

The College of Arts and Sciences Presents
The Harold McMaster Visiting Scientist

Dr. Frans de Waal



Photo of "Junior," above, provided by Frans de Waal.

Our Inner Ape:

Human Nature as Seen by a Primatologist

When people do evil things, such as when they commit genocides in Bosnia or Rwanda, we call them “animals.” If people act altruistically, such as when they save another’s life or give to the poor, we attribute this to our noble human morality. We call them “humane.”

Both sides of human nature, however, are tied to our biology. This theme of the duality of human nature, hovering between beast and angel, is brought home in *Our Inner Ape* by looking at our two closest primate relatives, the chimpanzee and the bonobo.

Apart from these themes, the lecture will also include the latest findings from the Living Links Center on communication, cooperation, a sense of fairness, animal empathy, and animal culture.



Dr. Frans B. M. de Waal is a Dutch-born ethologist/biologist known for his work on the social intelligence of primates. De Waal is C. H. Candler Professor in the Psychology Department of Emory University and Director of the Living Links Center at the Yerkes National Primate Center in Atlanta, Georgia. He has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences (US) and the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences. Time recently selected him as one of the World's 100 Most Influential People.

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

206 Bowen-Thompson Student Union

Admission is free and open to the public.
A reception will follow the lecture.

