

» Refugee to Registered Nurse

Marina Dolzhanskaya is a Whitney M. YOUNG Scholar and senior at Bellarmine University. During a recent visit to the Lincoln Foundation office she shared her journey from the Soviet Union to the United States.



My family and I come from Tashkent, Uzbekistan; a country that was part of the Soviet Union. We moved to America in 1998 as refugees due to religious persecution and the increasing belief that all people who are not Muslim need to move out of the country. If we insisted on staying we would have been forced to convert to Islam and abide by the laws of the land, many of which prevented girls from attending school and becoming educated.

During this time we began to look for options as to where we could go. America and Israel were the two options available. My parents chose America, the place where dreams come true, and where people from our country believed money grew on trees.

Upon our arrival to Brooklyn, NY we quickly learned that “money trees” did not exist, and it was going to take a lot of hard work for my family to survive. My mom began to clean houses and my dad started to work for a small business that made shelves for the local grocery stores. I was thrown into the fifth grade without knowing a word of English. We quickly realized life in Brooklyn was very different from our expectations of America.

Luckily my father had a nephew in Louisville who encouraged us to move

to Kentucky because he was sure that he would be able to find my parents employment. After we moved to Louisville things finally started to improve. My parents were both working at a company which put together parts for Harley Davidson motorcycles. I started school and began to learn the English language. I remember coming home, crying, and begging my mom to not make me go to school. I did not want to go because no one would sit with me at lunch or be my friend during recess. Needless to say I was back on the school bus the following day! My parents always emphasized the importance of education and constantly told me that I can be whatever I wanted to be. They taught me to always work hard and never give up.

I graduated from Jefferson County Traditional Middle School, and I went on to Louisville Male Traditional High School. Even though I no longer had to worry about not speaking English, another problem was getting into college. I remember waking one morning while in the ninth grade and thinking to myself, “You have to go to college, you have to make your parents proud.” I already knew my parents could not afford to pay for my education, so I began to hunt for scholarship opportunities anywhere I could find them. Through my search I found out about Lincoln Foundation and the Norton Healthcare Scholars Program.

During my involvement with Lincoln Foundation and the Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program® (WYSP), I learned the necessary skills vital for my success as a college student. I learned about the reality of college life during the two week visits to Centre College and Murray State University during the summer. Lincoln Foundation’s scholarship checks have helped me afford to purchase my college text books.



Marina's mom, Tamera (left), Marina and Rino.

Currently I am in my last semester at Bellarmine University, another college I was exposed to by Lincoln Foundation. I will graduate in May with a Bachelors Degree in Nursing! Presently, I am working at Norton Suburban Hospital as an emergency room technician which has allowed me to gain invaluable experience in the medical field. My manager has informed me that she would love to keep me as a nurse after graduation!

In conclusion, I would just like to say that none of my accomplishments would have been possible without the Lincoln Foundation. I plan to continue my education and become a nurse practitioner after gaining some experience as a nurse. Lincoln Foundation has played a major role in my success for which I will always be grateful!

Dear Friend,



Lincoln Foundation's educational programs continue to cultivate future community leaders. We are proud to say that Lincoln

Foundation's development of students generates a tremendous return on investment. Case in point, the Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program® produced 16 college graduates in 2009, 19 in 2008, and 17 in 2007. Nine Scholars earned Masters Degrees in 2009. Our greatest accomplishment is our students' academic achievement and the successful completion of college degrees. Our goal is to create educated, self-sufficient, and productive citizens. We thank our donors, trustees, and stakeholders for your continuing commitment and support of a very deserving group of students.

I am pleased to welcome two outstanding professionals to Lincoln Foundation's Board of Trustees: Gwendolyn Young, Attorney; and DeVone Holt, Special Assistant to the Superintendent of Jefferson County Public Schools. Gwen and DeVone are concerned community leaders with a commitment to education.

Please save the date of August 28 to join us at our 15th Annual Evening of Jazz. The Evening of Jazz will be a special musical celebration of our historic 100 years.

Warmest regards,

Larry M. McDonald

President

Our Mission

To provide educational enrichment programs that develop and support youth in overcoming barriers to achievement.

Scholar Highlights

FORESTRY PIONEER

Dejanease Demartra Pressley (D.J.) has been a member of Lincoln Foundation's student family since the sixth grade when she became a Whitney M. YOUNG Scholar. D.J. was raised in a single parent household where her biggest influences were and continue to be her mother and grandmother. She graduated from Presentation Academy in 2008 and is a sophomore at the University of Kentucky pursuing a degree in Forestry. D.J. credits her interest in forestry to participation in Lincoln Foundation's summer Math & Science Program. During the program, students visited Robinson Forest. The Robinson Forest is a part of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Department of Forestry, and is located on the Cumberland Plateau in southeastern Kentucky. While at the Robinson Forest, D.J. was exposed to 14,800 acres of diverse plant species which sparked her interest in pursuing a career in forestry. D.J. is also studying wood utilization, forest ecology, silviculture (the effects of previous agricultural land use and thinning patterns on the regeneration and development of second-growth forests), and hydrology (the effects on stream water quantity



D.J. Pressley

and quality of various clear-cut harvesting techniques). Tree physiology, wildlife ecology and management, and Christmas tree production are all areas of research encompassing the forestry program.

D.J. is the only African American student in the University of Kentucky's Forestry program and the first African American female to



declare the forestry major. As a member of the Forestry Club, D.J. participated in the Association of Southern Forestry Clubs Conclave competition hosted by the University of Arkansas at Montecello. Conclave is a three-day forestry competition between southern colleges and universities. During conclave, she participated in field contests such as cross-cut axe and knife throw. Technical competitions included map reading, tree identification, and wildlife identification.

"With a forestry degree a person can work in any natural resource field, but I plan to work with the Office of Surface Mining reclaiming mine sites for forestry and the cultivation of trees," says D.J., who is a pioneer in the field of forestry. She encourages women and African American students to take a closer look at the field of forestry and hopes that her success will improve diversity.



D.J. competed in conclave, a college forestry competition held in Arkansas.

» Math & Science Program

Lincoln Foundation's summer Math & Science Program has a long history of providing hands-on instruction in math and science courses, as well as exposing students to careers in math and science. The Math & Science Program will be held June 7 through July 2 at the University of Louisville's Belknap Campus. Students will participate from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The program is in partnership with Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS), University of Louisville



participate in service learning projects at UPS such as exploring environmental issues.

The program is open to the public and students completing the eighth, ninth, tenth, or eleventh grade are encouraged to apply. The registration fee is \$75; however fee waivers are available for qualified students.

Visit Lincoln Foundation's website at www.lincolnfdn.org for additional information or call the Lincoln Foundation office.



College of Arts and Sciences, and UPS. All courses are taught by certified JCPS teachers.

Global warming is the focus of this year's program. Students will be exposed to "real world" mathematical and science concepts as they investigate and explore global warming, geographical investigation, climate changes, and natural resources. Thanks to our new partner, UPS, students will



» Evening of Jazz

Please come out and celebrate our 100th anniversary with us by supporting our annual Evening of Jazz fundraiser. The event will be held on Saturday, August 28 at Churchill Downs at 7:00 p.m. This will be an evening of great entertainment you won't want to miss featuring recording artist Michael Houston and the Louisville Leopards. Tickets are \$100 and will be available soon. If you are unable to attend, please consider a gift of \$100 in honor of our centennial celebration. Proceeds from this event benefit the talented and deserving Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars.

» Summer 2010 Calendar of Events

May 22

Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program®
Senior Banquet
University Club
University of Louisville
6:00 p.m. Tickets - \$25

June 7 - July 2

Math & Science Program
University of Louisville
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Registration Fee - \$75

* Fee waivers available for qualified students

June 7 - July 2

Project BUILD
University of Louisville
College of Business
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

WYSP Summer Programs

June 6 - June 18

Murray State University
Summer Institute

June 13 - June 25

University of Kentucky
Summer Institute

July 11 - July 23

Georgetown College
Summer Institute

June 7 - June 18

Technology & Study Skills Camp
Lincoln Foundation - Computer Lab
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

July 26 - July 31

Hands-On/Minds-On
University of Louisville
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

August 21

Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program®
Opening Educational Clinic for
2010-2011 Academic Year
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

August 28

Evening of Jazz Fundraiser
Churchill Downs
7:00 p.m. Tickets - \$100
Proceeds benefit the Whitney M.
YOUNG Scholars Program®.

Please contact the Lincoln Foundation at 502.585.4733 or www.lincolnfdn.org for additional information.



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Did You Know?

Lincoln Foundation is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its founding by Berea College in 1910. Today our educational mission continues to be consistent with the vision of our founders and historical legacy. The centennial celebration includes the reunions for National Lincoln Institute Alumni Association and the Lincoln School. The reunions include a return to the Lincoln Institute campus with a walk down memory lane. Alumni have a special affinity for the school that played an integral role in their development. The tireless efforts of the teachers, administrators, and staff contributed to a value added educational and cultural experience. The campus today remains intact with the original buildings being preserved and maintained in support of educational initiatives.



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