THE 28 PERCENT

Women make up only 28% of the STEM workforce. This newsletter aims to change that.



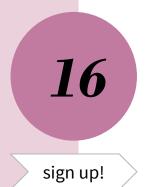
by Emma, 9th grade

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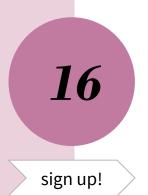
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friday april 16 @ 10am - sunday april 18 @ 10am $Athena\ Hack\ 2021$

At Athena 2021, we'll have speakers and workshop in the build-up to our hack, which will take place over the weekend from April 16th - 18th. Teams will be tasked with hacking together ideas and presenting them for the Circular Economy! Join now for the chance to win!



friday april 16 @ 9am - 10am A Conversation with Dr. Rana el Kaliouby, Author of "Girl Decoded"

Join us for a conversation with a highly inspirational and influencial Author and CEO, Dr. Rana el Kaliouby. Get a chance to speak to someone who's done it all, learn about her journey as a woman in tech and STEM. 18+



saturday april 17 @ 3:30 - 4:30pm Doyenne Inspiration April Coding Workshop

There are many apps out there that we use every day, each with different features, purposes, and technologies. Did you ever want to build your own app? Come and join us to learn the fundamentals of app development and prototyping, as you create your first app with Figma.



thursday april 22 @ 1 - 2:30pm Gem Hunt: Celebrate Earth Day

Join us for an afternoon of learning about solar technology, solving math problems, winning prizes, and earning awards. Earth Day is on April 22nd. Celebrate at an event with *STEM for Her* and SunPower. Learn how the women of SunPower develop and harness record breaking solar technology to change the world!

BHW Women in STEM Scholarship

The BHW Group is an Austin,
Texas-based custom web and mobile
app development company. Made up of
designers, developers, and architects,
BHW is passionate about software and
creating intuitive applications. The
BHW Women in STEM Scholarship
offers a \$3,000 award for a winning
essay about apps.

Amount: \$3,000

Deadline: April 15, 2020

Eligibility: Female, pursuing a degree majoring in STEM, attending/planning

to attend college in the U.S.

Application Requirements: 500-800 word essay on one of two prompts: *Tell us about your favorite app and what you like about it OR Tell us about a time an app played a significant role in improving your day.*

If you are attending college next year consider applying to this opportunity! If you know someone who is, pass it on!

Photo and Article by Violet, 9th grade



The Mountain Gorillas and Dian Fossey

Written by Morgan Gaskell, 9th grade

The mountain gorilla (*Gorilla beringei beringei*) is one of two subspecies of the critically endangered eastern gorilla (*Gorilla beringei*). The other subspecies is the eastern lowland gorilla (*Gorilla beringei graueri*). Though not critically endangered like its close relative, the mountain gorilla is still labeled as an endangered species on the IUCN Red List.

The mountain gorilla inhabits the forests of the Virunga Mountains,a chain of extinct and active volcanoes bordering Rwanda, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Mountain gorillas inhabit some 25 square miles of this vast forest, with 2/3 of that being in the Congo's Parc National des Virungas, 30,000 acres in Rwanda's Parc National des

Volcans, and the remainder in Kigali Gorilla Sanctuary in Uganda. They live in the 1,400 to 3,800 meter elevation range of the mountains. Due to the cooler weather at such elevations, the mountain gorilla has much thicker hair when being compared to its close relative, the eastern lowland gorilla.

Other prominent features that distinguish the two include the mountain gorilla's shorter and broader hands and feet, more expanded nostrils, shorter arms, longer palate, a broader chest girth, and a more pronounced sagittal crest. The sagittal crest is a bone ridge running along the midline of the skull at the sagittal suture. In terms of diet, the mountain gorilla has a rather diverse palate, feeding on bamboo, bracket fungus, and a variety of mosses, ferns, grasses, shrubs, tree bark, fruit, vines, and very occasionally, insects.

I would say the person most associated with mountain gorillas is Dr. Dian Fossey. This American scientist spent an astounding 18 years studying the wild mountain gorilla population of Rwanda. Dian Fossey was one of three female scientists studying primates in order to assist famed paleoanthropologist, Dr. Louis Leaky, in his endeavors to discover the evolutionary similarities between humans and other great apes. Dr. Jane Goodall famously studied the wild chimpanzees of Gombe National Park in Tanzania, while Dr. Birutė Galdikas studied the orangutans of Tanjung Putting Reserve in Borneo. Affectionately known as *The Trimates*, each female scientist focused on the behavior of their selected primate and often branched off from Leaky's work.

The Mountain Gorillas and Dian Fossey (continued)

Dian Fossey not only went out in the field nearly daily to study the different gorilla groups, but also headed an anti- poaching patrol within the mountain gorilla's range after government appointed park rangers failed to do so. This anti-poaching patrol, which was supported by Dian's *Digit Fund*, was very successful in protecting the mountain gorilla population and is still very much alive today, even 42 years later. While the goals of the patrol remains the same, the



name of the *Digit Fund* has been changed to *The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International*, in memory of Dian Fossey, who was brutally murdered in 1985 for reasons not completely known.

During the publication of Dian Fossey's only book *Gorillas in the* Mist, there were 242 mountain gorillas living in Africa. Thanks to the tireless work of Dian Fossey, *The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International*, other conservation organizations, and the governments of Africa, the mountain gorilla population in December of 2019 was 1,063 individuals. Though this increase by 439% is without a doubt exciting, gorillas still face multiple threats, from the poaching of heads, feet, and hands, to deforestation and human encroachment. Despite the avoidance of Dian's prediction that mountain gorillas would go extinct in the same century they were discovered in, gorillas still have a long way to go before they are no longer considered threatened with extinction. It is people like you who can make the necessary changes to keep this species alive.

If you would like to make a donation to *The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International*, please visit https://gorillafund.org. Thank you!

the girls that made this newsletter possible:

Emma, 9th Grade
Violet, 9th Grade
Jaidyn, 9th Grade
Celeste, 9th Grade
Madeleine, 9th Grade
Morgan, 9th Grade
Kira, 9th Grade
Ms.Orret, Advisor
& everyone else on the WIS newsletter team

Check out our website:

https://msorret.wixsite.com/
onlineclassroom/women-in-stem-newsletter

have a question? want to get involved? want to be featured on next month's newsletter?

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