

PiperNotes Newsletter of the

— WHITNEY R.
HARRIS

WORLD ECOLOGY CENTER
at the University of Missouri–St Louis



PETER H. RAVEN – RETIREMENT TRIBUTES



Biologist and conservationist Peter H. Raven
(Photo: Kristi Foster, Courtesy Missouri Botanical Garden)

Peter Raven is a world leader in botany and ecology and advocate for global biodiversity conservation. He was appointed Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden in 1971, subsequently its President and, following his retirement in September 2010, is now the Garden's President Emeritus. During his tenure and through his leadership, the Garden became a world-class center for botanical research, conservation, education and horticulture display. The Garden is a leader in botanical research in Latin America, Africa and Asia, with strong programs in North America as well. Education programs at the Garden reach more than 100,000 students in St. Louis each year.

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and provide professional development for teachers. The splendid horticultural displays attract more than 750,000 visitors to the Garden annually.

In 1999, Peter Raven was described by TIME magazine as a *Hero for the Planet*. He champions research around the world to preserve endangered plants and promotes the cause for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. He is the recipient of numerous prizes and awards, including the prestigious International Prize for Biology from the government of Japan, the Environmental Prize of the Institute de la Vie, the Volvo Environment Prize, the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement, the Sasakawa Environment Prize, International Cosmos Prize, the Linnaean Legacy Award, the Award for International Cooperation in Science and Technology from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the World Ecology Award from the Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center. He has held Guggenheim and John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowships. He is past President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Chairman of the National Geographic Society's Committee for Research and Exploration, and Chair of the Division of Earth and Life Studies of the National Research Council.

In 2001, he received from the President of the United States, the National Medal of Science, the highest award for scientific accomplishment in this country. He served for 12 years as Home Secretary of the National Academy of Sciences, is a member of the academies of science in Argentina, Brazil, China, Denmark, India, Italy, Mexico, Russia, Sweden, the U.K. and the Pontifical Academy of Sciences.

The author of numerous books and reports, both popular and scientific, Raven co-wrote *Biology of Plants*, an internationally best-selling textbook, now in its seventh edition. He also co-authored *Environment*, a leading textbook in environment science, also in its seventh edition. Other books include *Biology* and *Understanding Biology*. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1960 after completing his undergraduate work at the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to his appointment at the Missouri Botanical Garden he served on the faculty at Stanford University.

Robert Marquis, Scientific Director and Patrick Osborne, Executive Director, Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center

We sincerely thank Dr. Peter Raven for his foresight and wisdom in promoting ecology, evolution, systematic biology and conservation science at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and throughout the world. Early on, Peter lent his influence to help convince the administrators of the University of Missouri system that a joint venture between the Missouri Botanical Garden and the University would be of benefit to both. Most importantly, the collaboration would attract students from tropical countries to St. Louis to complete graduate courses that provided not only an education in the science of conservation but also in the application of that science to the conservation of biodiversity. The International Center for Tropical Ecology was borne out of the collaboration, later becoming the Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center. Students from more than 35 countries have completed master's and Ph.D. degrees since the initiation of the collaboration over 20 years ago. Many of these students are now in decision-making positions in governments, universities, and

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foundations, able to influence the management of natural resources and biodiversity. Much of the success of the Harris Center is due to the foundation laid by Peter, and to his continued support throughout the years. He has provided academic and research guidance to the Center, assisted in fund-raising, provided our students and faculty unfettered access to the Garden's herbarium and library and allowed us to host many Center events at the Garden. He has been instrumental in supporting the Center's annual presentation of its World Ecology Award: identifying potential recipients, inviting awardees and hosting the presentation gala dinner at the Garden. These few examples illustrate Peter's collaborative nature and the Center has been successful because of it. Although he has retired as President of the Missouri Botanical Garden, we look forward to future interactions with Peter in this joint venture as the Harris Center heads into its next 20 years.

Paul Ehrlich, President, Center for Conservation Biology, Bing Professor of Population Studies, Stanford University

I've known Peter Raven for almost half a century, and consider him one of the world's truly great scientists. Besides his seminal scientific contributions in evolution and ecology he has been the leading advocate for conserving biodiversity and a major force for dealing properly with humanity's general environmental predicament. On top of that he has turned the Missouri Botanical Garden into one of the greatest scientific institutions on the planet, and done great service to science in many other capacities. The world is a better place because of him, and my own life has been made better by our friendship.

Dan Janzen, Professor of Biology, Thomas G. and Louise E. DiMaura Term Chair, University of Pennsylvania, and Winnie Hallwachs

In 1982, in the dark at the end of an OTS policy meeting at the Missouri Botanical Garden, a meeting where, to really date this, Winnie and I decided to put together Costa Rican Natural History, Peter walked out to a waiting cab to head for the airport to Washington to joust with the other Beltway Rats over the distribution of bigger things. I walked up to the cab window and said "Thank you Peter for doing *that* for all of us, so we can go on being biologists in the woods". I meant it then, and I mean it now.

Tom George, Chancellor, University of Missouri-St. Louis

What can one say about a true icon not only in the St. Louis community but also around the world! Long before I moved to St. Louis in 2003, I was well aware of Dr. Peter Raven as the world-renowned director (and then president) of the famous Missouri Botanical Garden. His scientific accomplishments in botany and entomology along with his numerous awards, including election to the prestigious U.S. National Academy of Sciences, were awe-inspiring to me then as they are even



more so now, especially since the awards keep coming in. He has published seminal research papers and books, such as *Biology of Plants* which is in its seventh edition.

In addition to his tremendous scientific contributions at the basic research level, Peter is a champion and most articulate spokesman for the environment and its conservation. I recall several years ago his coming to my office to help me on how to strengthen the programs on our campus to make us “more green.” He brought me a copy of his comprehensive book co-authored with Linda Berg entitled simply *Environment*, which has helped better educate me and heighten my sensitivity to the need to conserve our environment.

The Missouri Botanical Garden under his leadership has reached out to numerous, diverse sectors of the community in exciting ways. One example close to home for the University of Missouri-St. Louis is our cooperative graduate program in tropical ecology, where our faculty and scientists from the Garden work with students at locations throughout the world.

On the personal side, Peter is just a great fellow to be around. I always learn plenty from him either one-on-one or as a member of an audience listening to his captivating remarks. His anecdotes and stories are both instructive and entertaining. Finally, he has a wealth of jokes at his instant command. I once tried to match him joke-for-joke when we sat next to each other at dinner with a group of visitors from Vietnam – after about the fourth round, he left me in the dust!

Edward O. Wilson, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University

Peter Raven is one of the world's foremost botanists and evolutionary biologists. And that is only the beginning. He is a great expositor: his books and articles are compelling and widely influential. He is a true leader, a rarity among scientists. His service in government, committees of scientific societies, and Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden have been superlative. What more can I say about this man? Oh yes, he is also a great and globally effective conservationist. On a personal note, his writings are what drew me into writing and activism in the field in the early 1970s.



Edward O. Wilson and Peter H. Raven 2010 Linnaean Legacy Award recipients (Photo: Arizona State University/Michael Ian).

Bette Loiselle, Director, Division of Environmental Biology, National Science Foundation

Dr. Peter Raven is one of the most influential biologists of our time. Dr. Raven has significantly influenced the field of evolutionary biology, established botanical gardens as centers of excellence

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in biodiversity research, and is an eloquent spokesperson for our environment. Perhaps no one fits the phrase “larger than life” better than Dr. Peter Raven, retiring President of the Missouri Botanical Garden. Dr. Raven’s entry into a conference room, scientific meeting, social event, or just about any venue you can think of, is accompanied by an immediate surge of energy, passion, creativity, and sense of purpose. During my time as Director of what was then the International Center for Tropical Ecology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Dr. Raven’s larger-than-life role as the Center’s co-founding collaborative partner was instrumental in every success the Center achieved during those years. Some of my best memories with Dr. Raven included accompanying him and Pat Raven during the pre-gala private tours of the Missouri Botanical Garden for the Center’s World Ecology Award recipients—here his enthusiasm and love of the Garden and its accomplishments and his passion for the conservation of biological diversity were so wonderfully articulated as we completed the whirlwind tour with Raven as chauffeur and tour guide. Equally memorable are the Ph.D. student committees and defenses I attended where Dr. Raven would engage the student and the committee in a fascinating scientific exchange, clearly having read and thought carefully about the student’s work and its intellectual contributions to the current field. To me, that so wonderfully demonstrated how the love of science continues to be such an important motivator in Dr. Raven’s life.

Jeffrey P. Bonner, Dana Brown President and CEO, Saint Louis Zoo

Among Peter Raven’s many achievements throughout his career, I believe his most important and enduring will be his championing the cause of biodiversity. Not only has he fostered research around the globe, but he has also been a leading advocate for conservation and sustainability. The Saint Louis Zoo has been privileged to work in some of the same conservation hotspots as the Missouri Botanical Garden toward one goal—to save endangered species from extinction which can never be restored once they are gone. Surveying endangered flora and fauna in the amazing Bosawas Nature Reserve in Nicaragua and working with communities there to manage their future sustainability. Studying the unique plants and wildlife under tremendous threat in Madagascar and training local populations in conservation methods. There are so many challenges ahead in all parts of the world. We salute Peter Raven for his articulate and unwavering leadership and vision.

Peter Ashton, Charles Bullard Research Professor of Forestry and Director of the Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University

Peter Raven, for me, was the person who started me off as an American, back in 1978 when I came over from Scotland to direct the Arnold Arboretum. Although his Missouri Botanical Garden had a very different policy and administrative superstructure, as Chair of my Visiting Committee he quickly got to know the ropes of the complex Harvard system and helped in many ways. I can never thank him enough for that.

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Thomas E. Lovejoy, Heinz Center Biodiversity Chair

Peter has been a friend and colleague for almost my entire professional life—a dynamo intellectually with a passion for science, for nature, for conservation with a good dose of fun mixed in. He is a man of such energy that his solution to jet lag is to take calls in the middle of the night in Japan so he wouldn't have to adjust his biological clock. And of course I am reminded regularly by the nocturnal goings on of Peter and Pat—the flying squirrels in my back yard!

Stephen Blackmore FRSE, Regius Keeper & Queen's Botanist, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

Peter has had a profound influence on my life, I have benefited enormously from his wisdom, humor and friendship. He has a unique ability to encompass all of life in a single lecture. His opening talk at the International Botanical Congress in Yokohama remains the most powerful oratory I have ever witnessed. It received a standing ovation and the Russian botanist I didn't know but had happened to sit next to embraced me in a bear hug, with tears streaming down his face. A Hero of the Planet indeed but a man full of fun. His repertoire of jokes would have sustained an entirely different kind of stand up career (my personal favorite is the one about the pirate). When I applied to be Keeper of Botany at the Natural History Museum in London he agreed to provide a reference for me “Provided I don't have to say anything good about you”. Peter put together some of the biggest and most collaborative scientific projects ever undertaken and it has been a pleasure for me to be associated with first, Flora Mesoamericana and, more recently, the Flora of China. Bringing together the people necessary for such projects has been a remarkable achievement and I doubt that anyone else could have done it. Travelling with Peter in China on a number of occasions has been a high point for me but best of all have been the family holidays we have shared in California and Scotland. We found ourselves researching one or two distilleries along the way and discovered that, from time to time, a small glass of single malt whisky can make the world a better place. This was no illusion; Peter has made the world a better place.



Peter and Tricia Blackmore on Islay, Inner Hebrides, Scotland in 2010 (Photo: Stephen Blackmore).

Robert Ricklefs, Curators' Professor, Department of Biology, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Peter Raven is one of those completely admirable people who is disarmingly charming, cares about the important things in life—in all of our lives—and draws from a seemingly endless supply of delectable humor. An outstanding scientist, a visionary administrator, an unflinchingly supportive

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mentor, and a passionate steward of our environment; we are privileged to be among Peter's friends and colleagues. He has certainly earned a well-deserved retirement, but I am counting on him to continue to grace us with his wit and good works for years to come.

David (Jonah) Western, Chairman, Board of Trustees, African Conservation Center

Peter Raven is a truly great scientist who has done as much as any biologist could wish for. If that was not enough, he has an infectious passion for life and people that matches his contagious curiosity for plants and animals. This is what makes Peter the extraordinary humanist, public communicator and conservationist that he is.

Bob Sussman, Professor, Physical Anthropology, Washington University in St. Louis

Dr. Raven has been extremely supportive of the anthropology department at Wash U and of my work here and in Madagascar for the 30+ years I have been here. I have worked with him on a number of projects, we have been on a number of graduate student committees together, and I have been active in OTS and AAAS when he served as president in those organizations. He is a wonderful person and a superb colleague. I consider him to be one of the two geniuses with whom I have had the honor and privilege to work. I have many fond memories of Peter of which I will share two here.

Many years ago, Peter and I coauthored a paper for *Science* on co-evolution of lemurs and flowering plants. His schedule, as always, was extremely busy so we would make half-hour or hour appointments to work on some of the sections of the paper. During those sessions, we would discuss what we wanted to say and if questions came up, Peter would pick up the phone and call a colleague in New York, London, or somewhere else on the planet, and we would have our answer instantly. Towards the end of the session, he would then dictate the section we were writing, including spelling and punctuation right there on the spot. When I received the typed version a day or so later, it would always be essentially perfectly written, requiring few if any modifications. I was always amazed—the sections I wrote on my own took several days and several versions to accomplish.

On another occasion, Madagascar had banned western scientists from working there during the late 1970s, but in the mid-1980s, they were beginning to invite western researchers back into the country. A number of those who had worked there in the past were asked to attend a conference on the Island of Jersey to assist in putting together plans for collaborative research in ecology with our Malagasy colleagues. Though Peter had not yet worked in Madagascar at the time, a number of us knew of his interest in getting the Missouri Botanical Garden involved in Malagasy botany and suggested that he be invited. On our return plane trip, Peter turned to me and (jokingly) emphatically stated: "Bob, when we began this trip I knew very little about the botany of this great island, and now I am the Czar of Madagascar botany!" Indeed, since that time, the Missouri Botanical Garden has become the leading institution for botanical, ecological, and conservation



research in Madagascar. It indeed has been a great pleasure and an honor to work with Peter over these many years.

Patricia Parker, E. Desmond Lee Professor in Zoological Studies, Department of Biology, University of Missouri-St. Louis and Research Scientist, WildCare Institute, Saint Louis Zoo

Peter Raven is a phenomenon, and I've struggled to find a way to express why I think this is so. Of course his direct contributions to science have been remarkable, but they alone only gave him the credentials to have even more remarkable impact on conservation science in general. I have seen him speak at venues such as a church group, a college class, numerous public events with mixed audiences, and to accept awards at prestigious scientific gatherings, and have been looped in on email communications with individual students, non-science members of the community, and many other scientists. His communication approach is always the same regardless of audience or venue: he goes straight to the point he wants to make, presents it in plain language, and then proceeds with its implications and what action he thinks might be appropriate. He has an uncanny ability to speak directly but respectfully on sensitive topics, to use laughter to defuse tension, and to not drop the thread of any of these myriad communications. In the complex network of conservation science and action, I can think of no one with the reach, the commitment, and the effectiveness of Peter Raven. Even though he's retired, I'm relieved to see that his network remains vibrant while we wait for the next brilliant communicator.

Kathryn Fuller, former President and CEO, World Wildlife Fund

I first met Peter in the early 1980's when I was a new World Wildlife Fund staff member working on wildlife law issues and he a distinguished member of the board. I cannot forget listening to him present to the board on the importance of conservation of biodiversity. It was a tour de force performance—deeply substantive, passionate, articulate, and persuasive. We were rapt. What an exceptional talent, I thought to myself then, and how important to the accomplishment of WWF's mission. Those same qualities continue to impress and inspire audiences to action today. A tireless giant in his field, Peter is also a warm and thoughtful colleague and friend. He will continue to provide inspiration in conservation, I know.



Peter Raven and Kathryn Fuller, 2006 recipient of the World Ecology Award.



Blanche M. Touhill, Chancellor Emerita, University of Missouri-St. Louis

I would like to thank Peter Raven for all his efforts in making the Missouri Botanical Garden a world-class botanical garden. Everyone in St. Louis knows about Peter Raven and his wonderful accomplishments, but I had the opportunity to know him personally when I became Chancellor of the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Dr. Raven was then a member of the University of Missouri's Board of Curators, and shortly after being appointed Chancellor, I was honored to become a member of the Board of the Missouri Botanical Garden. Dr. Raven was an outstanding leader of both of those institutions. His profound understanding of research and teaching enriched the basic components of both institutions. He spoke eloquently on many occasions urging excellence in research and teaching endeavors.

Dr. Raven, with my predecessor, Marguerite Ross Barnett, and members of the Department of Biology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, had established the doctoral program in biology at the University, with a special emphasis on the study of tropical ecology. That cooperative program, in turn, led to the founding of the Harris World Ecology Center. This wonderful partnership between the Missouri Botanical Garden and the University, shares both research and teaching with students and the public in furtherance of the importance of ecology. I am especially grateful to Dr. Raven for involving the University of Missouri-St. Louis in those very important ecology efforts. Thanks to Dr. Raven, the University of Missouri-St. Louis is today a leader in tropical ecology research and teaching.

Elizabeth Losos, President and CEO, Organization for Tropical Studies

On behalf of the Board of Directors, alumni, and staff of the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS), it is my honor to recognize the distinguished service that Peter Raven has performed on behalf of our organization and the world of tropical biology. Within OTS, Peter's involvement as the Chair of our Board in the mid-1980s was a phenomenal time. Peter led OTS through our first strategic plan; he directed our most significant fundraising effort, purchasing thousands of acres of primary forest for the Costa Rican park service to establish a critical biological corridor from the mountains to our La Selva Biological Station; he opened the door to one of our most distinguished funding agencies, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which continues to support our programs more than twenty-five years later, and he helped OTS to receive the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement, the first time ever this prize was awarded to a non-profit organization. Even more importantly than his intimate involvement in OTS, Peter's willingness to house OTS' botanical collections at the Missouri Botanical Garden and work with OTS researchers (as well place researchers from the Missouri Botanical Garden in Costa Rica) proved to be fortuitous and, as a result, profoundly enhanced the world's knowledge of plant species. Peter is a true visionary in tropical biology and has had a significant impact on OTS, and researchers, like Don Stone, one of our founding fathers, and Deborah and David Clark, our first directors at La Selva, and, of course, hundreds and hundreds of others. His inspirational leadership, his acute vision, his powerful drive, and his unwavering dedication to OTS will continue to be felt, through our programs and operations, for years to come in future generations of students and researchers not just interested in

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studying the tropics but in making a difference in how we understand the biological dynamics of our world.

José Sarukhán, Rector, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

I first met Peter Raven in the early seventies at the Missouri Botanical Garden, at one of the international seminars that he had started organizing since his assumption as Director of the Garden a few years earlier. These seminars have become a permanent fixture of the many academic activities organized by the Garden. Ever since then, we both have kept at the institutional and personal level a close collaboration and a friendship of which I feel I have become enriched and privileged. Peter's academic capacity and interest in international issues was crucial in establishing a large number of important programs between the Garden and scores of organizations in the World. I will refer to two major ones in México: first his initiative to start one of the largest floristic programs in the American Continent, a collaboration between the Missouri Botanical Garden, The Natural History Museum in London and the Instituto de Biología of which I was director at the time. This project has become the most important floristic study in the Neotropics. Second, his participation in an international meeting convened by the Mexican Government in 1991, gave birth to the Mexican National Commission on Biodiversity, a meeting in which he played a key role in helping us convince the President of the country at the time, to establish that Commission which has become a central tool for developing public policies about the conservation and management of the ecosystems of Mexico and the biodiversity contained in them. I could not possibly even start relating aspects of our personal relationship with him and his family in the space allocated to these expressions of appreciation of Prof. Raven's life and achievements.

Kamal Bawa, Distinguished Professor, University of Massachusetts, Boston, and President, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bangalore, India

Bob Marquis' request to write a few words as a tribute to Peter Raven "as a person, his impact on science and conservation, and/or how he influenced your career" is delightfully easy to fulfill. Peter as a person—I can sum it up simply: a caring, compassionate, witty, knowledgeable, and a very, very helpful person. His impact on science and conservation, we all know, has been huge. Because of his intellect and vision, his contributions to many fields that are central to conservation and a sustainable world, and his ability to network with people around the globe, he has been the most influential and principal spokesman for our science for almost half a century. Finally, Peter has influenced me in several ways: developing my worldview of our field of conservation and sustainability science, creating a network of colleagues, working towards goals that lie at the intersection of science and society, and establishing a creative and effective institution: Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) (www.atere.org) with which Peter is affiliated as a valuable member of the advisory board. Among the many good things that I have had



the good fortune of encountering in my life, knowing Peter and learning from him has been among the best and most pleasant experiences. I hope these will continue for years to come.



Peter Raven and Kamal Bawa touring Kaziranga National Park, India (Photo provided by Kamal Bawa).

Rodolfo Dirzo, Bing Professor, Environmental Sciences, Department of Biology, Stanford University

The collective work of Peter Raven has left an indelible mark in my scientific career. His influence started early, when I was a master's student interested in the evolutionary ecology of plants. For example, I still recall, vividly, the first time I read his masterpiece (together with Paul Ehrlich) on the coevolution of butterflies and plants: I was struck by the power of combining a systematic knowledge of plants with ecology and evolution of plant and animal traits, leading to conceptual

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frameworks—coevolution in this case—of major significance. This work was truly inspirational for the development of one of my major lines of research, plant-herbivore interactions. Similarly influential punctuations followed for some years, but the first time I saw him addressing an audience on the topic of tropical conservation with such awesome power, passion and knowledge, together with his numerous publications on this theme, inspired me to pursue a line of work in which I could combine the study of species interactions with conservation science. Years later, I was fortunate to have an invitation from him to spend a sabbatical at the botanical Mecca—the Missouri Botanical Garden. That opened the doors for me to the privilege of frequently receiving feedback from him, and to establish important and everlasting fruitful scientific networks. Also, it was at that time that we coauthored our first paper, outlining the significance of developing a biological inventory for Mexico, an exercise that has inspired much of the work I have been doing on that topic. Subsequent to my sabbatical, I have made several visits to the Garden, and have coincided with him in numerous meetings. Also, we have collaborated in several endeavors (including discussions with him and José Sarukhán to help develop a plan for the creation of a Mexican commission on biodiversity, later materialized as one of the finest institutions in that field, CONABIO), in which his wisdom and inclusiveness have made those interactions not only productive but most enjoyable. Beyond all that, his consistent willingness to help me, anytime I needed, has influenced my work on biodiversity science. Most significantly, he has been extremely generous with time and friendship to me and my family. My last visit with him at the Garden, when we wrote the last paper we have coauthored, on the global state of biodiversity, was decorated by quality time with me and my family (when he even discussed with my then 15-year old son, Arturo, about promising areas of study and careers!). I am extremely fortunate to have had the planets aligned to let me meet, work with and enjoy, as a friend, a most wonderful human being. I am looking forward to continue doing so!

Ariel E. Lugo, International Institute of Tropical Forestry, USDA Forest Service, Puerto Rico

I am honored for the opportunity to express my admiration for the work of Dr. Peter H. Raven, and to also express my gratitude for all he has done on behalf of the conservation of the world's biota, and more specifically for being instrumental in the development of people and institutions that care for the study and conservation of plants all over the world.

As a student of botany, I was familiar with the work of Dr. Raven, but the familiarity was based on reading his books and articles without understanding the true scope of his work and his influence throughout the world. In 1988, I finally met Dr. Raven at the Biodiversity Conference at the Smithsonian in Washington DC, and found myself expressing a different opinion from his regarding the rates of species extinctions. Notwithstanding our differences, Dr. Raven was always kind and in fact, gave me the opportunity to visit the Missouri Botanical Garden, where I understood what his work meant for science and for the world. I also had an opportunity to personally experience his passion for conservation and see how one person can influence an organization such as the Missouri Botanical Garden, and touch the whole world with the power of science and the moral imperative of the conservation of life.

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As I travel throughout the tropical world, I am attentive to people and organizations and to understanding where their inspiration and support lie. I usually find that Dr. Raven is at the root of many institutions and conservation programs in the developing world. Dr. Peter Raven is a global super scientist and educator. His work greatly transcends the United States and can only be understood in a global context. I am sure that in retirement he will continue to support the development of the botanical sciences throughout the developing world, and he will certainly continue to be the main voice of plant conservation in the world.

Thank you Dr. Raven for all that you have done for plants, for being such a powerful role model to all of us, and above all, for being such a warm and caring human being.

