

Faculty Report

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Proposal title: The Development of a Field School in Methods in Ethnoprimateology in Sulawesi, Indonesia

Country/ies visited: Indonesia

Institution visited: Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), Bogor Agricultural University (IPB), Hasanuddin University (UNHAS), Haluoleo University (UNHALU), and Tadulako University (UNTAD)

Dates of travel: July 7th – August 5th, 2007

Number of student participants: 0

Previous IP proposals submitted and grants awarded (list titles, countries and dates): NA

Have all required reports been submitted? NA

Other funding for this activity available/applied for: NA

Proposal Abstract (75 word maximum):

The goal of this project is to develop a field school that will enable both undergraduate and graduate SDSU students interested in primatology, cultural anthropology, and conservation to gain research experience in an international setting. The project will be developed in coordination with the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) and a university in Sulawesi, Indonesia. Student activities will involve training in research methods, collaborative field projects with Indonesian university students, and family homestays.

Travel report:

I. Opening/overview of intentions/activity

The ultimate goal of this project is to develop a field school that will provide opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate students from SDSU to gain training and research experience in anthropological primatology. This project will therefore expand the breadth of opportunities currently available to students interested in anthropology. The primary student activities for this program will be training in primatological field methods and the use of those methods in their self-developed research projects. In addition to training in field methods, SDSU students will be exposed to, and more importantly, immersed in the language and culture of Sulawesi by being paired with Indonesian university students.

II. In preparation for the trip abroad

In order to prepare for this trip I exchanged a number of emails with my Indonesian colleagues informing them of my intentions and making plans to visit relevant field sites. I also consulted with two US colleagues who have experience conducting primatology field schools in Indonesia.

III. Upon arrival/specific activity

Upon my arrival in Indonesia I first visited with the head of foreign research department (Mr. Ruben) at the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) in Jakarta. I discussed my plan with Mr. Ruben and he advised me on the necessary procedures that would need to be followed to enable US students to participate in this project. I also met with Dr. Bambang Suryobroto, a professor in the Department of Biology at Bogor Agricultural University, and my primary collaborator in my recent research in Indonesia. Dr. Bambang informally agreed to facilitate the development of the field school and we discussed ways to include Indonesian university students.

In Sulawesi, I met with the Mr. Restu and Mr. Syafril, Chairs of the Forestry and Conservation Departments at Hasanuddin and Haluleo University in Makassar (South Sulawesi) and Kendari (Southeast Sulawesi), respectively. During these meetings, I explained the goal of the project and discussed ways to incorporate Indonesian students in the project. I envision being able to take on (i.e., financially support) one Sulawesi university student for each US student that I take. Both of the chairs were extremely excited about the prospect of this project and informally agreed to serve as collaborators.

After surveying a number of sites in Sulawesi, I decided that Bantimurung BuluSaruang National Park in South Sulawesi would be the most appropriate location for the field school. I met with the head of the National Park as well as a number of the forest rangers who work in the park and explained my plan for the program.

IV. Conclusion, recommendation, and next step?

I envision collaborating with the following institutions: Indonesian Institute of Sciences, Bogor Agricultural University, Hasanuddin University, Haluoleo University, and the

Office of the Bantimurung BuluSaruang National Park. Collaborations with these institutions will enable logistical support for the program.

Given the high undergraduate enrollment in primatology courses at SDSU, as well as increasing numbers of graduate applicants interested in primatology, I am confident that interest in an international field program in primatological methods will be high. Likewise, my colleagues in Indonesia ensure me that this program would expand field opportunities currently available to Indonesian university students.

The development of this field school program will benefit undergraduate as well as graduate students. The program will serve as an excellent complement to a number of the courses I teach in the Department of Anthropology, such as ANTH 301 (Principles of Physical Anthropology), ANTH 406 (The Nonhuman Primates) and ANTH 500 (a methods course in primate behavior held primarily at the San Diego Zoo). The program will also provide the structure and means for graduate students to collect data for their thesis projects.

The primary student activities for this program will be training in ethnoprimateology and primate ecology field methods (e.g., exercises in primate behavioral observation, habitat description, population censusing, and interviews with local villagers). Students will also be required to utilize these methods in their self-developed research projects, and present the results of their research at the end of the program. In addition, the inclusion of Indonesian university students in the program will facilitate an engaged, international learning environment for SDSU students.

I will serve as the primary instructor for the course. My Indonesian collaborators will give lectures on relevant topics throughout the program.

The next step is to develop a program plan (in both English and Indonesia) and secure Memorandums of Agreement from all Indonesian collaborators. This process will be facilitated by my gaining additional language training (i.e., focus on professional language) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia during the summer of 2008. Once the program plan is agreed upon, I then will need to appropriately advertise the program in order to attract interested students. Key avenues for dissemination include the development of program brochure and a web site (hosted through the web site of the Department of Anthropology). I envision being able to bring the first set of students during the summer of 2009.