

symposium

FEATURES SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

With two keynote speakers, student presentations, and a dance marathon, the 2009 McMaster Symposium is a success

The fifth annual McMaster Symposium/ Global Summit was held in April, featuring two and a half days of presentations and discussions on this year's theme, "Humanity at the Crossroads: Challenges to Sustainable Community Development." A variety of student- and faculty-led sessions addressed this topic and provided avenues for critical reflection on the sustainability of the way we live and consume on campus, in communities, and around the world.

Keynote speakers were Dr. Margaret Lowman and Ruby Sales.

Lowman is a pioneer in the science of canopy ecology. For 30 years, she has designed hot-air balloons and walkways for treetop exploration to solve mysteries in the world's forests, with special expertise on the links between insect pests and ecosystem health. Affectionately called the grandmother of canopy research, she has explored all three major rain forests of the world - Africa, Australia/Asia, and the Neotropics (including the Amazon).

Lowman facilitates policy solutions using science education as a tool, drawing upon a lifetime of research and conservation. Her international network and passion for science have led her into leadership roles where she seeks best practices to solve environmental challenges. She is currently Director of Environmental Initiatives and Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies at New College of Florida. She is the

author of *Life in the Treetops* and *It's a Jungle Up There: More Tales from the Treetops*.

Sales is a civil rights activist, social critic, and public theologian. She grew up during the Civil Rights Movement and became a member of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee. She taught

She is a prolific writer whose sermons and social critiques are widely acclaimed and circulated. Sales received a Certificate of Gratitude for her work on "Eyes on the Prize," a documentary series about the Civil Rights Movement. In 2000, Dan Rather spotlighted Sales on his American Dream



full-time at Spelman College and Bucknell University. Longing to continue her work in social justice, Sales created two kitchen table projects, Black Women's Voices and Images and Women of All Colors. Both of these organizations provided common spaces for women to come together to preserve and promote their voices and lives.

segment, and the History Makers organization selected her as a History Maker in 2004.

The symposium closed with a student-led dance marathon for the Children's Miracle Network. The event raised more than \$4,000 to go to St. Vincent Mercy Children's Hospital in Toledo. ♦

Treasure Bacon, above top, at her poster presentation. Dr. Margaret Lowman, above left, with students. Ruby Sales presenting at the McMaster Symposium.