



CVB News

30 Years of Stony Brook Study Abroad



Sahoby Randriamahaleo, Head of Research and Conservation for Madagascar's Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, revisits CVB for the first time since his study abroad program in 2003. Photo Courtesy of Johanna Mitra

This year, we are exceptionally proud to celebrate 30 years of the Stony Brook University Study Abroad program! Since the very first Fall session in 1993, held in the old research cabins of Ranomafana National Park, Centre ValBio has welcomed undergraduates and graduate students from all backgrounds and universities in Madagascar and abroad to conduct research and experience life alongside the rainforest's incredible biodiversity. In 2003, we hosted the first Fall program on CVB's newly built campus and since then, the program has attracted hundreds of students across 18 majors, including engineering, journalism, linguistics, political science, health sciences, sustainability studies, and environmental science. Read below to hear reflections from past and present participants on what the experience has meant for them and where it's taken them since

Find out more

Dr. Patricia Wright Teams up with Bachelor in Paradise Stars for Conservation



Earlier this month, we were thrilled to partake in an online project by Blake Moynes and Kendall Long, previous contestants on the hit reality series Bachelor in Paradise, to educate and raise awareness of critically-endangered lemurs. Moynes, a wildlife manager, and Long, a science enthusiast, are known for their passion for nature and conservation. They took to social media to share moments of their trip with viewers worldwide, including learning about Ranomafana

National Park with Dr. Patricia Wright, setting up traps with our mouse lemur technicians, and visiting the local nature center in town. Stay tuned for their upcoming documentary, and in the meantime, you can catch up with their trip through Madagascar on Instagram at @itskendalllong and @blakemoynes!

Celebrating Emerging Conservationist Fanny M. Cornejo

On September 27th, the Indianapolis Prize Gala was held to honor and celebrate this year's prize-winning conservationists and finalists. Among them was Fanny M. Cornejo—Peruvian primatologist, co-founder of the conservation organization Yunkawasi, and graduate student of Dr. Patricia Wright. Fanny was awarded the 2023 Emerging Conservationist Award for her tireless work protecting Peruvian endangered wildlife, including the critically-endangered yellow-tailed woolly monkey. Fanny previously spent time in Ranomafana studying black-and-white ruffed lemurs. We are incredibly proud of her and her accomplishments. Big congratulations to all the winners and finalists!



Watch the award ceremony here



It's our favorite day of the year—World Lemur Day! Today is an opportunity to celebrate these incredible animals, recognize their importance to Madagascar's ecosystems, and take action to help the most endangered primate group in the world; 103 of 107 lemur species are threatened with extinction. We are proud to have been working for the conservation of lemurs in Ranomafana National Park and across Madagascar for over 35 years through long-term research, capacity building, and environmental education. Today, we ask for your support in protecting these unique and imperiled species. Your contribution to CVB will directly fund critical lemur research and ongoing conservation projects in Ranomafana National Park. Click here to learn more about our work.

And thanks to the Lemur Conservation Network, there are loads of ways to celebrate World Lemur Day from wherever you are! Be sure to check out their teaching resources and lemur art.

Help CVB protect Ranomafana's lemurs

World Lemur Day Banner courtesy of Jessie Kwok (@jessie_palette on Instagram)

Reflections from Fulbrighter Sydney VanWinkle



Photo courtesy of Alba Schielen

Sydney VanWinkle has spent the past nine months at CVB conducting her research project "Determining the Socio-Ecological Impact of Field Station Conservation Initiatives" through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. Read below for her discoveries and thoughts on the experience

Your project focused on evaluating the impact of CVB's Conservation Club on the local communities in Ranomafana. What were some of your findings?

"In general, we found there is a positive, long-lasting impact of the CC program even in villages where the program is no longer active. In several cases, projects implemented through the CC program were still underway in local communities, even if they hadn't participated in the program in several years. We also looked at which project types were most/least successful, barriers communities faced when implementing projects, and we collected feedback about overall participation in the CC program. We are working toward publishing these findings in a peer reviewed paper so be on the lookout!"

What do you see as some ways that the Conservation Club program can maximize its short and long-term impacts, based on what you found?

"In order to maximize project impacts, evaluation is crucial. In that respect, I think that this study is a great starting point for future evaluations of the CC program or other CVB programs. Based on our findings we have a few specific recommendations that the CC program may consider, including recommendations directly from participants. We are working toward compiling these pragmatic aspects in a white paper in addition to our peer reviewed publication."

Across all your site visits & interviews over the last nine months, what is something that really stuck out to you?

"The most memorable part of my work has been all of the people I was able to work with along the way. Working with the Education Department at CVB was incredible and I am so grateful for the time, stories and insight shared from each participant of the CC program. I really hope that this work can serve as a starting point for similar work in the future!"

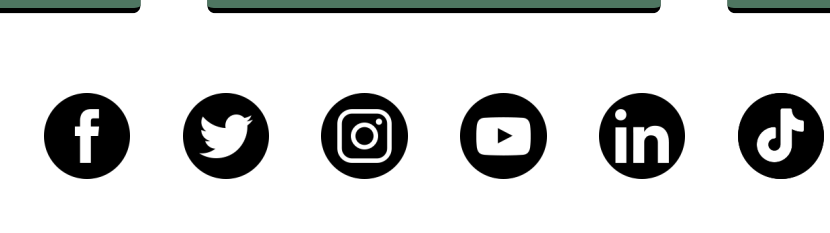
CVB Researchers in the News

Dr. Sarah Zohdy's work with the CDC was recently featured in the New York Times: "An Invasive Mosquito Threatens Catastrophe in Africa"

Fanny M. Cornejo didn't just win the Emerging Conservationist Award this year—she was featured on the cover of Forbes Perú as one of the "50 most powerful women in Perú" Check it out here!



- Give to CVB, Study Abroad at CVB, 2022 Annual Report



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