

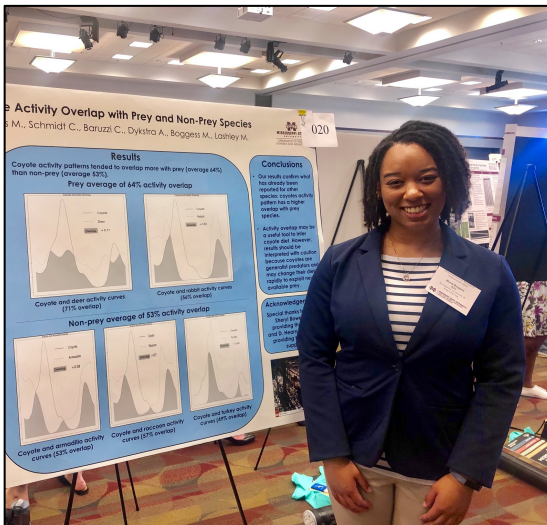


Field Safety as a Pillar of DEI in the Natural Sciences

Murry Burgess (she/her)

Field Inclusive, Inc. *Co-Founder & CEO*

My Background



My Research

How does artificial light at night (light pollution) affect the metabolic health and physical development of Barn Swallow nestlings?





Safety Concerns

- ▶ Alone in a rural, predominantly white area at night
- ▶ Political unrest of 2020
- ▶ Confederate & Trump flags
- ▶ Unwelcoming adjacent areas



For My Safety



In the Field: Snakes, Ticks... and an Unexpected Danger

A naturalist and Ph.D. student explains her complicated experience as a Black woman conducting research in the outdoors.

by Murry Burgess



I startled myself when I realized I was reaching for a large ball of scales instead of the tiny bundles

Scan to read
WALTER
Magazine article!



Unique Concerns for Marginalized Researchers

- ▶ Discrimination from property owners / others in the field
- ▶ Unnecessary attention from police
- ▶ Hiding / masking of identities or health issues
- ▶ Isolation or neglect from the department



Common Scenarios

(As featured in Demery et al. 2020)

A Black ornithologist is approached by law enforcement.



A Sikh entomologist experiences a hateful landscape.



A bisexual ichthyologist is accosted by hate speech.



A deaf botanist is verbally abused due to her disability.



Illustration by Callie Rodgers Chappell

Solutions

- For Faculty, Staff and Students:
Required online Field Safety course addressing interpersonal conflict;
- Access to Identifying Equipment (car magnets, visors, vests, ID Cards) and other resources;
- Continued emotional and financial support for historically excluded field researchers.



Ph.D. student Murry Burgess posed with her car and a NCSU CNR Magnet.

Field Inclusive

Non-profit established in Summer 2022

Seeks to...

- amplify and support marginalized researchers who professionally work outdoors in any natural resources field;
- provide research scholarships and other financial assistance for marginalized and historically excluded Field Researchers.



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Contact



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