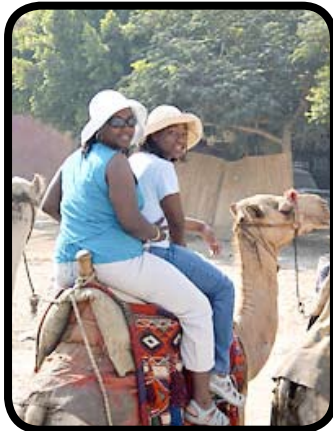


A Lifetime of Outreach

By John Hendel



Lianne Hibbert came to Mizzou for her Master's and expected to leave town within five years. A decade later, she's here, working on her Ph.D in Fisheries & Wildlife, and offering a renewed commitment to science outreach.

Lianne Hibbert understands the importance of reaching out to students and letting them know about the opportunities that exist.

In her current office, that's her job: program coordinator in Office of Science Outreach in Townsend Hall. She and the office's director, Dr. Anna Waldron, have a goal to improve the teaching and learning of science, which entails a broad range of activities such as conducting professional development workshops for teachers and student groups, working with MU faculty on science outreach, making community science presentations, and handling logistics for the Missouri Science Olympiad this past March. She has been working there for a year now.

Those goals of educational outreach tie into the core of what Lianne wants to accomplish in her Ph.D program and resonate throughout the broad themes of her life.

"If it weren't for educational outreach, I wouldn't be in this discipline," Lianne reflects.

She was born 35 years ago in

Kingston, Jamaica, where she lived until she was seven years old. Then her family moved to Oakland, California, where her uncles took her and her cousins fishing and hiking. She began to see the world in a new way as her love for the natural world grew.

"We were encouraged to play and explore our outdoor surroundings from early on," Lianne recalls about her childhood. "So this led to my desire to teach others to respect, appreciate, and want to conserve the natural landscape."

This passion remained untapped for the next several years, despite a few engaging outdoor science classes at the foothills of Mt. Diablo in California. Her family moved to Louisiana her senior year of high school, and upon graduation, she decided to stay close and attended Grambling State University.

At Grambling, Lianne had no clear idea about what her major should be initially. Science never appealed to her before, really--her teachers hadn't engaged her.

That is, at least, until her sophomore year when Lianne began hanging out with wildlife students to learn more about

the field of study. She had talked to Grambling's Wildlife Project Leader her freshman year, which fired her curiosity. In time, she became highly involved in the Biology Club and took on a leadership role within the department.

"We had so many crazy adventures that it felt more like a family than a department of students," Lianne remembers. "We camped together, took courses together, hung out on weekends together and sometimes were able to do internships close together."

Lianne came to Columbia in 1999 to pursue a Master's in Fisheries & Wildlife at the University of Missouri. Her research examined the factors that influenced minority involvement in the natural resource disciplines, significant factors in understanding

What's Inside

Be in the Know.....	Page 2
Summer Plans.....	Page 2
Grad Student Profile.....	Page 3
Alumni Achievements.....	Page 3



Page 3

Quote:

In need of inspiration? Look no further than our monthly quote on page 3!

(Continued on Page 4)





Please join us for a *Year-End Celebration*

**for Exposure to Research for Science Students (EXPRESS),
Nexus Graduate Association (NGA), & the Minority Science
Network**

Wednesday, May 6th, 2009

3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Program at 4 p.m.

McQuinn Atrium

Christopher Bond Life Sciences Center

Congratulations to Graduating EXPRESS Alumni: Miriam Galenas will be attending the University of Maryland to earn her Ph.D in Geology and Jordan Marshall will attend medical school at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Domingo Pacheco will start on his MBA at Rutgers University (NJ) and hopes to pursue a career in international business or pharmaceuticals (or both!). Also, **congratulations to junior Sydney Pursel** who has been accepted as a McNair Scholar for 2009-2010 to continue her research with Dr. John Walker (Biological Sciences). Sydney is spending the 2008-2009 school year studying at the University of Manchester (England) and is doing research with Dr. Patrick Gallois studying the degradation of organelles in an onion cell, focusing on the vacuole and its effect on the pH inside the cell during programmed cell death!

As Summer Approaches...

Congrats to those undergrads who secured some excellent summer opportunities, whether that's on their own or as part of the EXPRESS or UMEB programs. Here are some of the successful placements we've heard about so far:

UMEB Scholars' Summer Plans

- **Tom Nelke** plans to work with Pioneer Forest near Salem, Missouri
- **Jason Edwards** will be working on water treatment with the City of Milwaukee
- **Jamie Loveall** will be studying rat populations and how they affect insect abundance and diversity in Wake Island and Hawaii
- **Megan Pallo** will be examining penguin malaria and its spread in the Galapagos Islands
- **Sadie Todd** will also be in the Galapagos Islands and looking at hawks and avian pox, specifically considering viral mutations and phylogenetics
- **Ashley Groves** will be working at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama City, Florida
- **Moises Aguayo** plans to help the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center in El Batan, Mexico
- **Kara Cohagen** will be researching at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory in Colorado

Come celebrate the academic and professional accomplishments of undergraduates and graduate students, post-docs, faculty, and staff in the MU minority science community!

Hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Research & The Bond Life Sciences Center

RSVP encouraged but not required to Pam Monroe at 573-882-5979 or MonroeP@missouri.edu

(We won't hold you to it, but we're trying to get an estimated head count for food)

If you have any questions about this event, contact Brian Booton at 573-884-1774 or BootonB@missouri.edu

*CALL FOR GRADUATING SENIORS WHO HAVE DONE

EXPRESS: Please contact Brian Booton in order to receive your graduation honor cord. Graduating seniors will be honored at this ceremony. The festivities begin at 3:30 p.m. in the Bond Life Sciences Center Atrium (food and socializing!). Remarks and presentations begin at 4 p.m.



EXPRESS students Michael Williams, Tosin Senki, Melissa Tapia, Dana Brown, and Vanessa Evoh

EXPRESS Students Accepted into SMDEP

Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP) is a free(full tuition, housing, and meals) six-week summer academic enrichment program that offers freshman and sophomore college students intensive and personalized medical and dental school preparation

Dana Brown, freshman, Biological Sciences: University of Nebraska Medical Center

Vanessa Evoh, sophomore, Biological Sciences: Accepted into SMDEP but taking classes instead due to schedule conflicts with her community advisor residential position next year

Tosin Senki, sophomore, Biological Sciences: University of California-Los Angeles School of Medicine

Melissa Tapia, freshman, Biological Sciences and Psychology: the University of Nebraska Medical Center

Michael Williams, freshman, Biochemistry: Duke University School of Medicine



Meet Grad Student Candace Carroll

***Where did you earn your undergraduate degree?** Tougaloo College (Tougaloo, Mississippi)

***Where are you from?** Jackson, Mississippi

***Is anyone in your family a scientist?** No, but my father was a medial doctor, a gastroenterologist.

***What led you to Mizzou for your graduate work?** I had previously done a summer program, Gateways to Veterinary Medicine, and decided from that experience that I'd return for my PhD work.

***Whose lab are you working in and what are you doing?** I'm in Dr. Salman Hyder's laboratory, working on progesterin-dependent breast cancer.

***What is your degree program (dept) at MU? Masters or Ph.D?** Ph.D in Biomedical Sciences

***What is the best thing about Mizzou/Columbia?** The best thing about Mizzou is the resources. Whatever you may need for your studies they are either available or made available.

***What advice do you have for younger students?** Make sure you continue to strive for what you want and don't allow anyone to tell you anything to deter you from your ultimate goal.

***What is one thing about you that people might not know?** I studied marital arts for most of my life, and can't wait to pick it back up!

***What's the next big step for you?** Either a teaching position or a post-doc, only God knows for sure! :-)



Match Day photo of Jarron Tilghman and Whitney Lyn, March 19th, 2009. Congratulations on finishing med school at the University of Illinois-Chicago and on their matches.

Congratulations to the following MU alumni who are graduating from medical school this year and moving on to residencies:

- Whitney Lyn (University of Illinois-Chicago) – family medicine at Cook County/Loyola in Chicago.
- Kanayo Okafor (Southern Illinois University) – general surgery at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in Richmond, VA.
- Jarron Tilghman (University of Illinois-Chicago) – doing an internship in surgery in Chicago and then returning to MU to do a physical medicine & rehabilitation residency at Rusk Rehabilitation Hospital.
- Margaret Ibe Umah (Missouri) - family medicine at Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston, TX.

Other Alumni News

- Fallon Brice was promoted to Quality Systems Supervisor at Kraft Foods. She has also begun work on a masters degree in management.
- Doris Agwu is now working as a research specialist with Dr. Kay Libbus in the MU School of Nursing. She is specializing in Women's Health and targeting the barriers of Women's Health. Doris travels to different rural counties in Missouri to better understand these barriers
- Jessica Monroe will serve as a TA for the Transitions Program at MU one last time (she's done it for 3 years!) and then heads off to dental school at UMKC. She has spent the last year working in Dr. Kathy Newton's lab at MU.
- Amelie Olga Fopoussi will be attending the University of Michigan's MPH program.
- Kene' Chukwuonu has been selected as the Region II Director of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA). Kene' is in medical school at MU.

Congrats to OUGR Staff in Washington D.C.

During her time away this year, Dr. Linda Blockus helped plan the third annual Understanding Interventions in Washington D.C. The conference is designed to create a dialogue among behavioral/social science and education researchers, evaluators, and faculty in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields who participate in intervention programs. The conference will be May 7-9th in Bethesda, Maryland and over 240 people have registered so far. The goal of the 3rd Understanding Interventions Conference is to synthesize this "information exchange" between the "what" and the "why"—explain observed processes and outcomes of intervention efforts.

Congrats to Brian Booton, Office of Undergraduate Research program coordinator, who was selected to give an oral presentation "The research experience: creating a vertical networking community from freshmen to faculty" as part of an effective strategies panel, and to Tina Roberts, program coordinator, for her presentation "Examining the impact of critical events on undergraduates: Career decisions to become research scientists." More information can be found at www.understandinginterventions.org.

Congrats to EXPRESS alumna Corinne Alinea Fairchild

Corinne Fairchild, a neurobiology Ph.D candidate at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, recently received an F31 NRSA Predoctoral fellowship to promote diversity in health related research. It has been awarded by NIGMS (National Institutes of General Medical Sciences) (a division of the NIH) with the title, "Characterizing the role of Tspan18 in Neural Crest Development." The award gives Corinne a stipend of \$20,200, and pays for 60% of her tuition and fees. Additionally Corinne receives a \$3100 institutional allowance per year for health insurance, traveling to conferences, or equipment/reagents for her work. This award lasts 3 years. Congrats!

recruitment and retaining minority natural resource professionals.

"I especially like the department here at MU because of all the wonderful faculty and administrative personnel," Lianne says. "There is such a wealth of information that the faculty possesses...I especially like the fact that they are open to novel research ideas that may not fall in the typical parameters of Fisheries & Wildlife research."

After earning her Master's, Lianne went to work for the USDA office in Jefferson City's Lincoln University for six years. She had been an independent consultant with the Institute of Ecosystem Studies and began as a program coordinator and assistant to the Human Resources Manager at first. Then she worked as a wildlife biologist for the program and helped in a variety of roles, in which she conducted training, facilitated research opportunities, helped develop the Minorities in Natural Resources Committee, and mentored students.

By fall 2008, Lianne was ready to return to Mizzou for her Ph.D program, though still helps at Lincoln on a voluntary basis. Lianne's doctoral research has allowed her to embrace topics she originally wanted to research during her Master's studies: conservation outreach and education in the Caribbean. Her ideas ended up too complicated and ambitious for that Master's work, however, and Lianne is glad to have the chance to now explore topics that she describes as so dear to her heart. A mother, grad student, outreach worker, and lifelong learner, Lianne understands flexibility as well as the importance of giving back to the community and acting as a mentor and life coach to the young men and women she encounters.

"Now that I'm in the doctoral program as I reflect back on my years, I see that having a clear vision, the drive to chase it, and the flexibility to change with any situation is what made me successful," Lianne says. "I would tell my younger self 'be flexible, flexible, flexible!' Life can throw some strange curves, and flexibility is the key to reaching your goals with your sanity intact."



What is the NEXUS newsletter anyway?

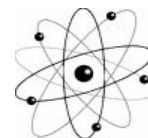
Our purpose is to create a network for minority undergraduate students, graduate students, post-bac students, post-docs and faculty in the life sciences on this campus. We believe that purposefully creating a network and community will have several benefits: (1) younger students can benefit from older scientists through networking and role modeling; (2) older scientists can have the satisfaction of helping those younger through the pipeline, all members can benefit from mutual support; (3) the community can work together to host speakers of common interest; (4) information on programs, grants and other opportunities can be effectively shared; and (5) the university can take pride in the ongoing campus efforts to diversify the biomedical/life sciences research workforce from the undergraduate to faculty level.

Nexus (nex·us n)

1. a connection associating two or more people or things
2. a group or series of connected individuals or things
3. the center or focus of something
4. a specialized area of the cellular membrane that helps cells to communicate or adhere

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The Office of Undergraduate Research, located at 150 Bond Life Sciences Center, composes and designs the newsletter. If you would like to contribute something to the newsletter (award announcement, science joke, story, etc.), contact graduate assistant John Hendel at JDHendel@gmail.com or 314-920-5880.



James Baldwin, American writer, says...

"Know from whence you came. If you know whence you came, there are absolutely no limitations to where you can go."

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