

# CAREERS & EDUCATION

## Teacher Builds Environmental Curriculum

### Next stop: Galapagos Islands

Jesuit High School mathematics and science teacher Jennie Cournia will participate in an environmental expedition to the Galápagos Islands—a designated World Heritage site off the coast of Ecuador.

The Nov. 22 to Dec. 6 visit is part of a Toyota International Teacher Program focusing on promoting environmental conservation and sustainability, as well as international understanding.

"I am extremely interested in sustainability and in teaching today's students what it means to be good stewards of our environment and finding creative methods for bringing this topic to life," Cournia said. "This trip will offer amazing opportunities to learn from other cultures and other teachers across the country as we develop interdisciplinary lesson plans that I can then share

with my colleagues and students."

Prior to departure, teachers will gather at Everglades National Park in Miami for a brief orientation and exploration of the Everglades biosphere, which is similar to that of the Galápagos Islands.

Representing 25 states, 30 teachers were selected for the expedition through a competitive, merit-based process administered by the Institute of International Education in Washington, D.C., the nation's most experienced nonprofit educational exchange organization.

Jesuit High School mathematics and science teacher Jennie Cournia (far right) leads her students in lessons that focus on the environment.



## Challenging Social, Racial Boundaries

More than four million students across the country will challenge social and racial boundaries as part of the seventh annual Mix It Up at Lunch Day, a project designed to foster respect and understanding in schools and communities.

Sponsored by the Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching Tolerance program, the national observance encourages students to question and cross boundaries by sitting with someone new in the cafeteria

for just one day.

Many schools are planning activities for the whole day, and some use the Nov. 13 event to kick off a yearlong exploration of social divisions.

"This year, Mix It Up Day has a special significance because of the historic election of Barack Obama as the first black president," said Mix It Up Director Samantha Elliott Briggs. "Students across America are very excited about doing their

part to tear down the walls that divide us."

Student organizers say that Mix It Up at Lunch Day successfully encourages students to cross group lines and meet new people; helps foster school spirit and unity; raises awareness about social boundaries; helps students make new friends; and makes students feel more comfortable interacting with different kinds of people.

## College Night at Mt. Hood

Mt. Hood Community College is hosting "College Night in Oregon," a free event to assist high school students in choosing a college and applying for financial aid and scholarships.

Seminars offered will include: "Choosing the Right College," "Understanding the Financial Aid Process," "Scholarship Searches and Scams" and "Completing and Filing the FAFSA." In addition, four \$500 scholarships will be given away.

The event will include free pizza and prizes.

"College Night in Oregon" is taking place Monday, Nov. 24, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the MHCC Town and Gown Room at the Gresham Campus.



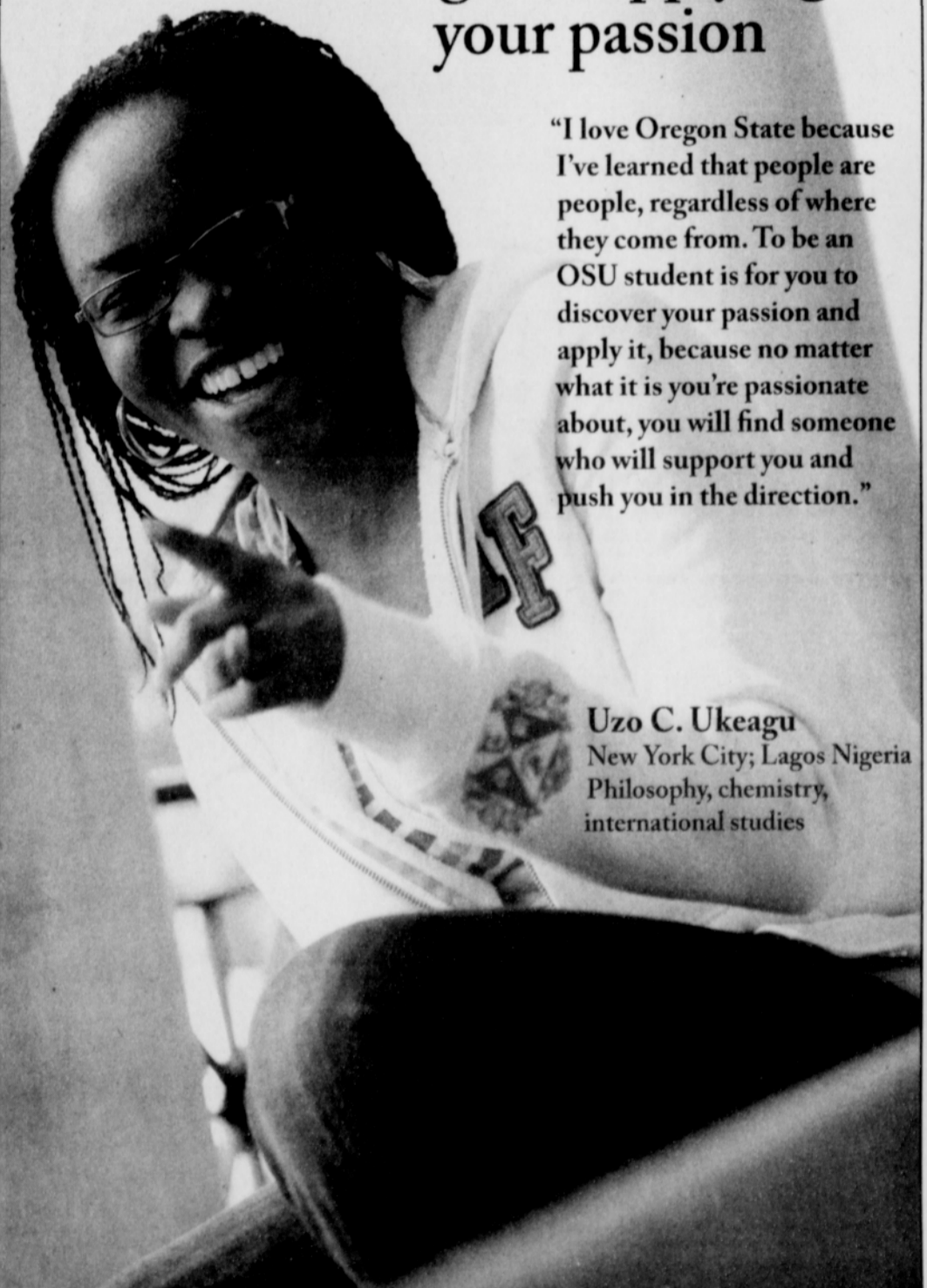
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