



The Crash

Newsletter for rhino professionals

July 2017

President's Perspective:

It's hard to believe it's already time for the Rhino Keeper Workshop! Our agenda is set and the participation by members is the highest it's ever been. Our keynote speaker will be Claire Lewis, assistant project leader for the North Luongo Conservation Program. She will be sharing about canine detection units, black rhino reintroduction programs and monitoring of black rhino. She'll also share about having her family with her in her important mission to save rhino.

Our beloved Dr. Susie Ellis will not be at our workshop. She is home battling cancer but understands how important she is to us. Her family and husband Dave are doing a great job taking care of her. She will be sending a video update for our "State of the Rhino". We all pray fervently that she heals quickly and joins us in 2019.

Our election process is over but please read the bios of the nominees. All are worthy of your vote, we will see in a few weeks which of them will serve you. In that light I'd like to extend my gratitude for being able to serve you and the IRKA since its inception. In 1999 I was one of 80 people at the first Rhino Keeper Workshop, I was inspired to step up and keep the RKW alive. Lance Aubrey and I took the idea of a 2001 workshop home to our CEO Doug Myers. I was just a senior keeper looking to bring the plight of rhinos to the forefront. My boss Lance gave me that look, really Jane, organize a workshop? But he knew by my passion and love for rhinos that it was the right thing to do, we had to keep it going. Lance and I stepped up to what was right, keep the dream of a dedicated rhino conference alive. Doug supported us because as a good leader he knows the correct answer when told! Host the workshop, do what we can to save rhinos. San Diego hosted again in 2013, again with full support from our CEO. Thank you Doug.

Sometimes a small group of people can make a difference. In 2003 at the last Denver workshop we discussed the possibility of becoming a formal 501c3, the Rhino Keeper Association. Dr. Tom Foose was our advisor to the board, and the International Rhino Foundation our mentor organization. That's what 12 people did back then, now it's your turn.

The International Rhino Keeper Association needs you. As I step down you MUST step up. Whoever is elected to our board, do all you can to support them and make a difference. The only way we can save rhinos is if we learn about them, that means Rhino Keeper Workshops. Once we learn about their behaviors and needs we must share the information, at the workshops and in any way we can spread the word. We now have twitter accounts and Facebook groups dedicated to rhinos and spreading the word about their plight. Our members "sponsor" rhinos with their own page for people to follow like Stanley Rhino, and Andatu. Our little group of 80 has turned into thousands. The only way we can save them is to follow through in what we have learned and apply the knowledge in our daily tasks. We must Learn. Share. Save.

Several people have asked me Jane, how can YOU step away? Rhinos have been your passion for over 30 years! Believe me, I considered all as I made my decision. As I step back from the day to day running of the IRKA I leave you with two of my favorite quotes.

"Don't be sad that it's over, be happy that it happened." Dr. Seuss

"Ask the animals, they will teach you." Job 12:7

It has been my privilege to be part of one of the most important organization that strives to save rhinos, the International Rhino Keeper Association..

Carry on, I'm here whenever you need me. See you in Denver. Jane



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2017 Rhino Keeper Workshop Silent Auction

Hello IRKA Members!

We are just 1 month away from the Denver 2017 IRKA Workshop!

For those of you who have not attended an IRKA workshop in the past (and for all of you who attend regularly), the fundraising committee would like to let you know about the silent auction and raffle that takes place during the workshop. The silent auction and raffle are made up from donations from IRKA members that attend the workshop. Items from past workshops have included rhino paintings/footprints, American Association of Zoo Keepers chapter's BFR (bowling for rhinos) t-shirts, wooden carvings of rhinos and even an ostrich egg, just to name a few.

We are looking to upgrade our auction and raffle items, and to do this we need your help!

While rhino paintings and footprints are amazing and the BFR t-shirts supportive, they have made up the majority of our silent auction items and we would like to try to expand the variety of the items in which to bid on.

We would like to challenge you to make this silent auction and raffle the best yet! We are looking for more unique items, hand crafted items, or cool rhino items that might not be so mainstream. To help you all out with getting these donations, IRKA has put together a donation letter (see attachment) for you to give your potential donors, which explains who we are and why we are raising money for IRKA. In case you did not know, all of the money raised from the silent auction and raffle are given to the next hosting institution for help in funding the next Rhino Keeper Workshop. This money is crucial in the budget and planning of one of our largest events.

In an effort to be more organized for the silent auction and raffle, the fundraising committee would be most grateful, if, once you have secured your donation you could send us an email with the following information:

1. What the item is that you will be bringing
2. The value of the item
3. Who the donor is (so that we can recognize and send a thank you letter to them, and if eligible, a tax receipt)
4. Any relevant information
5. A photo of the item (if possible)

Not going to the workshop, but still want to contribute? Contact us and we can work out a method of getting your item(s) to Denver.

If you have any questions, or need some help with ideas for items or how to go about getting an item donated, please contact Angie Snowie (iheartrhinos@gmail.com) or Christine Bobko (cbobko@denverzoo.org). We will be glad to help you out.

Some ideas to get you started:

- *Visit a craft show (you never know what handmade treasures you might find)
- *Check out ETSY - lots of rhino finds and artisans are often eager to help a good cause
- *Head to the mall - retailers are hard to get donations from, but certain companies, like LUSH are very generous and are looking for a good cause to support.
- *Know any family or friends (or yourself) who are crafty/artists? Ask them for a donation of their work - they might commission something special for you
- *Check your Zoo's gift shop - they might have something really unique!

Good luck everyone! We cannot wait to see the amazing items you are able to get donated!

Sincerely,

IRKA Fundraising Committee

Some items we already have for auction:

- ◆ Artisan crafted sterling silver rhino / hippo necklace
- ◆ Rhino Canvas tote and wallet set
- ◆ Colors for Conservation handmade rhino artwork
- ◆ Rhino Kitchen towels
- ◆ Harmony Kingdom GOH and Javan rhino figurines
- ◆ Rhino cocktail glasses
- ◆ Original oil paintings of black and white rhinos



Climbing For Rhinos– Dave Johnson, Katie Adamson Conservation Fund

On August 12th, at the end of the grand IRKA conference here in Denver, we will be ascending a local mountain to gain attention to our cause in protecting the Earth's rhino population. This is our continuing pursuit for fundraising and exposure with what we call "Climbing for Rhinos". Through the Katie Adamson Conservation Fund we have climbed many peaks, including Kilimanjaro last year, and are now building a wildlife vet hospital and rhino orphanage in Nepal. We have donated \$35,000 to this major initiative since we started these trips with Team Nepalorado back in 2010.

We are hoping that some of you may want to join us on the climb of Mt. Bierstadt. At over 14,000 feet it is quite the feat to be on top of the world here in Colorado. After acclimating to our altitude all week, you should be ready to head up with us and not be as effected later in the week. You will need to dress warmly in layers and stay very hydrated to combat altitude sickness. We can get donated mountain clothes for any who want to attend, so you don't have to pack too much for your visit. Just let us know your sizes after you register.

Looks like we have many local people who want to climb again, and we are hoping each climber can come up with \$100 worth of donations for his or her own ascent. We are partnering with the local Kia dealership to continue the Melissa McCarthy rhino conservation commercials and everyone will get a shirt who goes up with us. I'm hoping to leave around 5:00 a.m. that Saturday morning and caravan and carpool up with about 20 of us. After we come back down we all get to ride on the local Georgetown Loop Railroad for free. They are donating tickets to our event. We may have some local media coverage on us as well, so look pretty!

Nobody is required to finish the climb, it's the team spirit that counts. Many people turn around every attempt to go back down and celebrate our efforts. If you cannot summit by noon we turn you around anyway to avoid the summer thunderstorms.

Please consider joining our team, or let your zoo know and have them or your local AAZK chapter sponsor a climber for rhinos! Please reach out to Dave Johnson at rhinokeeperdave@gmail.com if you have any questions or concerns.



2017 New and Renewing Members to IRKA

Kim Anicito
Brandon McDermed
Julia McKay
Megan Cooper
Arief Rubianto
Vickie Steele
Koki Mure
Patrick Fountain
Joseph Hauser
Kathleen Suthard
Amber Berndt
Brent Atkinson
Katie Tordsen
Chad Harmon
Ray Hren

Ariel Bailey
Kim Caldwell
Kelly Ann Brown
Ethan Anderson
Jamie Newsom
Bill Smith
Kim Morrell
Stephanie Richmond
Christine Stephan
Sara Shanahan
Karen Stiven

Institutional Supporters

The Wilds
Columbus Zoo
Tulsa Zoo & Living Museum
Lowry Park Zoo
International Rhino Foundation
Jacksonville Zoo
Austin Savanna
Fossil Rim Wildlife Center
Brian Caldwell– Hyland Way Productions
Taronga Zoo and Taronga Western Plains Zoo
Henry Vilas Zoo
African Lion Safari
Cincinnati Zoo

White Oak
Tanganyika Wildlife Park
The Maryland Zoo
Rhino Resource Center
Horns and Heroes Project
San Diego Zoological Society
Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
Denver Zoo

IRKA Board Candidates

Hopefully, you all voted for BOD positions!!!! We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to Sean Ramsdell, Election Chair for all his hard working in compiling the biographies of our candidates, and producing a quick and simple voting process!! Thank you to all of our candidates this year! Please take a moment to get to know these hardworking and passionate individuals that help make IRKA a great organization.

Amber Berndt, Indianapolis Zoo
Clarice Brewer, White Oak Conservation
Joe Hauser, Buffalo Zoo
Janel Jankowski, Jacksonville Zoo
Christy Nitz, Disney's Animal Kingdom
Todd Schwenk, San Diego Zoo Safari Park
Mandy Siegel, Maryland Zoo
Christopher Tubbs, San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research

Amber Berndt

Indianapolis Zoo—Senior Plains Keeper



I have been a professional member of the International Rhino Keeper Association for the past 10 years and attend the biannual workshops. I represented the Indianapolis Zoo in 2013 by presenting a facility focus in San Diego and will be presenting information about the artificial insemination research we have accomplished at the workshop in Denver this year. I am also on the board to help plan the national AAZK conference to be held in Indianapolis in 2019.

I am so grateful to have learned so much invaluable information while being a member of the IRKA and want to be able to be part of the continued success of this great organization. I have a lot of experience and education I can offer from working with rhinos for over 13 years. The leadership roles I have held and currently hold have also helped to prepare me to have the skills to be on the IRKA board. I am an extremely dedicated and passionate keeper, educator and advocate for rhinos and am always looking for ways I can do more for the species, which is why I would love to be a member of the International Rhino Keeper Association Board of

Directors.

Clarice Brewster

White Oak Conservation– Lead Rhino Keeper



What specific qualifications would you bring to the Board of Directors?

I bring a strong work ethic, dedication and fresh perspective! I pride myself on thinking outside the box and strongly feel that despite being relatively new to the IRKA community, I will be a great addition to the board. Although I have only been involved in IRKA for a few years, I have felt welcomed with open arms and am excited to continue developing the membership and welcoming the next generation of rhino keepers! I am also a member of the Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders class of 2017-2018, which I think has the potential to provide for some great connections for IRKA. I am currently learning all aspects of starting a conservation initiative, including applying for many grants. I think that these newfound skills could be very helpful to the BOD.



Joe Hauser

Buffalo Zoo– Hoofstock Team Leader

I have been on the International Rhino Keeper Association's Board of Directors since 2014. Since then I have been the chairman for the Keeper Professional Development Program, Rhino Keeper Workshop Scholarship committee chairman, Keeper Professional Development Scholarship chairman, and Training committee chairman. I founded the IRKA's Training committee in 2013. I have participated in the Keeper Professional Development Program at the Cincinnati Zoo Botanical Gardens in 2014 and at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park in 2016.

Why do you want to be a part of the IRKA Board?

I would like to be able to continue to serve on the board to help members of the IRKA get the most out of this great organization. The IRKA offers many opportunities to help its members grow and succeed as rhino care professionals and I would like to make those opportunities easily accessible. It is an honor to work along side some of the best and together we can accomplish many things. I would like to add more opportunities that the members can take part in to help spread the education of rhino management as well as contributing to conservation projects.



Janel Jankowski

Jacksonville Zoo and Garden– Senior Mammal Keeper

Why do you want to be part of the IRKA Board?

I would love to be a part of an organization that is making a difference in the world. An organization, like IRKA, that is working to unite rhino keepers around the world for the common goal of improving rhino husbandry, educating the public, and fighting to end wildlife poaching.

What specific qualifications would you bring to the Board of Directors?

I am used to being a team player and working with others towards achieving a common goal. I played sports for 12 years and I understand the value of being selfless in order for the group as a whole to succeed. I have been on several training and enrichment committees at my institution. I have also been a part of Jacksonville AAZK for the last six years, have been several different officer positions, and am currently serving as chapter president. I have helped with Jacksonville AAZK Bowling for Rhinos fundraiser planning committees the past four years. Over this time we have been able to increase our yearly event totals from \$7,000 four years ago to over \$18,000 the past two years.



Christy Nitz

Disney's Animal Kingdom– Animal Keeper III

Why do you want to be part of the IRKA Board?

I would be honored to be part of a dedicated group of people who strive for the very best in rhino management. I believe IRKA offers a wealth of information for new and experienced keepers and I would love to help continue to grow the organization with my passion and the knowledge I have gained through my 9.5 years of experience in rhino management. Having a place to share my knowledge with fellow rhino keepers and learn from each other is an amazing opportunity that I hope to be a part of. I believe I can further develop this organization with my rhino experience, getting new keepers involved as well as learning from the experience that already exists within this group.

What specific qualifications would you bring to the Board of Directors?

I have experience starting a non profit, 501c4 organization and sat on the board of directors as secretary for 4 years. I have experience in organizing events, fundraisers and helping grow the organization. My dedication, drive and determination will help this organization accomplish the goals we will set each year.



Todd Schwenk

San Diego Zoo Safari Park– Keeper

Why do you want to be part of the IRKA Board?

I believe I can help further the goals of the organization to educate to improve the lives of captive and wild rhinos around the world.

I began my career in 1998 at the Saginaw Children's Zoo in Michigan. The first animals I cared for were capuchin monkeys, and I thought I would be a primate keeper forever. I moved to Binder Park Zoo (also in Michigan) and was introduced to hoofstock in a large multi species open plains setting. I also worked with primates and carnivores there, but the hooved mammals were growing on me. After a time working as a vet tech at a small animal hospital, I returned to the zoo business to work with giraffes, zebras, camels, and black rhinos at the Racine Zoo in Wisconsin. That is when rhinos took hold on my heart.

Today, while I miss my pair of black rhinos back in Wisconsin, I am lucky enough work with six amazing southern white rhinos in the Rhino Rescue Center at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. With the goal of literally saving a species of rhino from extinction, I feel like I'm finally where I need to be. However, I'm inspired to do more to help ensure rhinos remain on this planet to be cared for and protected by my children and grandchildren.

Mandy Siegel

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore – Animal Keeper: African Watering Hole / Polar Bear Watch

Why do you want to be part of the IRKA Board?

I have found the IRKA to be such a welcoming and supportive group of professionals. Connecting with other members and seeing the great work that everyone is doing is such a huge motivator to keep this field moving forward. In playing a larger role in this organization, I would be able to contribute to the growth and success of our devoted community. I welcome the opportunity to push myself to come up with new ideas to best meet the needs of rhinos in and ex situ, as well as the keepers that dedicate their lives to these animals.

What specific qualifications would you bring to the Board of Directors?

One of my best qualities is my need to always keep moving forward. I strive to take everything a step further and I would love to apply this drive and ambition to IRKA initiatives. I value communication with other professionals, and this is an aspect of the position that I would take very seriously. I do have experience with fundraising and event planning through AAZK/Bowling for Rhinos. I would consider myself to be adaptable and I am not afraid to take on unfamiliar tasks. I am confident that I can use my resources to achieve any given goal.



Christopher Tubbs

San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research – Senior Scientist

Why do you want to be part of the IRKA Board?

As part of our research investigating the role of chemicals called phytoestrogens in the poor fertility of southern white rhinos, we surveyed diets from nine North American zoological institutions. This would not have been possible without the help of the IRKA and its members, who graciously collected and such a huge motivator to keep this field moving forward. In playing a larger role in this organization, I would be able to contribute to the growth and success of our devoted community. I welcome the opportunity to push myself to come up with new ideas to best meet the needs of rhinos in and ex situ, as well as the keepers that dedicate their lives to these animals.

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International Rhino Keeper Association 10th Biennial Rhino Keeper Workshop



August 6-10th 2017

INTERNATIONAL
Rhino Keeper Association's 10th biennial

**RHINO KEEPER
WORKSHOP**

August 7-11, 2017
Hosted by
Denver Zoo

Topics to include:
assisted reproduction
RPU enforcement
captive management
And a visit to the "Repository"

"Paraceratherium &
White Rhinoceros compared"
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<http://www.arcadiastreet.com>

"Where will we be in 100 years?"
[Go to rhinokeeperassociation.org](http://rhinokeeperassociation.org) for more details on pre and post trips



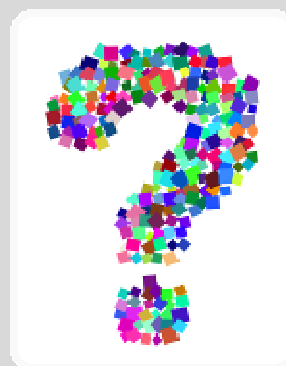
New IRKA Logo: Jane Kennedy

Hi everyone! As the IRKA grows we on the board have seen the need to consider a change to our logo. When we first voted on our present logo we didn't consider its reproducibility to market it to help our organization. Our logo is actually 7 different shades and is quite difficult to reproduce. To that end the board has voted to consider a new logo.

This time around we found 3 different choices for you, along with our original. The best way for these to be marketed is in a 2 color format, black and white, but any color combination is possible for each logo. Since this is an advisory vote to the board, all members will be eligible to vote, professionals, supporting professionals and associate members.

Watch for an email very soon about the choices. Since the vote is an advisory, the board has final say and will decide if there is a tie per our bylaws. We hope to unveil the logo at the workshop! Thank you for helping make the IRKA the best it can be.

Jane





2017 IRKA Rhino Keeper Workshop Update and Information

10th Biennial Rhino Keeper Workshop (RKW)

August 5th-12th, 2017

Hosted by Denver Zoo

Please email Sara.Wunder@BuschGardens.com for more information!

Also, look for the Closed Group on Facebook, '2017 Pre & Post Rhino Keeper Workshop Trips'.

(Note: All Pre & Post Trips will have limited capacities! You are welcome to find your own transportation if needed.)

Pre RKW Trips:

Saturday, August 5th- Dinosaur Ridge Tour & Hike at Red Rocks Amphitheater

(limited capacity of < 20 people) *Still have 8 spots available!*

Dinosaur Ridge is a local hiking area that offers very low cost access & tours. It features fossil remains including those of extinct rhino species.

<http://www.dinoridge.org/>

<http://redrocksonline.com/the-park/recreation>

August 6th- Registration & Ice Breaker

August 7th- 10th- Rhino Keeper Workshop

Held at the Renaissance Denver Stapleton Hotel

(Book your rooms here too!)

Post RKW Trips:

Friday, August 11th- Cheyenne Mountain Zoo (Filled trip)

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo features the largest herd of giraffe in North America, houses a black rhino, & features many species of interest.

<http://www.cmzoo.org/>

Saturday, August 12th- Pikes Peak Cog Incline Railroad **(still have 10 spots available)**

Pike's Peak is one of the most beautiful regions in North America. It features Pike's Peak at 14,115 feet. The Cog Railway winds up the mountain offering one of a kind view of the Rocky Mountains region. The trip will include admission to the Cog Railway & transportation.

Trip is 1:20-4:30pm. Transportation leaves hotel at 11am.

<http://cograilway.com/>

<http://dayhikesneardenver.com/mt-bierstadt-trail-on-guanella-pass/>

OR (Cannot do both!)

Saturday, August 12th- "Climbing for Rhinos"-Climb to the top of Mt. Bierstadt for RHINOS!

(still have 13 spots available)

Mount Bierstadt is a fourteener in Colorado. Fourteeners are mountains with at least 14,000 feet of elevation at their summit. Bierstadt is a great mountain to start on for those that are new to hiking fourteeners. It is still strenuous on beginner hikers, but manageable if you pace yourself. It is highly recommended to prepare yourself physically before attempting any fourteener, plus getting in shape beforehand will make the experience that much more enjoyable. Conquer a fourteener! Funds will go to Nepal- Chitwan National Park to complete their vet hospital that handles

hand raising orphaned Greater One-Horned Rhinos. Email Christine Bobko rhinoqueen@yahoo.com

<http://www.hikingincolorado.org/bier.html>

If you would like to join one of these trips with the exclusion of Cheyenne Mountain Zoo which is filled, please contact Christine Bobko: cbobko@denverzoo.org

“Rhino Buddies”

Sponsor an IRKA Professional Membership for an International Rhino Keeper!

The International Rhino Keeper Association is based in North America. Membership dues are based on American costs of living and English is our primary language. The brain child of our past president Adam Felts, the Rhino Buddies program helps our international colleagues be part of the association. Those members who can afford to sponsor an out of country member pay the annual dues for another, paying forward to anyone who would like to be a "Rhino Buddy." Members are paired and then establish an electronic connection, developing each other's skills as rhino caretakers and growing a friendship in the process.

We invite you to either be a recipient or a sponsor. We will pair you with an international rhino caretaker and get the ball rolling. There is an easy to fill out form for each position. You can also request someone you already know, and we can pair you as Rhino Buddies and let you take it from there. If you are interested in connecting with someone outside of your country please contact me and we will connect you with someone who will help you develop your rhino knowledge, and you help develop theirs. We will try to connect like minded members, meaning a professional will connect with a professional, a supporting professional will connect with a supporting professional, and an associate member will connect with an associate member. Exceptions to this rule can be requested when Rhino Buddies already know each other. For more information contact me at jkennedy@sandiegozoo.org or janeknedy_rka@cox.net.

I hope you consider becoming a rhino buddy, helping to expand our membership and better serve our charges, the rhinos *Note: Please be aware that English may not be your sponsored Rhino Keeper's first language! If you do speak a language other than English, please let us know. Otherwise, please be understanding of the language barriers and remember- you are both share a passion for RHINOS!

Jane Kennedy

President, IRKA Learn. Share. Save



Correspondence Updates:

The IRKA send our congratulations and celebrate with the following institutions:

Births:

Female black rhino at Taronga Western Plains .

Male black rhino "Moyo" at St. Louis Zoo.

Female white rhino at San Diego Safari Park.

Transfers:

Potter Park Zoo received "Phineus" a male black rhino from Caldwell Zoo.

Little Rock Zoo received "Andazi" a female black rhino from Zoo Atlanta.

Henry Villas Zoo received "Harmon" a male white rhino from Disney's Animal Kingdom.



The IRKA sends our thoughts and sympathy to the following institutions:

San Francisco Zoo for "Elly" a female black rhino.

Rolling Hills Zoo for "Milly" a female white rhino.



Institutional Supporters

The Supporting Institutional Membership is for any conservation organization, or zoological institution which supports rhino conservation in accordance with the objectives and purpose of the IRKA. These memberships are available for \$100, \$500 and \$2000. Why should your zoo be interested in joining on this level? If your institution contributes on the \$500 level then all rhino keepers membership fees at your zoo are waived! It is important that as the IRKA grows that we continue to garner the support from all facilities that are responsible for the protection and management of all species of rhinoceros. We would like to extend our appreciation for this substantial support to the following institutions, and hopefully we can add your zoo to this growing list! If you have questions about institutional memberships or any other questions please contact us at

internationalrhinokeeperassoc@gmail.com.

Partners



2017 Sponsors at \$1,500 and Above

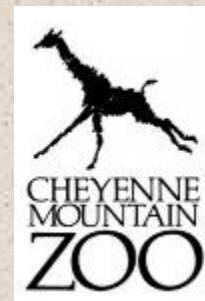
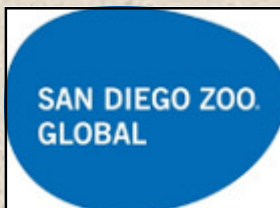
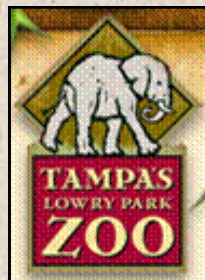


Tom Foose Memorial Scholarship Program Sponsor

Dr. Don Paglia

UCLA Hematology Society

2017 Sponsors at the \$500—\$1,999 level



2017 Sponsors at \$100 level

