

## H. Dieter Steklis Appointed Interim Director of School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences

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Colleagues,

I would like to announce that, after evaluating three finalists nominated by their peers, I have appointed Professor H. Dieter Steklis to the position of Interim Director, School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences.

Dieter earned his Ph.D. in biological anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley in 1974. He spent 30 years as a tenured faculty member at Rutgers University, chairing the Department of Anthropology for eight years beginning in 1983. While at Rutgers, Dieter taught primate behavior, anatomy, and neurobiology, and with colleagues at the Medical School, co-led a primate neuroethology research program. Dieter also began working with The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International in 1991 as director of the Karisoke Research Center in Rwanda. From 1995 to 2005, he served as the fund's chief scientist and vice-president, overseeing its research and conservation programs in Africa, and participating in fundraising and donor development.

In 2007, Dieter joined the University of Arizona faculty, at UA South, where he primarily taught psychology, led the Psychology Program, and for several years served as associate dean for academic affairs and chief academic officer. He was affiliated with our Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences for several years and became part of the School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences in 2017. Last spring, Dieter and Netzin Steklis together were recognized with the David E. Cox Faculty Teaching Award for their dedication and outstanding performance in teaching. Dieter and Netzin Steklis co-direct the Human-Animal Interaction Research Initiative (HAIRI) and co-led a summer Primate Studies Field School in Rwanda for UA Study Abroad students.

At this time, I want also to thank the outgoing school director, Patricia Stock, for her more than 20 years of service to our college and the university. Patricia will become dean of the College of Agriculture at California State University, Chico.

Please join me in wishing Dieter well in his new appointment and in thanking Patricia for her service.

Regards,  
Shane

**Shane C. Burgess**

Vice President for the Division of Agriculture, Life & Veterinary Sciences, and  
Cooperative Extension  
Charles-Sander Dean of the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences  
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*We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O'odham and the Yaqui. Committed to diversity and inclusion, the University strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.*