

Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”

	2019. 04, 25
Affiliation/Positio	Primate Research Institute D3/L5
Name	Josue Alejandro Pastrana

1. Country/location of visit
Oregon National Primate Research Center, Oregon, USA/Caribbean Primate Research Center/Cayo Santiago, PR
2. Research project
Visit to two Primate Centers- Cayo Santiago Island- EDP University give talks, collaborate with counterparts.
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2019. 03. 18 – 2019. 03. 28 (10 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Dr. Coleman, Professor at Oregon Primate Center, OHSU-Dr. Bercovitch/Dr. Ruiz, Colony Mgr-Cayo Santiago
5. Progress and results of your research/activity (You can attach extra pages if needed)
Please insert one or more pictures (to be publicly released). Below each picture, please provide a brief description.
<p>Last month, my colleague Nelson and I, had the opportunity to travel to meet one of our supervisors, Fred Bercovitch, visit primate centers for collaborative work, as well as presenting some of our research projects in various venues with different kinds of audiences. Our trip started with a visit to the Oregon National Primate Research Center (ONPRC) located in Beaverton (USA), one of the 7 National Institutes of Health funded research institutions in the United States. After a meeting with our supervisor in the Columbia River Gorge on the day of our arrival, we were greeted at ONPRC by Dr. Kristine Coleman, in charge of the behavioral management at the center. After a tour of the facilities, we proceeded to give our talks in the conference room to the Behavioral Services Unit team. We received many questions and much appreciated feedback. My personal interest in visiting my old co-workers at the ONPRC was to discuss the differences in memorial ceremonies that are held yearly for the animals lost during that year for research or research support. At the ONPRC, a ceremony takes place by the Memorial Pond and it gives a space for workers to express their sentiment to animals they have lost that they had a special bond with or a space to grieve. Some workers have opted to express their emotional responses to losing animals by creating art work that is exhibited by the pond for others to see. I find it very interesting to see the cultural differences between primate centers around the world and what they mean to staff that create special bonds with animals compared to those that do not. After our visit to the primate center, we were given a tour of the Oregon Health and Science University from Lauren Latocki from the Comprehensive Pain Center, where we boarded a funicular from the Willamette River to the main campus of the hospital, where we could observe the different facilities of the university. For our final day we had planned to visit the Oregon Zoo; unfortunately, due to poor weather conditions, which the Northwest is famous for, we decided instead to take a tour by car of the Washington Park and Willamette Valley evergreen hills with our supervisor Fred Bercovitch. The next day we continued to the next part of our trip where we went to the Caribbean Primate Research Center, University of Puerto Rico. Since we arrived on a weekend, we decided to visit El Yunque rainforest in the town of Luquillo. As it is expected of a rain forest, it was raining and cloudy at the top, but we were able to reach one of the observational towers and once we left the rain forest, we headed to observe the sunset at the foothills of the mountain range by the beach. On our first day, we were invited to give a talk at EDP University in the Biological Sciences Department, where most of our audience were biology, pharmaceutical and nursing students from Cuba who attend the university, as well as professors and staff. The following day we spent our day for a visit to Cayo Santiago, an island off the coast of Humacao where rhesus macaques have been kept and studied since 1938. It was surprising visit to go to the island and notice that after a year and a half after the devastating hurricane Maria, the vegetation had not returned, only in one part of the island where the rocks protected the vegetation from the strong winds. During our visit, we received a tour of the island by the colony manager Dr. Ruiz, and we saw the parts that were destroyed and are still being rebuilt. A new reforestation program is underway and on the day of our visit, a company from Colombia were in the process of the installation of a solar powered desalination plant to provide water for animals in the case of another hurricane in the future. It was a bitter-sweet experience seeing all the work that has been done yet all the work that still needs to be redone to build the facilities. On our last day, we gave our 3rd and final round of talks at the Caribbean Primate Research Center at Sabana Seca, where Cayo Santiago animals are brought for research support. We were welcomed by all staff at the conference room</p>

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with a formal lunch. From our 3 places where we talked, this one had the most questions since the attendees ranged from researchers, students, veterinarians, and husbandry staff. After our talks, we were given a tour of the facilities. Since it was our last day, we headed immediately to the Centro de Conservación de Manatíes de Puerto Rico (manatee conservation center) at the Universidad Interamericana de PR. At the site, we were able to go to a tour of the facility where outreach education, its conservation and sanctuary rescue facilities where they house manatees rescued from the neighboring coasts, from various species including *Chelonia mydas*, *Trichechus manatus*, *Pelecanus occidentalis* among others, some of the most endangered of the Sirenia order. It was a great experience not only to see the work they do but to see many young locals volunteering in helping with awareness on conservation issues regarding these endemic species.

I am extremely grateful to my supervisor Prof. Huffman for allowing me to go have this unique experience. Although my work with primates started in 2003 at CPRC, as a PWS student for the past few years, I realized during this trip that through the program I have grown and have been given a foundation in wildlife not necessarily only limited to primates, but also to conservation issues, other species, and how to use tools such as outreach for community awareness. I was amazed to see the island I grew up in with another set of eyes, share with old colleagues what I have learned so far, and how I am more appreciative of the natural wonders that surround us.

As always, I thank all professors and staff of the Leading Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science for their support and making this trip possible.

6. Others



First day with colleagues our supervisor at the Columbia River Gorge and visit to his house

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Visit to Cayo Santiago, where the island was completely destroyed by hurricane, is still being rebuilt.



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During our visit to the Caribbean Primate Research Center, giving talks and catching up with old colleagues.



Our visit to the Yunque rain forest and sunset at the beach on the weekend.

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Talks at EDP University in San Juan, Puerto Rico.



Visit and tour of the Manatee Conservation Center.

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Our visit to the Oregon Primate Center for our talks, Behavioral Services Unit team, and by the memorial ceremony pond for departed animals. Below artwork staff leaves for their special animals at the pond.



Farewell dinner with Fred and old colleagues from ONPRC, visit to Willamette Valley and OHSU Hospital

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