

MOUNTAIN GORILLA EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTS LIBRARIES' WILDLIFE CONSERVATION MANUSCRIPTS

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Dr. Heather Campbell donated the Bob Campbell Papers to the George A. Smathers Libraries in 2015. Campbell's best-known images brought international recognition to Dian Fossey and her mountain gorilla research at Rwanda's Karisoke Research Center in a January, 1970 *National Geographic* cover story. To commemorate Karisoke's 50th anniversary in September 2017, co-curators Dan Reboussin and Richard Freeman, with graduate student Riley Ravary, teamed up to exhibit "Bob Campbell's Photographs of Dian Fossey's Karisoke Research Center, 1968-1972." The exhibit is also available online.



a Sunbird from the audio, explaining "I can find no song recordings of *Nectarinia stublmanni graueri* in the three main online catalogs of bird sound recordings (British Museum, Macaulay Library at Cornell, and xeno-canto.org)." Campbell's recording now represents this bird's song in an open access database used by field biologists, while citing the full-length recording in UF Digital Collections.

Online access to such extraordinary resources has attracted unusual attention. Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International staff sought a recording of "The Mountain Gorilla," Fossey's 1973 lecture to the *National Geographic Society*. Editors at *National Geographic Magazine* contacted our Special and Area Studies Collections Department to arrange publication of several Campbell photographs for their September 2017 issue. We also permitted British producer *Tigress* to feature Campbell's images in a 3-part *National Geographic Channel* special produced by James Marsh (*Man on Wire*) and narrated by Sigourney Weaver. *Dian Fossey: Secrets in*

the Mist premiered in 171 countries and 45 languages on December 6, 2017.

Also on December 6th, Smathers Libraries with UF co-sponsors the Biodiversity Institute, Wildlife Ecology & Conservation, Department of Anthropology, Florida Museum of Natural History, Tropical Conservation & Development program, Land Use and Environmental Change Institute, Center for African Studies, and International Center hosted Dr. Tara Stoinski, current President, CEO and Chief Scientific Officer for the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, and David Watts, Professor of Anthropology at Yale University to present on conservation efforts at Karisoke since Fossey's death in 1985. Watts was Karisoke Research Center director 1986-1987.

These preeminent primatologists' perspectives on mountain gorilla conservation since the early days of Fossey's research highlighted innovative programs to benefit Rwandan communities. Incorporating Campbell's materials into the Libraries' outreach program supports collection accessibility, their use for teaching, research, and ultimately may support improvements in community conservation efforts that are our best chance to secure the survival of the critically endangered mountain gorillas of Rwanda's Virunga Mountains.

Daniel Reboussin is the African Studies curator at the George A. Smathers Libraries. African Studies material collections and digital projects are supported by the CAS Title VI grant in collaboration with the UF Libraries.