

VOLUME IV // FEBRUARY 2021

# ***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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sign up!

**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!

16

sign up!

**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 influential 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+

17

sign up!

**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.

22

sign up!

**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. Biruté Galdikas studied the orangutans of Tanjung Puting 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](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?***

***Email Ms. Orret!***

orret.deborah@pusd.us

