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## LOCAL SCIENTIST PUBLISHES IN ANTHROPOLOGY HANDBOOK

Buffalo Museum of Science Researcher reviews primate classification  
in *21<sup>st</sup> Century Anthropology*

**BUFFALO, NY (September 8, 2010)** – Buffalo Museum of Science Director of Science & Research, Dr. John Grehan, recently published in *21<sup>st</sup> Century Anthropology: A Reference Handbook*. His entry examines the complexities and controversies of primate classification, from the beginnings of evolutionary biology through to the present.

The science of classification, known as taxonomy, represents a core foundation of modern biology. Classifications reflect what is understood about the evolutionary relationships among all organisms. Without a science of classification, there is no evolutionary structure to understand the origins and diversity of life.

In his chapter on Primate Taxonomy, Dr. Grehan examines the different ways primates have been recognized as a group and also broken down into subordinate groups such as lemurs, lorises, tarsiers, monkeys, apes and humans.

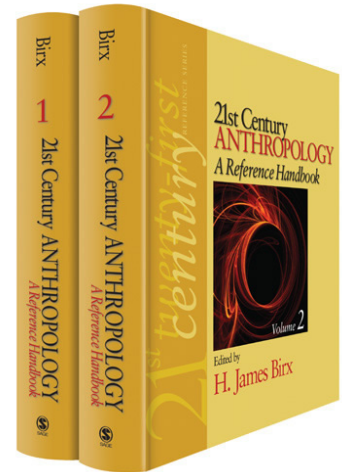
“The composition or interrelationships of these groups are sometimes controversial, not least being the current controversy over whether humans are more closely related to chimpanzees or orangutans” said Dr. Grehan, “but controversy is normal in science and taxonomy is no exception”.

“Publication of *21<sup>st</sup> Century Anthropology* represents a ground-breaking, comprehensive and unique reference handbook of 102 academic chapters by international scholars” said Editor Dr. H. James Bix of Canisius College and State University of New York at Geneseo.

“The focus of this handbook is on cutting-edge research in this discipline, from biological anthropology and archaeology to socio-cultural anthropology and linguistics” said Dr. Bix, who is a Research Associate of the Buffalo Museum of Science. He authored chapters on biological anthropology and evolution.

Dr. Bix also notes that two other Museum Research Associates contributed chapters, one on human evolution by Dr. Jeffrey H. Schwartz (University of Pittsburgh) and the other on interpreting evidence, which focuses on ancestral human biology by Dr. Donald R. Perry (Branchport, New York).

Produced by SAGE Publications, Inc. and published in summer 2010, *21<sup>st</sup> Century Anthropology* was written for use by



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university libraries and professional institutions, but the chapters are valuable to students, educators, scholars, researchers, and interested readers. The book may be ordered from SAGE Publications, AMAZON.com and all major bookstores.

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#### **ABOUT DR. JOHN GREHAN**

John Grehan is Director of Science at the Buffalo Museum of Science and a research associate at the Invertebrate Section of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. He is interested in the spatial geometry of animal and plant distribution as a methodological foundation of evolutionary theory. He has previously held positions at the Pennsylvania State University, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and the University of Vermont. His recent publications in this field includes "Evolution of the second orangutan: phylogeny and biogeography of hominid origins" found in the *Journal of Biogeography* with Jeffrey Schwartz of the University of Pittsburgh.

A full list of Grehans publications and research can be found at <http://www.sciencebuff.org/research/current-research-activities/john-grehan/>

#### **ABOUT THE BUFFALO MUSEUM OF SCIENCE**

The Buffalo Museum of Science is the non-profit educational institution dedicated to the study and interpretation of the natural and physical sciences. Its extensive collections of over 700,000 specimens and artifacts represent all facets of the natural world with an emphasis on Western New York, as well as man-made objects spanning the globe. Based at 1020 Humboldt Parkway and anchoring Buffalo's East Side in Olmsted-designed Martin Luther King, Jr. Park since 1929, the Museum presents a wide variety of programs and services for children, teachers, families, adults, and community organizations throughout each year. The Museum also operates Tiff Nature Preserve in South Buffalo, a 264-acre urban wetland preserve on reclaimed former industrial land and seasonally sponsors archaeological exploration at the Hiscock Site in nearby Genesee County, NY, one of North America's richest Ice Age sites.

For further information on the Museum and its upcoming activities, call 716-896-5200 or visit [www.buffalomuseumofscience.org](http://www.buffalomuseumofscience.org).