**ALUMNA NAMED NATIONAL ZOO DIRECTOR**

Lucy Spelman, ’90, was named director of the Smithsonian’s National Zoological Park last August.

Dr. Spelman, formerly chief veterinarian in the zoo’s Department of Animal Health, says, “I have had the chance to work closely with all kinds of species, from gorillas to komodo dragons. Every medical case is a new challenge. Sometimes the questions relate to basic facts about a rare species, such as ‘What is the normal anatomy of the giant panda kidney on ultrasound?’ Sometimes the problems are more difficult, such as ‘What is the safest way to anesthetize a geriatric sea lion?’ Often the solutions require a team effort. At the zoo, we have an incredibly talented group of scientists who make up this team, and their studies involve species in captivity as well as in the wild. To work in this setting has been an amazing and inspiring experience. As director, I hope to share this inspiration with the visitor in a number of ways, primarily via exhibits of the highest quality and a progressive public outreach program.”

Dr. Spelman joined the National Zoo staff in 1995 and was named senior veterinary medical officer in 1999. Her research as a clinical veterinarian includes anesthetic techniques for species such as otters and sea lions, and treatment options for geriatric zoo animals.