



WHITNEY R. HARRIS

AUGUST 12, 1912 ~ APRIL 22, 2010

“The challenge to humanity is to establish and maintain the foundations of peace and justice upon the Earth for the centuries to come. We must learn to end war and protect life, to seek justice and find mercy, to help others and embrace compassion.”

Whitney R. Harris
National Public Radio
This I Believe, June 12, 2006

WHITNEY R. HARRIS

A memorial service for **Whitney R. Harris** was held on Sunday, May 23, 2010 in the Graham Chapel at Washington University in St. Louis. The Memorial Service was followed by a reception at Westwood Country Club.

Whitney Harris received his bachelor’s degree (magna cum laude) from the University of Washington in 1933. He passed the bar exam in California in 1936 and worked in general practice from 1936 to 1942 and for the U.S. Supreme Court in 1945. From 1946 to 1948, he was professor of law at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas and a solicitor for Southwestern Bell from 1955 to 1965. He practiced law in St. Louis from 1965 to 1989 and was appointed as a senior counselor to the Missouri Bar Association in 1987.

He played a key role as the assistant U.S. prosecutor at the international military tribunal in 1945 to 1946 that tried leaders of Nazi Germany of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Harris questioned Rudolf Hoess, commandant of the Auschwitz concentration camp and Otto Ohlendorf, a chief in one of Germany’s Special Action groups. He retained a keen interest in international law relating to war crimes and crimes against humanity. In 1998, he was a delegate to the United Nations-sponsored Rome conference that resulted in the treaty that created the International Criminal Court. In 2001, Washington University in St. Louis, renamed its Institute for Global Legal Studies in his honor. In 2005, he was a keynote speaker at a conference in Chautauqua, N.Y., *Sixty years after the Nuremberg Trials: Crimes against humanity and peace*.

Harris described his post-war experiences in his book, *Tyranny on Trial*, published by Southern Methodist University Press in 1954 with a second edition in 1995. He has also published *Family Law* in 1953 and *Law, Culture*

and *Value* in 1989, and contributed numerous articles to legal journals.

Harris was decorated with the Legion of Merit, Order of Merit, Officer’s Cross (Germany) and Medal of the War Crimes Commission (Poland). He received much recognition for his charitable work including awards from the National Society of Fund Raising Executives, Multiple Sclerosis Society, Arthritis Society, Asthma and Allergy Society and National Jewish Hospital.



He served on the board of governors of the Winston Churchill Memorial and Library and was a trustee of the National Jewish Center from 1980 to 1990. He was a member of the American Bar Association and chaired the International Law Section from 1953 to 1954 and the Administrative Law Section from 1960 to 1961 of the ABA. He served as president of the St. Louis Japan-American Society and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Psi and Delta Theta Phi.

The International Center for Tropical Ecology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis was named in his honor in 2006. Whitney Harris is survived by his wife, Anna, and son Eugene.

TWO ENDOWMENTS ESTABLISHED

The Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center has established two endowments through generous gifts received from the estate of **Whitney R. Harris**. One of these endowments will support the Center's relationship with the **Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS)** and provide travel grants to students participating in field courses by OTS. OTS is a non-profit consortium of 63 universities and research institutions from the United States, Latin America and Australia. The organization conducts graduate and undergraduate education, facilitates research and participates in tropical forest conservation. It owns and maintains the La Selva, Palo Verde and Las Cruces Biological Stations in Costa Rica. Undergraduate and graduate students from the Harris Center have utilized these facilities through field course participation and as a research base. The second endowment will support the Center's collaboration with the **Wildcare Institute** at the **Saint Louis Zoo**.

AN HISTORICAL TRIBUTE

I first met **Whitney** and **Jane Harris** at a luncheon held at the UM-St. Louis Alumni Center during the summer of 1989. The luncheon was attended by Department of Biology faculty, officials from University Development, and some civic leaders, including the Harris' and **Robert R. Hermann**. The goal of the luncheon was to consider ways to promote and gain funding for the new doctoral program in the Department of Biology, with an emphasis on tropical ecology and conservation. The **Missouri Botanical Garden**, in particular **Dr. Peter Raven**, had been instrumental in gaining support for the establishment of the doctoral program. We all realized during our discussion that the strength of St. Louis and the Department of Biology was that more than 50 tropical biologists were working at UM-St. Louis and the Missouri Botanical Garden. It became immediately obvious that we should focus on this strength and use it, along with our liaison with the world-famous Missouri Botanical Garden, to establish a leading graduate program in the United States. We knew that we would have trouble competing initially with long-established graduate programs, but we felt that we could exploit our strengths and attract top graduate students from Latin America. The biologists were in agreement to call our program a tropical one, but Robert Hermann and Jane and Whitney encouraged us to think bigger and so the **International Center for Tropical Ecology** was born. The idea for the **World Ecology Award** was also generated on that day. The award was to recognize persons with a significant international reputation in the promotion of biological conservation and environmental protection.

The main objective of the Center from day one, and that of today's Harris World Ecology Center, is to gain funding for research and training of graduate students, who then will go on to serve in positions of decision-making importance. Whitney and Jane, and more recently Whitney and Anna, continued to support the Center, and its renaming in 2006 as the **Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center**, honors this long-term commitment. Through their support, and that of many in St. Louis, the Center has now supported over 70 students through the five-year doctoral program and many more masters' students. Our alumni now work in countries throughout the world as professors, herbarium curators, researchers

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and leaders of national conservation organizations. In 1985, the Center initiated its successful collaboration with the **Saint Louis Zoo**. The establishment of two E. Desmond Lee Family Professorships further enriched our interaction with the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Saint Louis Zoo. Center activities are now supported by an endowment of over \$4 million and the Center has indeed become a world leader in graduate education in ecology and conservation. This success is underpinned by the leadership and encouragement provided to the Center by Whitney R. Harris.

*Dr. Robert Marquis
Scientific Director*

Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center

WORLD ECOLOGY AWARD CEREMONY

Dr. David Western received the World Ecology Award at gala dinner held at the **Missouri Botanical Garden** on Friday, May 7, 2010. Dr. Western is Chairman, Board of Trustees of the **African Conservation Centre**. A Kenyan citizen, he was raised and educated in Tanzania, obtained a B.Sc. (Honors) from Leicester University and a Ph.D. from the University of Nairobi. He began research into the savannas at Amboseli in 1967, looking at the interactions of humans and wildlife aimed at developing conservation policies applicable at an ecosystem scale. His work in Amboseli has continued unbroken since then, serving as a barometer of changes in the savannas and a test of new conservation solutions. He has a particular interest in pastoralism and community participation in conservation.

Western has been active in many areas of conservation, including field research, community-based conservation, international programs, ecotourism, conservation planning, directing government and non-government agencies, training, creation of conservation institutions and public education. He directed Wildlife Conservation Society programs in East Africa for many years. He established the Wildlife Planning Unit in Kenya in 1978, was the chairman of the African Elephant and Rhino Specialist Group in the 1980s, was founding president of The International Ecotourism Society, chairman of the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya, director of Wildlife Conservation Society (International), director of Kenya Wildlife Service and founder of the African Conservation Centre in Nairobi. He is an adjunct professor in Biology at the University of California, San Diego and the University of Minnesota.

Western's publications include *Conservation for the Twenty-first Century* (OUP, 1989), *Natural Connections: Perspectives in Community-based Conservation* (Island Press, 1994) and *In the Dust of Kilimanjaro* (Shearwater, 1997).



Dr. David Western



Dr. Patrick Osborne, Executive Director, Harris World Ecology Center, Chancellor Thomas, F. George, University of Missouri-St. Louis, Dr. Peter H. Raven, President, Missouri Botanical Garden, Dr. David Western, Hal A. Kroeger, Chair, Advisory Board, Harris World Ecology Center and Dr. Robert Marquis, Scientific Director, Harris World Ecology Center.

ELIZABETH KELLOGG ELECTED TO THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF ARGENTINA

Dr. Elizabeth Kellogg, E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professor of Botanical Studies was elected to The National Academy of Sciences of Argentina in March 2010 in Córdoba, Argentina. Kellogg studies switchgrass and its 15 related species that have the potential to produce up to 1,000 gallons of ethanol an acre, compared to 400 gallons an acre from corn. She has a longstanding working relationship with **Dr. Ana Anton**, Director of the Multidisciplinary Institute of Plant Biology in Córdoba, and **Fernando Zuloaga**, Director of the Darwinian Botanical Institute in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She has also trained several Argentine scientists in her laboratory at **UM-St. Louis** and all have gone on to scientific careers with the national scientific agency (CONICET) in Argentina. Kellogg joined the Department of Biology at UM-St. Louis in 1998. She earned a doctorate in biology from Harvard University, a master's degree in ecology from University of Idaho in Moscow, and a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Harvard University.

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DR. JOHN BLAKE LEAVES UM-ST. LOUIS

Dr. John Blake has resigned from the University. John was a strong supporter of the Harris Center and served as its Associate Director during the Center's critical formative years. His research has focused on the structure and organization of bird communities, primarily in tropical forests. In recent years, this work has been based in Ecuador at the **Tiputini Biodiversity Station**. The Station provides access to a tract of undisturbed forest within the Yasuní Biosphere Reserve. John established two 100-ha plots in *terra firme* forest and used a combination of mist nets and direct observations to record the occurrence and locations of birds within the two plots. He has also installed camera traps along trails, on the plots, and at saltlicks to record wildlife within the reserve. While at UM-St. Louis, he advised students from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Luxembourg, Peru, Uruguay, United States and Venezuela. He taught courses in Ornithology, Wildlife Conservation and Ecology, Tropical Ecology and Conservation, and Biometry. He also taught courses in avian ecology and multivariate analyses through the Laboratorio de Investigaciones Ecológicas de las Yungas, Universidad Nacional de Tucumán, Argentina. Supporters of the Harris Center would like to thank Dr. Blake for his contribution over the years to the Center, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

20TH ANNIVERSARY SEMINAR PROGRAM

Tuesday, September 7, 2010: **Dr. Anthony R. E. Sinclair**, Professor, Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia: *Long term dynamics in the Serengeti ecosystem: Lessons for Conservation and Society*.

Tuesday, September 21, 2010: **Dr. Charles J. Krebs**, Professor Emeritus, University of British Columbia: *What Drives the 10-year cycle of Snowshoe Hares in Canada's Yukon?*

Tuesday, October 19, 2010: **Dr. Ellen Ketterson**, Distinguished Professor, Gender Studies, Cognitive Sciences, Indiana University, Bloomington: *The hormone in the middle: how to respond to a rapidly changing environment as learned from an adaptable songbird*.

Tuesday, April 5, 2011: **Dr. Colin Chapman**, Professor, Department of Anthropology and McGill School of Environment, McGill University.

NEWS OF HARRIS CENTER FACULTY, STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

The Harris Center Scholarship Committee awarded the following research scholarships in March 2010: **Mari Cruz Jaramillo**: *Jane and Stanley Birge Scholarship*: Feeding ecology of the Galapagos hawk after goat removal.

Maria Pil: *Christensen Fund Scholarship in Plant Conservation*: Comparative phylogeography of mangrove tree species in Brazil: Conservation implications.

Jose Luis Rivera: *Henry B. Cowhey Scholarship in Tropical Conservation* and *Mary Osborne Scholarship*: Effects of spatial distribution of host resources on parasite diversity and parasite-host specificity.

Jonathan Sweeney: *John Denver Memorial Scholarship in Tropical Ecology* and *Stephen Mitchell Doyle Memorial Scholarship in Tropical Ecology*: Toward an understanding of community assembly: Measuring long-term dynamics and the functional structure of trees in a tropical hill forest community in Borneo.

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

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

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

Jinshun Zhong: *Jane Harris Scholarship in Tropical Botany:* Floral diversity and evolution within Lamiaceae *s.l.*

Mariana Villegas: *Harris World Ecology Center Scholarship:* Influence of fire on bird communities in the Sub-Andean Yungas forests of Bolivia.

Saul Hoyos: *Harris World Ecology Center Scholarship:* Anatomical and morphological characteristics of *Fusispermum*, *Rinorea* and *Rinoreocarpus* (Neotropical Violaceae).

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

Oyomoare Osazuwa-Peters: *Jorie Butler Kent Scholarship:* Radial variation in wood density and xylem anatomy of twenty canopy trees differing in growth-mortality strategy.

Harris Center researchers have received funding support from the **Saint Louis Zoo** through the **Field Research for Conservation (FRC) Program:**

Iris Levin and **Dr. Patricia Parker:** Understanding the biology and impact of novel blood parasites found in Great Frigate birds (*Fregata minor*) of the Galapagos Islands.

Jenni Higashiguchi and **Dr. Patricia Parker:** Vector ecology and avian disease in the Galapagos Islands

Dr. Amy Zanne (Department of Biology) was awarded \$49,940 for her project: *Xylem longevity, leaf longevity: interconnections between stems and leaves* from the UM-St. Louis Research Board.

FIELD RESEARCH REPORT

Miconia calvescens (Melastomataceae) is a plant native to the New World tropics ranging from southern Mexico to northern Bolivia. However, this plant is a very pervasive invader and is now found on many Pacific Islands and in the tropical rain forest of northern Queensland, Australia. As part of a transcontinental collaboration established in 2008 between **Dr. Bette Loiselle** and **Gonzalo Rivas** at the **University of Missouri-Saint Louis** and the **Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization** in Australia, important ecological parameters of this plant are being studied in its native range (specifically Ecuador), and where it is an invasive in Australia. The project seeks to discover why this plant is such a successful invader. Part of the fieldwork necessary to complete these preliminary comparisons was funded through a *Parker-Gentry Tropical Research Fellowship* awarded to Gonzalo Rivas by the Harris World Ecology Center in 2008.

Preliminary results show that the ecological niche of this plant is indeed different between its native and invasive ranges. For example, in Ecuador *Miconia* is adapted to grow under more light and in less steep areas. Plant traits, such as fruit and seed production vary between the two sites. This study will soon begin an experimental phase to investigate these differences to help us better understand the process of ecological invasions.



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The Harris Center acknowledges the following for their generous support from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

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In memory

Whitney R. Harris

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