Dear Friend of the Institute of Human Origins,

In this holiday season, IHO is thrilled to share our latest achievements and discoveries in human origins research. Our dedicated team of researchers continues to make groundbreaking contributions to our understanding of the past and future of our species.

### Awards and Recognition

- **Ellie Schier-Frye** appointed to the National Academy of Sciences, recognizing her significant contributions to the field of human evolution.
- **Steve Cifelli** named the first winner of the Zia Pharmaceuticals Early Career Researcher Award, highlighting his promising research in primatology.

### Education and Outreach

- **Central Park event** organized by the storied Metropolitan Club, offering a unique opportunity to engage with our research.
- **Kaye Reed Scholarship Endowment** launched, providing financial support for women pursuing careers in human origins science.

### Research and Discovery

- **Gombe Stream Preserve** visit led by Ian Gilby, offering a glimpse into chimpanzee behavior and ecology.
- **Molecular Biology and Evolution** course at ASU, attracting a diverse range of students and encouraging interdisciplinary research.

### IHO News

- **Zebulon Pearce Distinguished Teaching Award** presented to a faculty member, celebrating excellence in education.
- **African genetic heritage** research impacting our understanding of human evolution.

### Future Directions

- **Arizona State University's new science and technology building** set to house IHO, enabling continued growth and innovation.

Best wishes for the New Year,

William M. Kimbel, PhD
Director, Virginia M. Ullman Professor of Natural History

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**Institute of Human Origins**

Arizona State University

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**Changing the paradigm of human origins research**

From its founding by Don Johanson in 1981, the Institute of Human Origins has been at the forefront of research into our origins. Our mission is to understand how we became human and to inspire the next generation of scientists.

In recent years, we have seen the field of human origins expand in ways that could not have been imagined when IHO was established. From the discovery of Homo naledi in South Africa to the genetic mapping of modern humans, every year brings new insights into our past and challenges us to think beyond traditional approaches.

The Institute of Human Origins is uniquely positioned at the intersection of science and society. Through our research and outreach programs, we aim to connect the dots between scientific discoveries and the broader human experience. Our commitment to inclusivity and diversity ensures that our work is accessible to all, regardless of background.

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If you would like to support our work, consider a donation. Your contribution will help us continue our research and education efforts, and together we can advance our understanding of our origins.
The lab, a collaborative effort led by Chris Harris and Jacob Campisano, features cutting-edge research on the early hominins of Afar-region fossil sites in Ethiopia. The team's findings have shed light on the evolution of human ancestors in this region.

The lab is also engaged in research on coastal archaeological sites in South Africa. In collaboration with the National Museum of Scotland and the John Templeton Foundation, researchers are using high-resolution 3D imaging technology to study ancient artifacts and animal remains. This work allows access to archaeological records that are otherwise hidden from view.

In the Gombe Stream Research Center in Tanzania, a team of researchers, including postdoctoral researcher Alejandra Ortiz, is investigating how baboons “know” who the dominant males are and how they interact with others in their group. This research is shedding light on the evolution of human social behavior.

In Kenya, Sarah Mathew is leading a project about the evolution of cooperation among chimps and other animals. Her work is helping to understand the evolution of prosocial behavior in children, and how we evolved our extensive networks of non-kin cooperation.

In China, researchers are investigating how early modern humans on Earth and in Africa adapted to high-latitude environments. They found evidence of coastal archaeology along the coast of South Africa, which provides insights into the evolution of human societies.

This research is helping to understand how early modern humans adapted to different environments, and how they evolved the social and behavioral patterns that are unique to humans.