



Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

February 22, 2012

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu

**Malibu Rotary Club President of the Month David Baird
Malibu Rotary Club President of Record William Wishard**

Edited by Dr. John W. Elman

Pictures by Dr. John W. Elman, Warren Bobrow, Leslie Bauman and Lee Kats

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- **Last meeting Pepperdine Professor of Biology Lee Kats on Why Studying The Global Behavior of Frogs Makes a Difference to Humans**

- **This Tuesday Evening 7:00 pm in Pepperdine’s Stauffer Chapel: Annual Malibu Rotary Club Middle and High School Singing Competition**
- **Next Malibu Rotary Club Meeting will be special Club Assembly Meeting Wednesday, February 29th 11:30 a.m. at Giovanni’s Restaurant, 22235 PCH in Malibu. NO REGULAR MALIBU ROTARY CLUB MORNING MEETING THIS WEDNESDAY!**
- **Other News and Guests from Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting**
- **Malibu Rotary Club International Projects in Puerto Rico**
- **Malibu Rotary Club is [Official Sponsor of Smile Trek](#) (see postcard from Winston)**
- **Check [Calendar](#) on Malibu Rotary website MalibuRotary.org**
- **Malibu Rotary Club Website: www.MalibuRotary.org**
- **Rotary International Website: www.Rotary.org**
- **Rotary District 5280 Website: www.rotary5280la.org**
- **Rotary District 5280 “Rotarians Doing Business With Rotarians” Website: <http://yp5280.org/>**
- **[RI President \(2011-2012\)](#) Kalyan Banerjee**
- **Rotary District 5280 Governor (2011-2012): Brad Robinson**
- **Assistant Governor for Malibu Rotary Club: Kevin Smith**
- **Rotary District Newsletter—see it on Rotary District 5280 site or click [here](#)**

Pepperdine Professor of Biology Lee Kats on Why Studying The Global Behavior of Frogs Makes a Difference to Humans



Lee Kats Ph.D is Pepperdine Seaver College Professor of Biology, as well as Vice Provost For Research and Strategic Initiatives Associate Dean for Research Frank R. Seaver Chair of Natural Science. He has been the Frank R. Seaver Chair in Natural Science since 2000 and annually receives awards for the working he does.

Before I heard Dr Kats speak at a Malibu Rotary Club meeting in October, 2009, I never considered Pepperdine University a place where you would find people on the cutting edge of natural science. International relations, business, liberal arts, but natural science? Lee Kats added a new dimension to Pepperdine and put the University on the Natural

Science map.

His specialty in biology is amphibian ecology, as well as Conservation biology, Stream ecology Tropical forest ecology. What Dr. Kats shares with the rest of Pepperdine is the international experience which he (and the rest of Pepperdine) believes add to the learning experience and inspires to students to do more.

He said that when David Baird (our Malibu Rotary Club President of the Month) was Dean of Seaver College he pushed for international studies, and the sort of things that Dr. Kats was doing. Dr. Kats talked about “High Impact Learning.”

He believes that for a professor to just stand in front of the class and lecture will bore the students and put them to sleep. High impact learning involves hands on immersion into the subject of study. For Lee Kats, this means field trips to places ranging from local streams and mountains to Central American Tropical Range Forests in Costa Rica to swamps in Argentina in South America and undergraduate research labs on campus. He said that following his address at this Rotary meeting he will be going to his on campus lab where there will be 15 undergraduates students doing research projects for no unit credit, because there are excited about being there.

Professor Kats talked about biodiversity and human health. When there is a decrease in biodiversity, when there are fewer animals like birds of prey, and large mammals that feed on rodents, there is an increase in the population of the white footed mouse and ultimately an increase in Lyme Disease in people.

Dr. Kats points out that Pepperdine undergraduates engaged in creative scholarly and original work occurs in all disciplines of the college: Fine arts, business, religion, social science and humanities. This makes the students more competitive for national and international prestigious



awards such as Fulbright, Goldwater and Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships, and makes them more competitive for top graduate and professional schools. This occurs in the broad studies students do in Malibu and abroad.

But why study frogs? Does the behavior of frogs really matter to us?

Dr Kats put up slides of two news articles. One was from February 9, 1990 showing the picture of a frog and had the title “Where Have All the Frogs Gone.” The other was the cover of the October 16, 2008 *Newsweek* magazine showing a picture of the Harlequin frog with the title “Globe Warnings First Victim—Why Harlequin Frogs are Dying—And why they won’t be the last.”



He proudly showed a slide showing contributions by Pepperdine students in understanding amphibian declines. There were four areas of study in which Pepperdine students have added to the literature: the role of invasive species in California, the role of fire in California, the role of predation in California, and the role of UV radiation in both California and Costa Rica.



The latter topic is one that Dr. Kats reported to us in his 2009 talk. He has students going on field trips, looking at the rocks at the edge of Malibu creek. If one looks carefully he might see a gray frog sitting on the rock. One of the them is in the top picture. What is amazing about this frog is that it is one of the only animals without hair or scales that sits in the sun for hours every day, exposed to many times the UV radiation of other animals, but yet it thrives with that abundance of UV.

For over a decade Dr. Kats has taken a group of students to a place in the Tropical Rain Forest of Costa Rica where the students have studied a very different kind of frog. This one is brightly colored with orange body and blue legs, called the Blue Jean frog, and it never goes in the sun. In fact you will only find one under a leaf umbrella, and its eggs are laid and attached to the underside of a leaf. Dr. Katz star pupil was Barbara Han, who graduated Pepperdine Seaver College in 2002. She is shown taking notes in the Costa Rica rain forest. She added to the literature on the subject, received a Ph.D at

Oregon State. She received a Fulbright Scholarship to continue her biology studies in Valenzuela and is an expert on infection disease in the area of biodiversity. She is currently a post doctorate fellow at the University of Georgia.

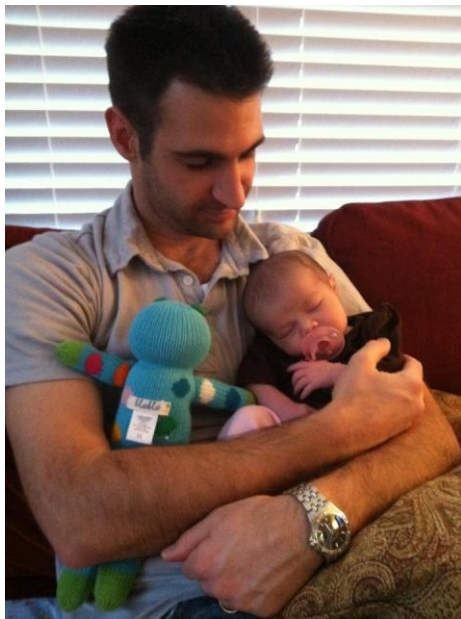
The rain forest is also home to many other creatures including Fer-de-lance, a venomous snake, and the eyelash viper snake.

In addition to the trip to the Costa Rican rain forest Dr. Kats has taken student to a cold marsh in northern Argentina where they have studied thermoregulation of Caiman (a crocodile native to the marshes of Argentina). He told us of adventures he and his students have endured on this trip, buses breaking down on mud roads, and coming uncomfortably close to huge Caiman in a small boat with a stalled engine.

I asked Dr. Kats who pays for the cost of transportation on his trips and he told me that the students pay half, and he pays for half with grants that he gets from the University. It is obvious he is a very dedicated teacher. The grant money could be used for equipment in his lab (and he does have some very technologically advanced equipment to research animal temperature and the like, but he chooses to use a good portion of it to aid the students on these international research field trips.

Other News and Guests from Last Malibu Rotary Club Meeting

David Baird presided over the meeting and had more good stand up comedy material, with more dates in history. The special Malibu Rotary events of the following week were again announced: The Annual Malibu Rotary Club Middle and High School Singing Competition will take place February 28 at 7:00 p.m. in Stauffer Chapel, the Malibu Rotary Club assembly luncheon meeting the following day at 11:30 a.m. at Giovanni's Restaurant instead of a morning meeting. In addition Maggie Luckerath announced that there would be a Malibu Rotary day at Malibu Stage March 10th with 2 tickets for the price of one to see Katherine Ross in *Kimberly Akimbo*.



Guests at Feb 22 Malibu Rotary meeting

The only guest at the February 22 Malibu Rotary Club meeting was our regular guest from the Rotary Club of Holland Michigan Past District Governor **Tom Bos**. Also returning to the club for this meeting was Malibu Rotary Club Past President **Chris Bauman**. We hadn't seen Chris since he became a new Dad. He explained the derivation of the name of his daughter Mazzlyn Mamie-Marie. Leslie coined the name Mazzlyn from 2 other names and Mamie-Marie was the name of Leslie's grandmother, whom she was very close to and who died a year earlier. Leslie's Dad calls his new granddaughter simply "3M."

Annual Malibu Rotary Club Middle and High School Singing Competition



The Annual Malibu Rotary Club Middle and High School Singing Competition will take place February 28 at 7:00 p.m. in Stauffer Chapel on the Malibu Campus of Pepperdine University. Six cash prizes will be awarded, 3 to the top 3 middle school contestants and 3 to the top 3 high school contestants. Members of the Malibu Rotary Club judge the music competition and each year the student performances are professional level and entertaining. The top contestant will be sponsored by the Malibu Rotary Club to participate in the

Rotary District music event March 3rd at Cal State Dominguez Hills where top prize money will be \$1000. **Last year's middle school winners shown above.**

Malibu Rotary Club International Projects in Puerto Rico



With matching grants from The Rotary Foundation, Rotary District 5280 (District Designated Funds [DDF]), and in partnership with other Rotary clubs in Rotary District 5280 and host clubs in Puerto Rico, the Malibu Rotary Club is involved in two humanitarian international projects in Puerto Rico in 2012. Barbara Riley (front row third from left) represented the Malibu Rotary Club at the *Centro Geriátrico San Rafael*, Arecibo, PR Rotary Project in February, 2012. Malibu Rotary was one of the lead sponsors of the project, along with 4 other Rotary Clubs from Los Angeles, CA Rotary District 5280 who also sent representatives.

Malibu Rotary Club was also a sponsor of a second project, *Hogar Santísima Trinidad (HST)* in Barrio Macarabones, Toa Alta, Puerto Rico which involves rehabilitating alcohol and drug abusers at the HST Center to train for job skills and also educate in recycling and train in solid waste management.

More on Rotary District 5280's humanitarian trip to Puerto Rico can be seen at <http://www.facebook.com/PuertoRico5280>.

In the *Centro Geriatrico San Rafael, Inc* in Areciba, Puerto Rico project the Malibu Rotary Club is the PRIMARY INTERNATIONAL PARTNER. 5 Rotary Clubs from Los Angeles

along with Rotary Foundation and the host Arecibo Rotary Club has helped the senior residential center purchase needed maintenance and repair tools, 8 energy efficient air conditioning units and a commercial sliding gate opener. This is a geriatric home for indigents founded in 1925. The Arecibo Rotary Club has been supporting them since 1935. This project costs \$15,585.00 of which the Malibu Rotary Club and the Westchester Rotary Club have given \$1170.00 each. Other partner clubs are Culver City, Wilmington, along with the host Rotary Club of Arecibo.

The most ambitious project (*Hogar Santisima Trinidad* [HST] in Barrio Macarabones, Toa Alta, Puerto Rico) involves rehabilitating alcohol and drug abusers at the HST Center (who are also highly likely to have HIV) to train for job skills and also educate in recycling and train in solid waste management. HST is a private community based non-profit organization, offering a safe residential rehabilitation and treatment program to 35 young males addicted to drugs and /or alcohol, established in 1993. HST depends on income from their semi-industrial aluminum and metal recycling and processing program. As part of their rehabilitation program, the HST implements occupational, physical and work therapies through their Mobile Recycling Center Program (MRCP). It consists in the training of patients in the use of a fixed industrial recycling unit permanently located at the Center, where they learn how to process and recycle aluminum, car batteries, diverse metals and other materials under the close supervision of trained supervisors. They also pickup recyclable materials in nearby communities to process at the center. The project also addresses a problem of waste management in Puerto Rico. Studies done by the US Environmental Protection Agency have revealed that improper or insufficient capacity to dispose of solid waste in Puerto Rico has created public health problems. The management and disposal of solid waste in the Island has long been a challenge, aggravated by the limited space available due to its geographical size, roughly 100 mi by 35 mi, and its delicately balanced ecosystem and the large amount of solid waste generated, at 4,000,000 tons per year. Puerto Rico's residents generate more waste than people living on the mainland and recycling rates are lower. Much of Puerto Rico's waste ends up in landfills, most of which do not comply with local and federal governments' landfill requirements. The cost of HST Rotary project in Puerto Rico is \$22,570. The primary international club sponsoring this project is the Westchester Rotary Club. Malibu Rotary Club is an equal share holder with the Westchester Rotary Club, with each club contributing \$1570.00. Besides the host Rotary Club of Santurce, the Rotary Club of Torrance-Lomita is a partner in this project.

Malibu Rotary Club is Official Sponsor of Smile Trek



Marine Sargent Winston Fiore Started his 5,000 mile Cross Country Motorcycle Trip in Malibu. His purpose is to bring awareness of children's cleft palate and raise money for the International Children's Surgical Foundation. The organization provides surgery, training for 3rd world surgeons, plus follow-up care for surgical correction of children's cleft palate disease. The US trip was in preparation for a 5,000 mile walking trip across Southeast Asia. He explains, "In late September,

2011, I will set out on a 5,000-mile walk through Southeast Asia. My route will take me through eight different countries, beginning and ending in Singapore, and the yearlong trek will be an ongoing effort to raise funds for the ICSF and awareness for children living with clefts in the developing world. I chose to base this trip in Southeast Asia because of the region's high prevalence of cleft births." Malibu Rotary Club is one of his sponsors. One surgery costs \$240.

See Winston's blog at <http://www.smiletrek.org> (which includes multiple videos) as he travels across the world. As of February 22nd he has raised almost \$38,000 for ICSF, over 76% his goal of \$50,000.

A post card mailed by Winston to Malibu Rotary from Thailand on December 31 read "1,000 miles down, 4,000 miles to go...Thanks again for making a difference. Wishing you a happy new year from Bangkok! ---Winston smiletrek.org"

Please see Malibu Rotary Club Website www.maliburotary.org for latest Calendar and future speakers and facebook pages for other news.

Like Rotary Club of Malibu on 

Calendar

(all Malibu Rotary Club meetings are held at 7:30 a.m. Wednesdays in Fireside Room of Pepperdine University unless otherwise noted)

Feb 28 2012 at 7:00 PM

Annual Malibu Rotary Club Middle and High School Singing Competition in Stauffer Chapel at Pepperdine University

The Annual Malibu Rotary Club Middle and High School Singing Competition will take place February 28 at 7:00 p.m. in Stauffer Chapel on the Malibu Campus of Pepperdine University. Six cash prizes will be awarded, 3 to the top 3 middle school contestants and 3 to the top 3 high school contestants. Members of the Malibu Rotary Club judge the music competition and each year the student performances are professional level and entertaining. The top contestant will be sponsored by the Malibu Rotary Club to participate in the Rotary District music event March 3rd at Cal State Dominguez Hills where top prize money will be \$1000.

Feb 29 2012 No Morning Malibu Rotary Club at Pepperdine. There will be a luncheon **Malibu Rotary Club Assembly** meeting instead 11:30 a.m. at at Giovanni's Restaurant, 22235 Pacific Coast Hwy in Malibu.

Mar 7 2012

Tracey Garnaas

"My Experience as Exchange Student in Brazil"

Tracey Garnaas is a senior in International Studies at Pepperdine Seaver College. She was a Rotary high school student exchange student from Arizona to Brazil and will talk about that experience at the Malibu Rotary Club meetin March 7.

Mar 14 2012

Tracey Brown

"Why Breakfast is the Most Important Meal"

Tracey Brown, "Physio-therapist, Exercise Rehab Specialist & Wellness Coach" in the Malibu office of chiropractor Dr Taber Chinn. Tracey will tell us why breakfast is the most important meal and give us other important wellness tips!

(This is the last part of Malibu Rotary Club trilogy on nutrition (Susan Helm, Camille Gaen, Tracey Brown).

Mar 21 2012

Malibu Rotary Club Assembly

"Malibu Rotary Club Assembly"

Mar 28 2012

Robert Lloyd

"What we need to know about Africa"

Dr. Robert Lloyd is an Associate Professor of International Relations at Pepperdine University. He also directs Seaver College's International Studies program. He received his Ph.D. from The Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C., an M.R.P., in regional planning from Cornell University and a BA, cum laude, from the University of Arizona.

His areas of research include international conflict management and negotiation, Africa, democratization, and development

Apr 4 2012

Geoff Matlock

"My Peace Corps Experince: Small Business Development in the South Pacific"

Geoff Matlock is Peace Corp volunteer who spent over a year in Fiji doing Small Business Development

Apr 11 2012

Malibu Rotary Club Assembly

"Malibu Rotary Club Assembly"

Apr 18 2012

Sam Lagana

"Pepperdine Athletics and Events Center"

Sam Lagana, Pepperdine University Associate Vice Chancellor will speak and show slides