Back-to-School Experience, 11:00 – 11:45, McClelland Park Room 105

Last October, Dr. Dieter and Netzin Steklis celebrated the culmination of more than 15 years of field research with an event hosted by the Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth, and Families. The event, entitled “Gorillas in Our Midst: What Titus Can Teach Us about Fatherhood,” summarized their research on whether human father-child relationships apply to our closest relatives in nature: the great apes.

In collaboration with friends at the Norton School and Frances McClelland Institute, they are establishing a new study abroad opportunity, Primate Family Systems Field School, scheduled to begin in summer 2011. This four-week field program will be based in Rwanda, Africa and promotes a strong interdisciplinary and comparative approach to primate family systems; combining perspectives from evolutionary biology, psychology, anthropology, and human development. Students will observe gorilla families and golden monkeys on the slopes of the extinct Virunga volcanoes, follow groups of chimpanzees, black and white colobus and guenon monkeys in an afro-alpine jungle, and go on Safari to watch wildlife and study troops of baboons and vervet monkeys in a savanna setting.