

Sample [UM-St. Louis](#) Collaborative Research Activities

[Missouri Botanical Garden](#)

The University of Missouri-St. Louis is one of three leading university centers in the United States for tropical ecology and has students from 24 countries studying in this program. Through a cooperative program with the Missouri Botanical Garden, the University of Missouri-St. Louis promotes research and education in the biology and conservation of tropical ecosystems.

UM-St. Louis currently has approximately a dozen affiliated professorships with Missouri Botanical Garden, including **Dr. Elizabeth Kellogg**, E. Desmond Lee and Family Professor of Botanical Studies.

[Donald Danforth Plant Science Center](#)

UM-St. Louis and Donald Danforth Plant Science Center jointly established the "E. Desmond Lee and Family Endowed Professorship in Plant Sciences." The Professor, **Xuemin "Sam" Wang**, who joined UM-St. Louis in summer 2004, is an outstanding scientist in biochemical, molecular and structural biology research. His research focuses on plants as a source of oils that can reduce the demand for oil-based products such as gasoline and plastics.

[Saint Louis Zoo](#)

UM-St. Louis also collaborates with the Saint Louis Zoo through joint research appointments. **Dr. Patricia Parker**, as E. Desmond Lee and Family Professor of Zoological Studies, holds one such joint appointment between UMSL and the Zoo.

[Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center](#)

Formerly the International Center for Tropical Ecology, the Center was established in 1990 and was renamed in 2006 after receiving a generous gift from Whitney and Anna Harris. Through its partnerships with the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Saint Louis Zoo, it has become the premier institution for graduate studies in ecology and biodiversity conservation. Faculty at UM-St. Louis collaborate with research faculty in the Herbarium and the Center for Conservation and Sustainable Development at the Missouri Botanical Garden and with conservation biologists and veterinarians in the Wildcare Institute at the Saint Louis Zoo. This institutional collaboration has been fostered by the generosity of the E. Desmond Lee and Family Fund through the creation of the E. Desmond Lee and Family Fund Chairs in Botanical and Zoological Studies.