

## KENNETH AND NANCY KRANZBERG RECEIVE HONORARY DEGREES

**Kenneth and Nancy Kranzberg** each received a Doctor of Humane Letters honorary degree from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The degrees were presented to them during the commencement ceremony on Saturday, December 19, 2009. The Kranzbergs are passionate supporters of the arts, education, social justice and environmental causes throughout the St. Louis region.



*Dr. Joel Glassman, Director, Center for International Studies, Chancellor Thomas George, Nancy Kranzberg, Kenneth Kranzberg and Associate Dean Dr. Theresa Thiel.*

Ken Kranzberg started his career in 1960 when he joined his family's business, Northwestern Bottle Company. In 1977, he and his father founded Kranson Industries, a bottle and bottle accessories supplier with thirty-one branches throughout the U.S., Canada and Asia. He served as



vice-chairman of the Missouri Environmental Improvement and Energy Resources Authority from 1987-1996 and as chairman and president of the National Association of Container Distributors. He is currently a member of the St. Louis Regional Business Council. Ken serves on numerous nonprofit boards: Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, National Conference for Community and Justice of Metropolitan St. Louis, Anti-Defamation League, Dance St. Louis, Grand Center and the Missouri Historical Society. A member of the Chancellor's Council at UM-St. Louis for almost a decade, he also served as council chair of the Harris World Ecology Center at UM-St. Louis for which he and Nancy Kranzberg have established two endowed scholarships.

The Kranzbergs have supported the center through annual giving and sponsorship of the World Ecology Award gala as well. In addition, Ken Kranzberg has served on the Center for International Studies at UM-St. Louis advisory committee, as chairman of the Anti-Defamation League's Regional Advisory Board and Laumeier Sculpture Park's board. He is currently chairman of the Grand Center project in St. Louis.

Nancy Kranzberg has been on the boards of numerous organizations, including the St. Louis Art Museum, Missouri Arts Council, Laumeier Sculpture Park, The Friends of Art and The New Music Circle. She was the first president of the board of The Sheldon Art Gallery. She hosts a weekly radio show highlighting the arts in St. Louis on KDHX and is a commentator on St. Louis Public Radio. She also has held leadership roles with the United Way Health and Aging Allocation Panel, The Jewish Federation, The National Council for University Libraries, The Board of Missouri Mansion Preservation, The Washington University Women's Society Board and the Center for Humanities at UM-St. Louis. Nancy Kranzberg supports human services organizations, such as The Scholarship Foundation, St. Louis Alzheimer's Association, The American Cancer Society, The Arthritis Foundation, The Jewish Federation and the AIDS Foundation. She has received many awards, including the Washington University Distinguished Alumni award and the 2008 Variety Woman of the Year award.

Both Ken and Nancy Kranzberg have been recognized by the St. Louis Arts and Education Council, Grand Center and the American Jewish Committee. In 2008, the Kranzbergs received the Distinguished Service Award in recognition of their support of the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

### WORLD ECOLOGY AWARD CEREMONY

The Center will present its World Ecology Award to **Dr. David (Jonah) Western** at a gala dinner to be held at the **Missouri Botanical Garden** on **Friday, May 7, 2010**. For over 37 years, Dr. Western has been engaged in research in Kenya studying the interactions between livestock, wildlife, and humans with the aim of developing conservation strategies applicable at an ecosystem scale. As former director of Kenya Wildlife Service and conservation director for Wildlife Conservation Society, Dr. Western has provided leadership in many areas of conservation, including community-based conservation, international programs, conservation planning, ecotourism, training, directing governmental and non-governmental organizations and public education. Previous recipients of this prestigious award include: Dr. Jane Goodall, Harrison Ford, Dr. Richard Leakey, Teresa Heinz, Dr. Paul Ehrlich, Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, Kathryn Fuller, Ted Turner, HRH Prince Charles, Dr. Peter Raven, Jacques Cousteau, John Denver and Dereck and Beverly Joubert.

*In partnership with the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Saint Louis Zoo*



## HARRIS CENTER 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEMINAR SERIES

This academic year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center** (formerly the International Center for Tropical Ecology). In recognition of this milestone, the Center is hosting a seminar series throughout the academic year and has invited distinguished scientists to visit St. Louis. Each invited scientist has, through their research, amassed long-term (i.e. decadal scale) data sets on a particular species or ecosystem. Long-term data sets reveal trends in ecological processes that cannot be seen over the short term. Changes in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations measured in Hawaii and acidity levels of rain in Hubbard Brook, New Hampshire demonstrate the impacts that humans have on the global ecosystem. Long-term studies offer the possibility of “capturing” infrequent events not likely to be sampled in short-term studies. Periodic outbreaks of pests and diseases and unusual weather events all can have long-term effects but may be missed in shorter studies. Once sampled, the impacts of these events may have to be followed for a long time to understand their repercussions. Finally, long-term studies are necessary to understand the population dynamics of long-lived organisms, such as large vertebrates and long-lived tree species.

### 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEMINAR PROGRAM

Friday, October 16, 2009: **Dr. Deborah Clark**, Research Professor, UM-St. Louis.

Tuesday, March 23, 2010: **Dr. Kay Holekamp**, Professor, Department of Zoology, Program in Ecology, Evolutionary Biology and Behavior, Michigan State University.

Wednesday, April 7, 2010: **Dr. David Inouye**, Professor and Associate Director, Sustainable Development and Conservation Biology (CONS) Graduate Program, Department of Biology, University of Maryland.

Thursday, April 29, 2010: **Dr. Stephen Hubbell**, Distinguished Professor, University of California, Los Angeles and Senior Staff Scientist, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.

Tuesday, September 7, 2010: **Dr. Anthony R. E. Sinclair**, Professor, Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia.

Tuesday, September 21, 2010: **Dr. Charles J. Krebs**, Professor Emeritus, University of British Columbia.

Tuesday, October 19, 2010: **Dr. Ellen Ketterson**, Distinguished Professor, Gender Studies, Cognitive Sciences, Indiana University, Bloomington.

Tuesday, November 2, 2010: **Dr. Colin Chapman**, Professor, Department of Anthropology and McGill School of Environment, McGill University.

### DR. BETTE LOISELLE LEAVES UM-ST. LOUIS FOR NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

**Dr. Bette Loisel** was appointed Director of the Harris Center in July 1997 (then the International Center for Tropical Ecology) and served in this position until August 2003. It was a period of significant growth for the Center that included the establishment of The Christensen Fund Fellowship Program in Plant Conservation. This program, through a \$2 million endowment, supports five graduate students, a visiting scientist program and research scholarship awards.

*In partnership with the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Saint Louis Zoo*



During Bette's tenure four additional endowments were established supporting graduate student research and significant financial support was obtained from the Compton Foundation.

Bette's contributions were not limited to her strong leadership skills as Center Director. During her tenure in the Department of Biology, Bette advised or co-advised 13 doctoral students and 11 students through the master's program. Students and associates who worked in her laboratory came from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Luxembourg, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela and the United States. Bette has, for many years, represented the University's membership of the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS), served on its Board of Directors, and is currently the Board's Chair. Bette has served as a Trustee for the Missouri Chapter of the Nature Conservancy since 2001 and has held leadership positions with numerous academic and professional organizations: Neotropical Ornithological Society, Fulbright Scholar Program, American Ornithologists' Union, Association for Tropical Biology, Cooper Ornithological Society, National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian Institution) and the National Science Foundation. She has published over 80 scientific papers and financial support for her research was provided by the National Science Foundation, US Department of the Interior, National Geographic Society, Missouri Botanical Garden and Fulbright Scholar Program.

Bette has been appointed Director, Division of Environmental Biology, National Science Foundation, in Washington, D.C. and we acknowledge her wonderful support and leadership of the Center and wish her all the best in her new position.

### **2010 JANE AND WHITNEY HARRIS LECTURE**

The 2010 Jane and Whitney Harris will be presented by **Dr. David Inouye** in the Shoenberg Auditorium, **Missouri Botanical Garden** on **Thursday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m.** His lecture will be on: "*What is the future of Rocky Mountain wildflowers and their pollinators?*"

Dr. Inouye is Professor of Biology at the University of Maryland, and Associate Director of the graduate program in Sustainable Development and Conservation Biology. He has conducted field research at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, in Gothic, Colorado since 1971, where he has studied resource partitioning by bumblebees, territoriality in hummingbirds, ant-plant mutualisms, and pollination biology. Most recently he has focused on the effects of the changing climate on the phenology (timing) and abundance of flowering, in plots that he established in 1973 and visits every other day each summer; the National Science Foundation has just funded this work for another five years. Other projects include work on the population biology of individually tagged plants that he has followed since as far back as 1973, and how they are being affected by climate change and an increasing frequency of late spring frosts. David is co-author of a book about techniques for use by pollination biologists, enjoys photographing wildflowers and pollinators, and has been a speaker and tour leader for the Crested Butte Wildflower Festival for many summers.

### **NEWS OF HARRIS CENTER FACULTY, STUDENTS AND ALUMNI**

**Rosa del C. Ortiz-Gentry**, Curatorial Assistant at the **Missouri Botanical Garden** successfully defended her Ph.D. dissertation in January. Her dissertation is entitled: *Phylogeny, classification, and morphological diversification in Menispermaceae (Moonseed family)*. Rosa was advised by **Dr. Elizabeth Kellogg**.

*In partnership with the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Saint Louis Zoo*



The Harris Center Scholarship Committee has awarded the following research scholarships in the first of two competitions for the 2009-2010 academic year:

**Robbie Hart:** *Peter H. Raven World Ecology Scholarship:* Climate change impacts on distribution, phenology and pollination of Himalayan *Rhododendron*.

**Diego Salazar:** *Stephen Doyle Memorial Scholarship:* The effect of anti-herbivore mechanisms on latitudinal patterns of plant host-herbivore interactions.

**Leticia Gutiérrez:** *Harris World Ecology Center Scholarship:* Identification of mammalian hemoparasites and their vectors in Missouri.

**Eliot Miller:** *John Denver Scholarship in Tropical Ecology:* Lekking and breeding behavior of three *Mionectes* flycatchers in Ecuador.

**Jason Reinhardt:** *Leo and Kay Drey Scholarship:* The impact of leaf-tying microlepidoptera on the arthropod community structure of *Quercus alba* L. (Fagaceae).

Further scholarship applications will be reviewed in February 2010.

## FIELD RESEARCH REPORT



*View from Yanayacu Biological Station, East slope of Andes (2100 m elevation), Ecuador (Photo: Eliot Miller).*

**Eliot Miller** has just returned from a field season in eastern Ecuador, funded by a **John Denver Scholarship in Tropical Ecology** from the Harris Center. Eliot worked at three sites along an elevational gradient in the Andes. He was searching for leks of three species of *Mionectes* flycatcher, and opportunistically taking foraging data on all flycatchers that occurred in his study sites. This latter component of the research was especially successful, and Eliot plans to relate this ecological data to morphological measurements he will take this semester during work at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago.

*PiperNotes* is the newsletter of the **Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center**. In collaboration with the **Missouri Botanical Garden** and the **Saint Louis Zoo**, the Center promotes research and education in biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources and ecosystems. The Center provides an academic, international environment for graduate education in ecology, evolution, systematics and conservation. The Center supports undergraduate education in conservation biology and promotes awareness within the St. Louis community of the importance of conservation and environmentally sustainable practices.