



## **MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Tickets: [www.sbzoo.org](http://www.sbzoo.org)

### **Husband Scientist vs. Wife Scientist at Santa Barbara Zoo's "IMPROVology" on Friday, October 13**

*Animal Experts Hillary Young and Douglas McCauley Share Stories,  
Then Impro Theatre Company Comedians Take Over*

(Santa Barbara, CA, October 6, 2017) – Husband and wife scientists are featured in the upcoming live IMPROVology show at the Santa Barbara Zoo. **Douglas McCauley** and **Hillary Young**, both PhD scientists from the University of California, Santa Barbara, will share TED-like talks, which become the fodder for improv comedy skits created on the spot by members of L.A.'s **Impro Theatre Company**. This popular, family-friendly event is held Friday, October 13 in the Zoo's Discovery Pavilion.

"It's like a TED Talk meets Second City," says the Dean Noble, the Zoo's Marketing Director who also serves as show emcee. "There's lots of audience participation and a friendly competition. We haven't had a husband scientist versus wife scientist yet, but expect some marital rivalry."



Musical accompaniment is provided by Santa Barbara-based pianist **John Douglas** (sitting in for regular Konrad Kono) and bassist **Michael Schindlinger**, an expert in the languages of wild parrots who took part in an IMPROVology show last May and is now part of the IMPROVology "band" (of two). Snacks, beverages, beer, and wine are available for purchase.

The doors open at 7 p.m. for 7:30 p.m. performances. Tickets are \$15, and \$12 for Santa Barbara Zoo Members. Buy at the door or [www.sbzoo.org](http://www.sbzoo.org). More information at 962-5339. General admission seating, early arrival suggested; latecomers may be relegated to standing room only.

## Husband Vs. Wife Scientists

**Douglas McCauley, PhD**, began his career as a fisherman in the Port of Los Angeles and then migrated to marine science. He now serves as an Assistant Professor at UCSB and Director of the Benioff Ocean Initiative, a center dedicated to using science and technology to solve ocean problems. Recent research by Dr. McCauley includes using electronic tags to follow sharks, satellites to monitor illegal fishing, and underwater scanners to find and study manta rays.

**Hillary Young, PhD**, is a community ecologist in the department of Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology at UCSB. The goal of her current research is to understand how and when human disturbance is likely to drive cascading changes in a whole community structure and function. Recent publications concern the effects of the decline of mammal herbivores on plants in the African savanna, and if habitat disturbance increases risk of infectious diseases in primates.

Young notes that “Doug’s work is below the water and mine is above it, but sometimes they intersect and we are able to do research in the same locations.”

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*Known as one of the world's most beautiful zoos, the **Santa Barbara Zoo** is located on 30 acres of botanic gardens and is home to nearly 500 individual animals in open, naturalistic habitats. It is accredited by the [Association of Zoos & Aquariums](#) (AZA), representing the highest level of animal care, and participates in AZA endangered species programs for Asian elephant, California condor, Channel Island fox, and Western lowland gorilla, among others. A private nonprofit corporation, the Santa Barbara Zoo depends on community support, not tax dollars, for operations and improvements.*

*The Zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; general admission is \$17 for adults, \$10 for seniors aged 65+, \$10 for children 2-12, and children under 2 are free. Parking is \$7.*

*Visit [www.sbzoo.org](http://www.sbzoo.org).*