



EMERITUS NO. 197 February 2017

An occasional newsletter for the Emeritus Faculty Association

*Chair: Robert Kerber, email: robert.kerber@stonybrook.edu Contact
in the Provost's Office: Alison Gibbons, 632-7002, e-mail:
alison.gibbons@stonybrook.edu*

Emeritus Faculty Association News February 2017

Next Meeting: Friday, February 3rd at 11 a.m. in the Chemistry building, room 412. Our guest speaker will be Carl Safina and his presentation will be titled "Beyond Words: How Elephants, Wolves, and Killer Whales Think and Feel."

Bio: Carl Safina's work has been recognized with MacArthur, Pew, and Guggenheim Fellowships, and his writing has won Orion, Lannan, and National Academies literary awards and the John Burroughs, James Beard, and George Rabb medals. He has a PhD in ecology from Rutgers University. Safina is the inaugural holder of the endowed chair for nature and humanity at Stony Brook University, where he co-chairs the steering committee of the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science at Stony Brook, and is founding president of the not-for-profit organization, The Safina Center. He hosted the 10-part PBS series Saving the Ocean with Carl Safina. His writing appears in The New York Times, Audubon, Orion, and other periodicals and on the Web at National Geographic News and Views, Huffington Post, and CNN.com. He lives in Setauket with his wife Patricia, the two best beach-running dogs in the world, some chickens, a couple of parrots, and Frankie the kingsnake.

Abstract: Consciousness, self-awareness, empathy, non-verbal communication, imitation, teaching, grief—. Many animals think and feel a lot like people do; after all, people are animals. Carl Safina shows that in some surprising ways non-human minds aren't really too different from ours. They know who their friends are. They know who their enemies are. They have ambitions for status, and their lives follow

the arc of a career. Relationships define them, as relationships define us.

DARWIN DAY

February 10: Hopi Hoekstra

What Darwin Didn't Know

[Hopi Hoekstra](#) is the Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology and Curator of Mammals in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University. She became a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator in 2013, and in 2016, she was elected into the National Academy of Sciences. Hoekstra is an evolutionary geneticist who studies the molecular basis of adaptation in deer mice. Her research focuses on understanding how variation is generated and maintained in natural populations. In particular, she is interested in understanding both the proximate (molecular, genetic and developmental mechanisms) and ultimate (timing, strength and agent of selection) causes of evolutionary change. Thus, much of her research focuses on identifying and characterizing the molecular changes responsible for traits that affect fitness of organisms in the wild, in which ecological, developmental and genomic information can be combined to address questions about the evolution of morphological, behavioral and reproductive diversity.

Darwin Day is supported by the Department of Ecology and Evolution and the Living World Lecture Series of Science Open Nights.

Abstract: When Darwin articulated his grand theory of evolution by natural selection in 1859, he was still missing one crucial piece: while he recognized that offspring resembled their parents, he didn't know how this information was transmitted from one generation to the next. In the last 150 years, not only has DNA been discovered as the carrier of genetic information, but we are increasingly able to link specific genes to the traits that they encode. Now, we can study how traits evolve – as Darwin did – but also find evidence for evolution at a once unimaginable level: in DNA, genes and genomes. This presentation will explore Hoekstra's work studying evolution in action – by combining experiments in both the lab and the field – linking genes to traits and ultimately to survival.

Friday, February 10, 7:30 pm, Earth and Space Sciences Lecture Theater 001

If you would like receive your copy of the newsletter via email instead of snail mail please send your name, address, and current email address to **Alison Gibbons** at: alison.gibbons@stonybrook.edu

Visit our website: To visit our website, go to the University website at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/emeritus/index.html>.

It always contains the latest emeritus news (click on "Next Meeting"), a list of members' email addresses, a list of officers, newsletter archives and many other useful links.

