



NEWS RELEASE

- For Immediate Release -

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BRIAN KEATING RECEIVES HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREE

Calgary, AB – At Brandon University’s recent 2009 Spring Convocation on May 30th, an Honorary Doctor of Science (*honoris causa*) was conferred upon Brian Keating – now Dr. Brian Keating. As an alumnus of Brandon University, Dr. Keating received this honour in recognition of his national and international contributions to conservation and zoology.

“We are proud of Brian and all that he has accomplished in increasing awareness of conservation issues and inspiring people in Canada and throughout the world to take action that will preserve species and spaces,” said Dr. Clément Lanthier, President and CEO of the Calgary Zoo.

The degree presented to Dr. Keating states:

“In recognition of outstanding contributions and service to the preservation, care, and understanding of wildlife and its importance to human existence, in particular, his distinguished role as a public educator who taught the importance of the environment, conservation and man’s place in preserving its heritage.”

“This was unexpected and a very humbling experience,” said Dr. Brian Keating. “I was very honoured.”

Keating was also honoured a few years ago when he was made Honourary Chief of Dompie, one of the villages within the Wechiau Hippo Sanctuary in Ghana, West Africa.

The tremendous success of the Wechiau Hippo Sanctuary is a source of great pride for Dr. Keating and just one example of his enthusiasm and hard work making a difference in the world of conservation. The Calgary Zoo’s sponsorship

of the sanctuary has preserved land and many species, provided employment for the people of Wechiau, seen the addition of schools and solar lighting – and much of the credit goes to the leadership of Dr. Keating over the past 10 years.

As Head, Conservation Outreach at the Calgary Zoo, Dr. Keating's – or Brian's – full time job is to raise money and then spend it on conservation projects at home and around the world. He is also a part time Adjunct Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Calgary.

For more than 20 years, Brian has been the leader of the zoo's nature-based travel program and has personally lead over 80 expeditions from the Arctic to the Antarctic, from the Far East to Africa to South America. He has hosted a weekly nature column since 1983 on CBC Radio and also did a bi-weekly national wildlife segment on the Discovery Channel. He is a well-respected and in-demand international speaker presenting at over 60 events per year. As a naturalist and world explorer, Brian's life focus is one of conservation awareness coupled with experiencing all the world has to offer.

Media Information:

Interviews with Dr. Keating available upon request.

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The Calgary Zoo is part of a professional, accredited association and member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA) comprised of caring, trusted experts committed to ensuring that many endangered and threatened species are part of the world's future. AZA and CAZA advocate on behalf of animals with a unified and consistent voice, and collaborate with others committed to their long-term survival. The Calgary Zoo participates in many Species Survival Plans (SSP), a network among accredited institutions designed to breed endangered species in captivity to ensure the best possible genetic diversity and maintain healthy populations in human care. Through our conservation, education and research programs, many animals in our care play an essential role in the survival of their species in the wild.

The Calgary Zoological Society is a charitable organization. Charitable Registration #118824192 RR0001