pallas’s cats, and is responsible for the entire population of Pallas cats under the care of AZA-accredited Zoos and Aquariums. Travis Coty presented a paper entitled “A Survey of Housing and Husbandry of Black-footed Cats in North America” at the annual Felid Tag meeting in Denver and published it in Felid Times.

Occasionally the Zoo needs the help of a specialist to provide its animals with best care available. Bert Gaddis, DVM, aided the Predator Department with many procedures in 2016, including a sea lion tooth extraction and several root canals for the fishing cats. Dr. Gaddis is a specialist in dental veterinary medicine, is one of 140 practicing animal dentists in the world, and is the only board certified animal dentist in Alabama. Thanks to the work Dr. Gaddis does with the Birmingham Zoo, along with many other veterinary specialists and consultants, the Zoo is consistently able to enhance the level of care it provides to the many animal species that call the Zoo home.

**Junior League of Birmingham-Hugh Kaul Children’s Zoo**

Developments in the Junior League of Birmingham-Hugh Kaul Children’s Zoo have been all about goats! Dwarf Nigerian goats, to be exact. Many Zoo visitors have been thrilled to see the Zoo’s goat herd put on their agility show in the last few years. Behaviors such as the balance beam, weave poles, wave, and hoop jump enhance their natural abilities by keying into their natural intelligence and playfulness. The Zoo’s goat herd began this training program once they became part of the barn animal collection, and have been learning new behaviors each year since their arrival at three to four months of age.

In 2016, Animal Care Professionals added a daily goat walk to the goats’ enrichment routine. The walks provide exercise as part of a weight management initiative and improve the quality of their overall medical care. The process initially began by taking small groups of the goats out on leashes to walk the Alabama Wilds Trail. The leashes encouraged the goats to move away from the barn, to which they had become very attached. Once progress was made, the leashes were removed and the natural herd behavior took over as the group size grew to include all 11 goats. These playful animals enjoy training and working with their keepers, and the daily goat “run” has added a fun and exciting way for visitors to observe the goats outside of their pens in the barn.
2016 was a very exciting year for the Birmingham Zoo’s Education Department. In addition to implementing new programs and experiences for guests to enjoy, new partnerships were formed that will set the stage for projects moving into the future. A series of onsite initiatives were started to improve and create a consistent guest experience.

In 2016, a team made up of Animal Department, Education, Marketing, and Administrative staff took on the task to create a set of succinct Zoo-wide messages that would allow for guest engagement and personal connections to the lives of the Zoo’s resident animals. These big ideas will help to unite Education and Animal Department programs in the future. In the spring, the Birmingham Zoo bolstered its on-grounds educational experience with the addition of the Chipangali Research Station. This space allows guests an opportunity to participate in hands-on educational experiences and offers interaction with Zoo staff and volunteers on a more regular basis. Biofacts and field research equipment help to provide a new understanding of the work that goes into ensuring the survival of animals in the wild. The Chipangali Research Station was inspired by the partnership with the Chipangali Wildlife Orphanage in Zimbabwe and allows for a multitude of conversations regarding wildlife from all parts of the world. Throughout the year, staff from the Education Department, Animal Department and Administration, as well as volunteers and docents, engaged thousands of guests in conservation-focused discussions and activities.

ZooSnoozes and Twilight Tours have long been a popular way for guests to experience a rarely-seen side of the Zoo. In 2016, Nightlife Programs earned more revenue than any previous year. Additionally, they saw a 10% increase in the number of programs scheduled and a 22% increase in the number of attendees over 2015. The Nightkeeper Experience, a new program, was a hugely successful partnership between the Animal Department night keeper staff and the Education Department. Over the course of six weeks, students had the opportunity to be immersed in the work that goes into keeping the Zoo’s resident animals happy and healthy after hours. Participants helped late-shift Animal Care Professionals give evening diets, do a little late-night cleaning, train animals and even design their own habitat for the Zoo’s Komodo dragon, Matt.

Birmingham Zoo as an Educational Resource

The Birmingham Zoo continues to be an educational resource for teachers throughout Alabama and the Southeast. In September, the Education team attended the annual Alabama Association of Gifted Children (AAGC) conference as a vendor and presenter. This event, held at McWane Science Center, brought in over 400 teachers from across the state to network, attend sessions and learn about opportunities available to their students. Zoo staff spoke with hundreds of teachers regarding opportunities at the Zoo to enrich their curriculum, gave out over 100 Field Trip Guides and solicited feedback on challenges teachers face in creating successful field trips. Staff created an email list to keep in contact with to remind teachers that the Zoo is a resource for their classrooms. Also presented was a session on the Zoo’s newly-implemented EPIC KIDS program. EPIC (Environmental Programs involving Children) is a partnership between the Birmingham Zoo and Chipangali Wildlife Orphanage in Zimbabwe. This year-long program provides the opportunity for students to have access to real-life conservation and wildlife research programs at Chipangali Wildlife Orphanage and Carnivore Conservation Project. Students engage with experts who are actively working in the field to save African wildlife, and collect and examine data provided on a regular basis throughout the school year.

In addition to presenting at the AAGC conference, the Zoo hosted its annual Teacher Night at the Zoo. The event, held on September 15, brought over 200 teachers to the Zoo, a 100% increase over 2015’s attendance number. Teacher Night is one way that Zoo staff can show appreciation for area teachers and share information about new and exciting opportunities for educators and their students. Feedback from the attendees was overwhelmingly positive and the Zoo is looking forward to building upon this event in 2017.
EACH YEAR, SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS from the Birmingham City School System attend ZooSchool, a week-long, interdisciplinary program with curriculum based on Alabama College and Career Readiness Standards. This includes newly-revised science standards, as well as innovative instructional practices for program participants.

ZooSchool students were challenged to research existing environmental issues and analyzed possible solutions through immersive, hands-on activities throughout the Zoo grounds. They began their week by touring the Alabama Wilds, to better understand regional biodiversity. Students had up-close experiences with many of the 230 different species of animals at the Zoo, including the Birmingham Zoo’s bachelor herd of African elephants, the only one of its kind in North America. Additionally, they interacted with Animal Care Professionals and Zoo Staff to investigate career opportunities that are available within the Zoo, including animal nutrition and animal health care. Students learned about water-related issues, a topic that hit close to home as drought conditions worsened in Alabama the latter half of 2016.

Throughout the week, students explored how humans rely on the Earth’s resources and how dependence on these resources impacts their environment. Zoo Educators guided students to further examine impacts of poaching, conservation efforts, and ecosystem services. The week culminated with post-assessments to measure growth, including the creation of a multi-media technology product which is presented by students.

Based on student feedback, ZooSchool is inspiring, educational, and fun. Feeding giraffes and elephants were cited as memorable and enjoyable experiences by many ZooSchool students. Along with showing continuous marked improvement between students’ pre- and post-assessments, ZooSchool students have learned about many STEM-based careers (science, technology, engineering and math) and consider them as exciting possibilities for their futures. Perhaps one of the most exciting and significant findings was one that involved the students’ beliefs about their responsibility to protect the environment. On the first day of ZooSchool, only an average of 37% of children indicated they had a responsibility to protect nature and their environment. By the last day of ZooSchool, that number jumped to an average of 66%. ZooSchool participants then recognize the intrinsic value of the Earth, its resources and have a greater understanding of their place within their ecosystem, reinforcing the Zoo’s mission to inspire passion for the natural world.

**ZooSchool Donors**
- America’s First Federal Credit Union
- BBVA Compass Bank Foundation
- Mr. and Mrs. Timothy A. R. Callahan
- Children’s of Alabama
- City of Birmingham
- Comer Foundation
- Honda Manufacturing of Alabama
- Mr. and Mrs. Woody Kennedy
- Kinder Morgan Foundation
- Redmont Park Historic District Foundation
- Susan Mott Webb Charitable Trust
- Wells Fargo

**Participating Schools**
- Bertram A. Hudson K-8 School
- Green Acres Middle School
- Jones Valley Middle School
- L.M. Smith Middle School
- Malachi Wilkerson Middle School
- South Hampton K-8 School
- Wylam K-8 School

**BY THE NUMBERS**
- 81,248 Students visiting the Zoo on field trips
- 45/67 Alabama counties represented among field trip students
- 522 Kiwanis ZooSchool Participants
- 556 Homeschool Academy Participants
TO “INSPIRE A PASSION FOR THE NATURAL WORLD” is not only the mission of the Zoo, but a statement each and every one of the Zoo’s volunteers truly lives by when they are on grounds donating their most precious resource: their time. 2016 was a very active year for adult and teen volunteer teams that spent their time handling and observing animals, staffing biofact stations, assisting with summer and spring break camps, and so much more! The Zoo even had a team of trained Dino Crew volunteers ready to go “back in time” to educate visitors in the Dino Discovery – They’re Back! exhibit in the spring and summer.

The Zoo has a group of remarkable individuals who not only donate their time, but also a contagious passion and enthusiasm that spreads to everyone with whom they come into contact. This year, 31,564 hours were donated by

volunteers spending their time spreading their own passion for the natural world.

The minimum age limit for teen volunteers was dropped from 14 to 13. 2016 saw an incredible increase in participation as the number of new teen volunteers doubled from just over 50 new recruits in 2015 to just over 100 new recruits in 2016. New teen volunteers boosted the number of hours served working with camps. Teen volunteers logged over 9,860 hours!

Both adult and teen volunteers have continued to serve as ambassadors for the Birmingham Zoo. 2016 was also a year spent planning out a new training framework and updating resources that are set to take effect in 2017, which the Zoo hopes will also continue to expand current programs. The Zoo could not accomplish as much as it does without the continued dedication and passion of all its volunteers.
### Volunteers

#### Teen Volunteers

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#### Adult Volunteers

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2016 marks the Zoo’s fourth year of awarding Passion into Conservation Action (PiCA) grants to Zoo employees. Each year, grants are awarded to employees for projects that will benefit the conservation of wildlife species, the Birmingham Zoo and the employee’s professional development. Since its inception, the Birmingham Zoo has awarded 27 grants, totaling nearly $100,000 toward the conservation of species at multiple levels. In 2016, the Zoo awarded eight PiCA grants to Zoo employees to travel to California, Belize, Guyana, Brazil, the British Channel Islands, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

United States

California
Celeste Hicks, Lead Sea Lions Animal Care Professional, traveled to California to work with the Monterey Bay Aquarium’s Seafood Watch (SFW) Program, a Birmingham Zoo partner. While working with SFW, she shadowed team members in two-day rotations with four key departments within Seafood Watch: science, outreach, guest experience and husbandry teams. The Birmingham Zoo promotes Seafood Watch in its Red Diamond Sea Lion Show, and Celeste is the Zoo’s lead contact. Her experience at Seafood Watch has helped her meet her goal to inform guests and expand the Zoo’s messaging about Seafood Watch during sea lion shows.

Central & South America

Belize
Terra Manasco, Conservation & Special Projects Manager, traveled to Central America to study the effects of human disturbance on jaguars in southern Belize. While there, she assisted Michael Dobbins, a researcher at the University of Florida, using interdisciplinary techniques including trail cameras, soundscape meters, remotely sensed imagery, spatial modeling, and resident surveys to complete the most comprehensive study yet on the effects of human disturbance on jaguar populations. Researchers involved in this three-year study work closely with the Maya communities and local conservation organizations with the end goal to identify the most critical habitat corridors to ensure jaguar viability throughout the Americas.

Brazil
Andrea Scherrens, Animal Care Professional/Children’s Zoo, traveled to Brazil to conduct Neotropical & Giant Otter Research with Instituto Ekko Brasil (IEB). IEB is an animal sanctuary and research facility. Located in the most diverse biome in Brazil, IEB has been researching Neotropical Otters.
and Giant Otters for almost 30 years. Their oldest research/conservation project is called Project Lontra (Otter Project). While in Brazil, Andrea assisted with research concerning the distribution of otter species, habitat factors and the species relationship with the ecosystem. Additionally, she worked with IEB staff to improve enrichment and husbandry techniques for otters housed at the sanctuary.

Guyana
Dane Jorgensen, Animal Care Professional/Giant Otters, Primates, conducted Giant Otter research in Karanambu, in the North Rupununi region of southwestern Guyana. Karanambu is truly the land of wild titans, as it is home to giant otters, giant anteaters, anacondas, black caiman, and the giant water lily. He participated in biodiversity surveys, tracking and photographing giant otters, assisting in conservation assessments, and developing a comprehensive program for future giant otter research and cataloguing. BZI is currently leading the way in giant otter captive management and training, and Dane’s field research project was a great opportunity to connect the Zoo’s giant otter program to their endangered wild counterparts in Guyana.

Africa
South Africa
Laura Schillinger, Trails of Africa Zoological manager, traveled to South Africa to work with Dr. Imke Leuders and other researchers on the “Preserving Africa’s Last Great Tuskers” project. Elephants in range country are being killed at an alarming rate by poachers who are being paid to collect as much ivory as possible. Elephants with the largest tusks, usually big males in their breeding prime, are being eradicated more quickly than those with smaller tusks. In an effort to ensure the genetic survival of the great tuskers, Laura worked with other researchers to collect and freeze semen from these bulls, which will then be used in artificial insemination in female elephants in human care. In order to collect the semen, the bulls were darted from a helicopter and put into full anesthesia while the ground team performed the electro-ejaculation and collected other biological samples. Artificial insemination has been successful in African elephants and, by freezing these samples for up to a decade, we can help improve our chances of seeing great tuskers in future elephant populations.
**CONSERVATION:**

**PICA GRANTS PROGRAM**

**South Africa**

Jessie Griswold, Quarantine Animal Care Professional, traveled to VulPro headquarters in South Africa to conduct research for a Captive Breeding Program for Lappet-Faced and other vultures. VulPro is a conservation organization that offers educational programs, rehabilitation for injured vultures, and conducts research on vulture species that are an important part of South Africa’s ecosystem. Jessie received a PiCA grant in 2014 to work with VulPro and returned in 2016 to continue to assist in rehabilitation, monitoring, husbandry, and research and also to work with researchers to develop a captive breeding program for Lappet-Faced Vultures, which are declining in large numbers.

**Zimbabwe**

Roger Torbert, Vice President of Education, traveled to Zimbabwe to the Chipangali Wildlife Orphanage on his Educator Conservation Exploration project. Roger worked with educators at Chipangali on their enormously successful EPIC (Environmental Programs Involving Children) Kids program. EPIC Kids teaches young people about conserving wildlife and appreciating the value of their natural heritage. While there, he worked on behalf of the Birmingham Zoo to establish collaborative educational opportunities. As a result of his trip, students in Birmingham City Schools participate in weekly video conferences with wildlife researchers in Zimbabwe — learning first-hand about the conservation efforts in Africa.

**Europe**

**British Channel Islands**

Mallory Peebles, Animal Care Professional/Night Keeper, traveled to the British Channel Islands to attend Durrell Conservation – Endangered Species Recovery Training. The training covered issues and practical skills involved in saving threatened species from extinction. The course also included hands-on interaction with current case studies of conservation work (conducted by Durrell) on some of the world’s most critically endangered primates, birds, reptiles and amphibians. The course was taught by Durrell’s own conservation specialists and several internationally renowned experts from around the world.
**CONSERVATION: SSP — SPECIES SURVIVAL PLANS®**

**TAKING FLIGHT WITH THE BIRD DEPARTMENT**

Species Survival Plans® (SSP) are used to manage species that are typically threatened or endangered by making recommendations to ensure the sustainability of a healthy and genetically diverse population of animals. Many of these SSP Programs include species that urgently need to be conserved and protected in the wild. Several Zoo staff members serve as committee members, chairs and SSP coordinators for a variety of SSP species identified by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The Birmingham Zoo currently works with approximately 100 SSP species, including the Komodo dragon, crowned lemur, squirrel monkey, and over 50 species of birds.

The Zoo’s Bird Department did an incredible job ensuring the futures of protected species in 2016. They successfully bred eight different SSP species including the crested screamer, laughing kookaburra, green aracari, jambu fruit dove, white-throated ground dove, Victoria crowned pigeon, white-crested laughing thrush, and emerald starling. They also sent offspring from seven SSP species that were hatched in 2015 to other AZA accredited institutions as part of the Zoo’s commitment to the programs in which it participates.

The Bird Department is also responsible for a few non-bird species, including the red-flanked duiker. On a recommendation from the duiker SSP, the Zoo acquired a female duiker named Beatrice to accompany the Zoo’s male, Ricky Bobby. Red-flanked duikers are one of three species of duiker, a deer species native to western and central Africa. The Zoo hopes to soon see progress through the breeding recommendation with the birth of a new red-flanked duiker baby. You can visit Ricky Bobby and Beatrice at the secretary bird habitat near the Reptile Building.
THE BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS hosted the 11th Annual ZooRun, Miles for Marine Mammals in May. Proceeds from the event benefitted the Marine Mammal Center (MMC) in Sausalito, California. The MMC is a rescue and rehabilitation center that cares for injured or sickly marine mammals. The Zoo’s own California sea lions, Giovanni and Farley, were stranded as young pups and were rescued by the Center in 2009. Besides rescuing and rehabilitating stranded and injured marine mammals, the MMC does important research. Studies on cancer in sea lions have been applied to human cancer research, in studying the influence of exposure to carcinogens and the influence on cancer rates. Thanks to generous donors and just over 550 runners, including both adults and children, the event was a success. The Zoo was able to send $13,169.39 to the MMC to help fund their efforts to rescue marine mammals and further marine research.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ZOORUN 2016 SPONSORS

Presenting Sponsors
Covenant Classical Schools and Daycare
The Trak Shak

Featured Partners
Chiropractique
MedPlan Recruiting, Inc.
Nall-Daniels Animal Hospital
National Bank of Commerce
The Fitness Center
The North Face
BULWAGI, A 36 YEAR OLD MALE ELEPHANT, came to the Birmingham Zoo with only one tusk, as he lost the first tusk following an injury sustained at an early age. His remaining tusk had a long-term crack. Elephants use their tusks for digging, lifting objects, gathering food, stripping bark from trees and for protection. Through these activities, their tusks can be damaged. The veterinary staff at the Zoo worked to correct this condition since he arrived. In November of 2015, Bulwagi participated in a revolutionary procedure in partnership with University of Alabama at Birmingham to place a composite wrap on his cracked tusk in an attempt to keep the crack from growing. The results suggest that this type of wrap could help elephants all over the world.

Despite the continued efforts of the Zoo’s Veterinary Staff, the crack in Bulwagi’s tusk worsened over time and became infected. The Veterinary Staff made several attempts at treating the infection with antibiotics without success. Bulwagi received a potentially life-saving procedure in May to remove his infected tusk. The procedure was a very involved process requiring intense preparation, so the Zoo brought in experts from the Colyer Institute and extra veterinary assistance from across the country to help with the multiple hour procedure. In addition, Bulwagi received advanced training in preparation for the surgery. After a three-hour procedure, Bulwagi’s tusk was cut back, and Africa Department Animal Care Professionals now have better access for daily care of the tusk. The Zoo’s staff members have not seen any changes to the social structure as a result of this procedure, and Bulwagi still remains the dominant male of the Zoo’s bachelor herd.

The Zoo is thankful that Bulwagi’s procedure went well, and is grateful to the many talented members of the Zoo’s staff and partner organizations for helping with this tremendous endeavor. Many donors made this procedure possible, and the Zoo thanks a generous and supportive community for helping fund this necessary surgery.
THE HARD-WORKING VETERINARIANS and Animal Care Professionals in the Animal Health Center (AHC) worked diligently in 2016 maintaining the Zoo’s commitment to providing top-notch veterinary care. The AHC continued to improve its capability to diagnose disease in animals and treat them accordingly. In 2016, the Zoo invested in this goal by replacing outdated ultrasound and endoscopic equipment. Replacing the old equipment with a new, portable ultrasound machine and a new Karl Storz portable endoscopic video system enables the Zoo’s veterinarians to provide care wherever and whenever the animals require it. The Birmingham Zoo started a new partnership with the University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital’s Radiology Department to help provide advanced imaging, including CT and MRI, to the Zoo’s animals. The first animals to benefit from this partnership were two Home’s Hingeback tortoises with shell infections. CT images allowed veterinary staff to assess the severity of the lesions to guide the course of treatment.

In addition to successfully performing procedures and caring for the Zoo’s animal collection, AHC veterinary staff members were busy furthering their own education and participating in the national zoo community. Drs. McCain and Sim attended the Annual Association of Zoo Veterinarians annual conference in Atlanta, GA, and Dr. McCain was named an Affiliate Professor at Auburn University’s College of Veterinary Medicine. Bridget Weidner, LVT and Leslie Schutte, LVT attended the Association of Zoo Veterinary Technicians annual conference in Tulsa, OK.

Total Species by Classification — as of December 31, 2016

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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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Marketing Report

2016 was an exciting year for the Marketing Department at the Birmingham Zoo. With exciting temporary attractions including Dino Discovery – They’re Back! and Bug-A-BOO, several milestones were achieved, and records were broken as the Zoo experienced the highest ever reported attendance in the Zoo’s 61-year history. This marked the fifth year in a row for record breaking attendance.

Animal Programs

The Birmingham Zoo’s Animal Programs Department continued to be an integral part of the Zoo’s community relations in 2016. The Programs Department includes approximately 50 animals that serve as ambassadors for the Zoo in many capacities, including trips to Children’s of Alabama, appearances in media spots on Fridays on Fox 6 news, on-grounds events, and participating in the Zoo to You program.

Zoo to You made appearances at events including: Hoover Days, Read and Romp, Breakin’ Bread, Vulcan’s Birthday Bash, the District 1 Music & Movie Festival, and Birmingham’s Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. The Programs Department was also invited to be guest lecturers to the University of Alabama at Birmingham’s Animal Behavior class. Zoo to You had an impact on approximately 3,390 people this year.

On the grounds of the Zoo, animal programs were presented to more than 8,000 in conjunction with the Zoo School, Zoo Snoozes, Twilight Tours, camps and educational programming. Select animals attended 142 birthday parties this year. The Animal Programs department performed its first year of the Star Wars: A New Boo wildlife show for Boo at the Zoo in October. The show was a huge success and the department performed three shows per night to accommodate the crowds.

The Schaeffer Eye Center Wildlife Show was themed over the summer to celebrate Dino Discovery: They’re Back! The staff performed the “Dino-lympics,” in which “Dino-gal” and a Zookeeper battled it out to see which animal or dinosaur would represent the Zoo in the summer games. The audience participated by cheering on their favorite dinosaur or animal athlete after each amazing adaptation competition. Approximately 11,200 visitors attended the popular wildlife shows in 2016. The Birmingham Zoo also continues to visit the Children’s of Alabama twice per month to present animal demonstrations for the young patients and their families. Animal Programs staff and their special animal ambassador were televised on closed-circuit TV at the hospital at each visit, so each child unable to see the animal in person could still participate.

The Birmingham Zoo became an institutional member of National Association of Interpretation (NAI) in 2016. Nikki Partain, Animal Programs Animal Care Professional, was accepted to present “The Trials, Tribulations and
Triumphs for Making Interpretation Available for Everyone” at 2016’s Region Three NAI conference in February. She was asked to submit her presentation for NAI’s National Conference and was accepted to present in November. Kelly Garrison also presented “Theatrical Wildlife Shows and Educational Messaging” at NAI’s Zoological Wildlife Parks and Aquariums online InterpNet conference in October, and was named to the Board of the International Avian Trainers Certification Board.

**DreamNight**

In June of 2016, McKinney Capital/Landscape Workshop partnered with the Birmingham Zoo to host DreamNight, an opportunity for young patients with chronic illnesses from Children’s of Alabama and their families to experience the Zoo. Visitors enjoyed carousel and train rides, a tour through *Dino Discovery – They’re Back!* and an evening away from the hospital. Each child was given the choice between two large plush dinosaurs to accompany them on their visit. Roddy McKinney, founder and owner of McKinney Capital/Landscape Workshop, and his family greeted guests as they entered the Zoo. Volunteers from the Junior League of Birmingham assisted in welcoming and distributing the plush dinosaurs to excited children. The Birmingham Zoo is proud to host community events like DreamNight, and to continue to further its mission to “Inspire Passion for the Natural World” and provide a safe and educational recreational space for the Birmingham area.

**DONOR SPOTLIGHT**

**Full Moon Bar-B-Que**

For 30 years, Full Moon Bar-B-Que has been satisfying appetites and serving the Birmingham community as a partner and friend. In November 2016, Full Moon was recognized as the Outstanding Corporate Citizen during the National Philanthropy Day Awards ceremony presented by the Alabama Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. When asked to describe Full Moon, Dr. William Foster stated, “We wanted everyone in Birmingham to know what the Zoo has known for years. David and Joe Maluff and their families are so very generous. The Zoo wanted to recognize and honor the Maluffs and what they do for the Zoo and other nonprofits.” What a terrific way to celebrate a 30th anniversary.

Not only has Full Moon provided delicious meals for events over the years such as Zoo Blues, Tails in the Trails and Zoo, Brews & Full Moon Bar-B-Que, but they have also donated products, promotional t-shirts, gift certificates for silent auctions, assisted in marketing support by purchasing outdoor advertisements, and displayed posters at all Full Moon Bar-B-Que restaurants. To celebrate Full Moon Bar-B-Que’s 30th anniversary in 2016, the company proudly partnered with the Zoo from now through 2019 as the exclusive sponsor of the *Full Moon Bar-B-Que Wild Slide* attraction.

In researching the Maluff family in the Birmingham archives, the Birmingham Zoo staff discovered a long partnership with the Zoo. The Zoo staff found a *Birmingham News* article from the 1950’s about Ed Maluff, David and Joe Maluff’s uncle, who owned The Kopper Kettle restaurant. In 1957, Ed partnered with the Birmingham Zoo to sell take home meals for $1 to visitors on the Fourth of July. It seems the apple does not fall far from the tree. The Birmingham Zoo congratulates Full Moon Bar-B-Que for the Outstanding Corporate Citizen Award and it looks forward to the future successful partnerships.
NOTABLE EVENTS

Tails in the Trails presented by Merrill Lynch and Harbert Management Corporation

On April 29, the Birmingham Zoo’s Junior Board hosted its sixth annual fundraising event, Tails in the Trails. This 21 and older event brought together Zoo enthusiasts for a night of fun in the Junior League of Birmingham – Hugh Kaul Children’s Zoo. Even though the event ended early due to some inclement weather and a power outage, guests still enjoyed dinner by Happy Catering, drinks, and a silent auction hosted by candlelight. Net proceeds from the event will benefit the Zoo’s new golden eagle habitat, set to be built in the Alabama Wilds.

Zoo, Brews & Full Moon Bar-B-Que

June 18 saw the second iteration of Zoo, Brews and Full Moon Bar-B-Que, with over 2,000 guests in attendance. A selection of brews from over 10 breweries from Alabama and the southeast were available as guests enjoyed food from Full Moon Bar-B-Que, chips from Golden Flake, and a special kids’ Mellow Yellow sampling booth provided by Coca-Cola. The event also included live music by Park Band, a Talladega Superspeedway pace car and street team, animal greetings, train rides, and free admission into Dino Discovery – They’re Back! The Zoo offers a big “thank you” to all the vendors, volunteers, and visitors that make this annual event a big success, and don’t forget to save the date for next year’s Zoo, Brews and Full Moon Bar-B-Que on June 17, 2017.
ZooGala 2016
presented by IBERIABANK

On Friday, September 16, the Zoo hosted its largest annual fundraiser, ZooGala presented by IBERIABANK. The party took place under a starry sky in the Junior League of Birmingham – Hugh Kaul Children’s Zoo and guests mingled and enjoyed Asian-style décor by HotHouse Design Studio and food by Kathy G & Company. Guests watched a dragon dance by dancers from the Confucius Institute at Auburn University at Montgomery and danced to live music by A-Town A-List, a band from Atlanta. An all-new online silent auction featured travel packages, artwork, jewelry, fine wine, and dining packages. ZooGala 2016’s chairs were Jennifer Ard, Lindsey Lacey, Colin Mitchell and Kathleen Roth, and the advisor was Lynn Cassady. Proceeds from this annual event benefit the Zoo’s daily operations, from animal care and feeding to the Zoo’s many conservation initiatives.

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Boo at the Zoo and ZooLight Safari presented by Wells Fargo

The Zoo hosted Boo at the Zoo, presented by Wells Fargo for 16 nights in October 2016. Each night, the Zoo transformed into a destination full of spooky attractions, including themed rides, games, and wildlife shows. Guests were encouraged to dress up in their favorite costume and also experienced larger than life animatronic insects in the Bug-A-Boo exhibit near the Safari Peak in the Trails of Africa play area. ZooLight Safari, presented by Wells Fargo was a series of 17 holiday-themed nights filled with festive music, photos with Santa, hot beverages, and over one million twinkling lights on display. Guests were encouraged to ride the Zoo’s Candy Cane Train, Jingle Bell Carousel, Yuletide Slide and Santa’s Roller Racers.
2016 WAS AN INCREDIBLY BUSY YEAR for the staff in the Birmingham Zoo's Development Department. While continuing to raise funds for the Renew the Zoo capital campaign, the Development team secured $183,000 in new sponsorships for the Zoo's operational needs. Two major fundraising events, Tails in the Trails in April and ZooGala in September, raised over $450,000. Wells Fargo sponsored Boo at the Zoo and ZooLight Safari for the sixth year in a row. In addition to these fundraising milestones, the Zoo was awarded a 4-Star Rating from Charity Navigator for the fourth year in a row for strong financial health, accountability, and transparency with an overall score of 95.91 out of 100. The Zoo is one of only nine non-profit organizations in the Birmingham area to receive this highly-coveted distinction.

Renew the Zoo

As of December 2016, the Birmingham Zoo's Capital Campaign had less than 7% left to raise toward its $18 million goal. Shovels hit the ground in November to begin the first phase of construction on the new Arrival Experience. Two ponds, which were formerly fish hatcheries, are being replaced with a lawn and a new park area. The new event lawn will be able to host a myriad of Zoo events, including performances, movies, and the ever-popular Zoo, Brews, and Full Moon Bar-B-Que event. This innovative multi-purpose space will also be available for weddings, events, and corporate gatherings and is due to be completed by the summer of 2017.

The second phase of construction, which includes the Zoo’s new front entrance, is due to be completed in 2018. Guests will be greeted by water features, colorful botanicals and animal-themed experiences as they enter the Zoo. This new arrival experience will provide enhanced features to allow Zoo members easy entrance into the Zoo, self-service kiosks, concierge services and a new 2,500 square-foot gift shop, as well as stroller rentals. Other Zoo amenities include a new expansive restroom facility, which will include family rooms and nursing rooms. The design of the new arrival experience is being handled by the architecture and engineering firm Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood.

The third phase, which will feature the Asian Passage habitat, is currently being designed, and is scheduled to be completed in 2018. This habitat will be home to the Zoo's Sumatran orangutans, Komodo dragon, red pandas, white-handed gibbons, Malayan tiger and other Asian species. The majority of the species that will call the Asian Passage home are listed as endangered or critically endangered by the International Union of Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

The Birmingham Zoo has several naming opportunities still available in addition to a donor wall for gifts of $1,000 or more. If you would like to Renew your Zoo and support the Zoo’s capital campaign, please visit birminghamzoo.com or call the Development office at 205-397-3856 for more information.
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STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Support and Revenues
Subsidies Received 2,105,000$          18%
Contributions 431,815$             4%
Admissions 3,500,349$          30%
Food & Beverage 394,096$             3%
Gift Shop Revenue 239,669$             2%
Rides 1,877,411$          16%
Membership Income 1,477,551$          13%
Special Events & Facility Rentals 1,264,020$          11%

Education Programs 382,053$             3%
Interest Income 812$  0%
Miscellaneous 30,159$  0%
In-Kind Donations  $ 7,500 0%
11,710,435$

Assets Released from Restriction 2,171,921$
Total Support and Revenue 13,882,356$

Expenses
Program Services 11,167,203$        88%
Management & General 1,211,061$          10%
Fundraising 341,440$             3%
Total Expenses 12,719,704$

Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets 1,162,652$

TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Contributions 2,074,845$
In-Kind Donations 40,000$
Assets released from restriction ( 2,171,921 )$
Decrease in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets ( 57,076 )$
Increase in Net Assets 1,105,576$

Net Assets at Beginning of Year 29,952,464$
Net Assets at End of Year 31,058,040$
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