Instead of traveling back to Florida last June to see family and friends, David White, second year High School visual arts instructor volunteered his time and creative energies to the Friends of the National Park Foundation (FNPF), in Kalimantan. Through the assistance of Yenny Fildayani, the Wildlife Department Coordinator and Chief Veterinarian for FNPF, David was able to stay at Tanjung Puting National Park and portray the forest’s wildlife in a mural at the entrance of the park’s information center. After a day of photo selection, outlining, color selection, and assembling bamboo ladders and scaffolding David spent the following four days throwing paint around until the mural was completed.

FNPF is an Indonesian NGO working to preserve Indonesia’s forests and national parks for Indonesians as well as for the world. Founded in 1997, FNPF’s initial focus was to support the orangutan rehabilitation program within Tanjung Puting National Park. Since then, their focus has expanded to include conservation education and reforestation: planting trees in areas where logging or fires have destroyed the vegetation, community development, providing economic alternatives to local peoples so they have livelihood options beyond logging and mining, and rehabilitation; reintroducing animals that have been confiscated from the illegal trade back into their natural environment and release of other wildlife.

FNPF draws upon an extensive network of friends and partners and works with local communities, schools and universities, government authorities, international volunteers as well as the global conservation community. Information about FNPF can be found at www.fnpf.org or you may contact Yenny directly at yeniorut@fnpf.org, using David as a reference. For more information about the painting and artwork, e-mail David at DavidHWhite67@hotmail.com.