A member of his high school debate team, Daniel Povinelli was first interested in chimpanzees after reading an article in a journal about their behavior. He was fascinated by the idea of working closely with chimpanzees, which led him to pursue a career in primate research.

Today, Dr. Povinelli directs the Laboratory of Comparative Behavioral Biology at the University of Connecticut and is a leader in the field of chimpanzee research. His work focuses on understanding the cognitive abilities and social behaviors of chimpanzees.

Povinelli grew up in Shreveport and was educated in physical anthropology at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and at Yale. He received his Ph.D. from Yale in 1991. His research has been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Geographic Society.

Povinelli's research has been featured in numerous documentaries, including on National Geographic’s Discovery Channel and on the BBC. His work has been widely recognized, and he has been awarded numerous distinctions, including the National Academy of Sciences’ Leakey Award.

Povinelli's research continues to be funded independently of the National Institutes of Health, and he has been able to combine his work on chimpanzees with studies on the evolution of language and cognition. He has established a research group at the University of Connecticut, which is currently working on new projects focused on understanding the complex relationships between humans and chimpanzees.

Continued on page 18...