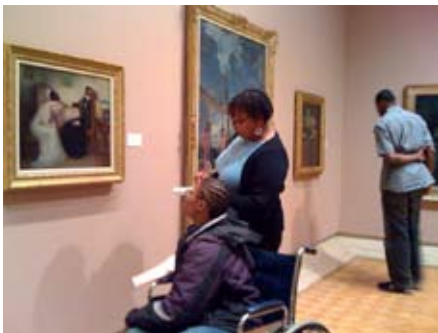


# odyssey oracle

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[odyssey.wisc.edu](http://odyssey.wisc.edu)

Year 8 #16 May 4, 2011

## Reflections on Our Odyssey

I would say the Odyssey Project is a life-changing experience provided by people whose sole purpose is to help you succeed in your educational and life journey. For those who dream of more, the Odyssey Project is where it's at.

I can say I'm different now than I was before in an intellectual and spiritual sense. I've learned about people I never would have read, if not for this class. It also gave me an opportunity to see us all blossom from nothing to something. Remember, we're on the rise.  
(Eric Rodgers)

Odyssey became the glue holding me together. I was broken before I even applied to Odyssey. I was completely shattered into millions of pieces. The Odyssey Project played a huge part in my broken stage, and I'm almost healed. I am thankful to be here.

Odyssey is an amazing program that helps you find the lost inner person you haven't used in a long while. It helps you think outside the box and go deeper inside your thoughts. (Diance Lor)



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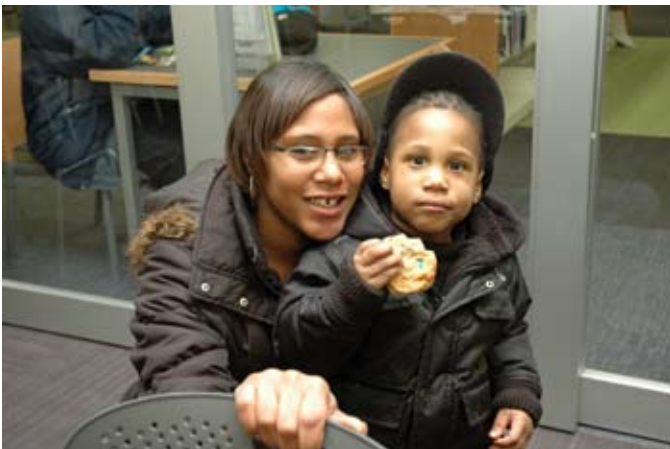


I would say the Odyssey Project is a class that can take an ex-drug user into a UW graduate. The Odyssey Project can help anyone get to the point in life that he or she wants to be. **(Kiara Hill)**

Odyssey is awesome! Go apply! It is one of the best experiences I ever had by far. It is life changing for the better! It is a rewarding experience you will never forget in your lifetime! **(Marie Hill)**

Odyssey is an eight-month class that provides people of meager income with six humanities credits. Excellently intelligent people help run the class and make it memorable for all the classmates. Because of the Odyssey Project, I am more likely to keep going in school, be a better parent, and speak and write my opinions. **(Precious LaShore)**

The Odyssey Project has affected me in so many positive ways, giving me a stronger confidence in myself and in my ability. I gained a lot of knowledge, learned how to think more critically, and strengthened and nurtured my skills as a writer.



Odyssey has given me a deeper passion for reading. **(Marseills McKenzie)**

The Odyssey Project has affected me in great ways! I've always had a thirst for knowledge but had put it on the back burner until I came to the first class. After that, I found myself putting more time and thought into what I write. I volunteer more in class to read or act. I do feel like I have grown since September as far as being more open minded than I already am. I am not ashamed because of my age and going back to school.

If I had to describe the Odyssey Project to someone who hadn't heard of it before, I would let them know it's a wonderful program for those who have a hunger for learning new things. It's a great program for those who don't think school is an option due to sex, age, religion, or even economic barriers. You'll learn things that will keep your brain intrigued and thirsty for more! The professors really care and are there for you! The lessons that are taught are like nothing you've ever experienced. It is by far the best program I have encountered because of the skills it teaches you. For some, it



has taught us to find our inner voice and let it be heard. The Odyssey Project teaches you how to write better, how to act, and how to speak in front of people if you're shy. Last but certainly not least, it's an extended family when you need someone to listen, help, and care about you! (**Catina McAlister**)

The Odyssey Project is one of the best experiences and opportunities ever presented to me and to others who really want to improve their lives. It is an educational journey of fun, delight, and curiosity, with friends who become family and wondrous teachers who offer excellent inspiration and focus. Those who have completed the entire year are better! It is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Check it out! Learn that knowledge is power! Be like Nike and Just Do It! (**Ray Migizi Hopp**)

I am very different because of the Odyssey Project. I have a wealth of new knowledge and my first six college credits. I have a support system, a group of new friends, and a library of books to go back to when I want and to share with others. I have started and finished something successfully. The Odyssey Project is a supporting community that will travel with you as you learn about people and ideas that you never knew existed. It is a beginning and a continuing journey. (**Danielle Rosales**)

Because of the Odyssey Project, I read more. I question everything and research everything. Go and apply for the Odyssey Project! Get ready to learn new things and have a family forever! (**Kian Cunningham**)

The Odyssey Project has affected me  
Like the water affects thirsty flowers on a hot  
summer day  
Like nutrition affects children during play  
Like the sun affects life on earth  
Like oxygen affects a new birth  
Like electricity affects the world in which we live  
Like knowledge my instructors so freely give.

You see knowledge is power  
And this is my hour  
To stand as a tall tower  
I will pass it on continuing to empower  
For this Odyssey is forever ours.  
(**Bonita Greer**)

When I began the Odyssey Project I was very excited and did not fully understand what was ahead. I have learned so much during this experience. Yes, I am very different than I was at the beginning. The knowledge and relationships I've gained during my time here at the Odyssey Project are encouraging me to do great things in my





future, starting with continuing my education. The desire to learn through reading *Macbeth*, Dr. King, Frederick Douglass, Socrates, the *Western Humanities* book, Langston Hughes, Emily Dickinson, etc. has had an astounding effect on my self esteem, my spirituality, and my character. I am very grateful that I was allowed the chance to attend this Odyssey.

The Odyssey Project is not just a class but an adventure. It's a place of refuge. You come to gain knowledge about the humanities, English, how to use words correctly while writing papers, History, Art, today's events. You share, receive nourishment physically, and you establish lifelong relationships with people you might not have encountered in other settings. You always feel valued by your instructors, classmates, and alumni. I felt like I missed a lot when I didn't make it to class that one time. It is like going home every Wednesday night. **(Bonita Greer)**

Because of the Odyssey Project, I believe I am more likely to be more outspoken and talkative. I

feel better about taking the spotlight because I am worthy. I have a greater appreciation for education, especially literature and words. Most importantly, I have a longing to give back and help others get educated.

The Odyssey Project is a wonderful program that helps those longing for higher education and personal betterment build a bridge to their goals by providing lessons in humanities and writing backed with six UW-Madison credits. **(Takeyla Benton)**

Odyssey has affected me in more positive ways than imaginable. Meeting good people, sharing good experiences, and gaining more knowledge opens more doors to my future endeavors. Odyssey has also opened my acting abilities even more. Thank you!

This is a program for adults who would like to return back to school—adults who are facing difficulty returning because of various reasons. I see Odyssey as a refresher course to get your mind back and to train you to think, write, speak, and learn. I recommend Odyssey to all because this is



an educational social group for those with minds willing to grow. (**Michelle Bozeman**)

I have learned so much and have become a better person. I learned to write better, learned new words, and gained much encouragement that I am teachable and can continue in school. The Odyssey Project is a chance of a lifetime. You will be changed. You must give yourself time. The miracle will happen if you apply yourself. (**Edwina Robinson**)

I used to be a really fast talker. I now listen and respond more slowly and with confidence. (**Helen Montgomery**)

Before September, I had not read as many interesting books, nor did I take the time to really understand the meaning of what I read. Odyssey class will make you open your mind to explore life through literature, art, history, and words. You will start in a cave, jail, and slavery. In between you will be an actor and a poet, all while enjoying life with a new family through creative writing. (**Tracy Cunnigan**)

The Odyssey Project has made me more insightful, less shy, and more intelligent since starting in September. I feel more insightful not just because of the literature I've read in this class, but also because of my classmates. They are so strong even when life is tough. I am less shy because my classmates and teachers have made me feel like I

matter and that I do have something important to say. I feel more intelligent for obvious reasons! I would say it's a great class to get you started into college, and it's full of support from the teachers.

There is a lot of support from the students and alumni as well. No matter what challenges you are faced with outside of class, they are totally forgotten for the few hours on Wednesday nights in class. This class brings endless opportunities and new beginnings. This class makes it hard to ever want to give up! (**Leah LaBarre**)

I have become more knowledgeable. I have become motivated to continue my education. I am happy, hopeful, and headstrong to continue my Odyssey! Odyssey is a chance to further your education. It will help you if your self esteem suffers because the class is like family more than friends; they lift you up.

Odyssey will awaken feelings, thoughts, words, and writing skills in you. It will free you and allow you to do things you probably would not have done or that you thought you could not do. Odyssey is a great opportunity not to be missed. (**Eleita Florence**)

Odyssey  
A journey  
An opportunity  
An experience  
A chance worth taking  
The best decision I've ever made  
(**Shardetra Ofori-Anim**)



# Lessons from Langston Hughes

## Prayer

*Gather up*

*In the arms of your pity*

*The sick, the depraved,*

*The desperate, the tired,*

*All the scum*

*Of our weary city*

*Gather up*

*In the arms of your pity*

*Gather up*

*In the arms of your love—*

*Those who expect*

*No love from above.*



This poem reminds me of what is written on the Statue of Liberty: “Give me your tired, your poor, etc.” It also makes me think of the old Negro spiritual, “Lay down my burdens.” The two pieces I spoke of are saying bring me the ones nobody cares for, the hopeless, wretched ones,

the ones who are thought to be beyond repair. This poem is saying the same. It is saying bring me the ones all have given up on and expect nothing from. Bring them and they will be gathered up in love and in prayer.

I can relate to Langston Hughes’s “Prayer” because I have been there. I was a lost soul without direction at one time in my life. I was considered broken and not fixable, lost, not to be found, and not wanted. I felt that my God, the world, and my family had turned their backs to me. I was wretched, downhearted, desperate, and alone, but someone gathered me up in their love and a whole lot of prayer. **(Eleita Florence)**

## Success

*Here I sit with my belly full*

*And he who might have been my brother*

*Walks hungry in the rain.*

*Here I sit with my bell full*

*And she I might have loved*

*Seeks someone in the shadows*

*To whom she may sell her body.*

*Here I sit with my belly full,*

*No longer in the rain,*

*No longer the shadows for the*

*Woman I love,*

*No longer hunger.*

*Success is a great big beefsteak*

*With onions on it.*

*And I eat.*



Winston Churchill wrote, “Success is how high you bounce when you hit rock bottom.” I like Langston Hughes’s “Success” poem a lot. Never forget where you come from, where you were, where you are, and where you are going. Don’t forget about sharing your

wealth with others because you can only keep what you have by giving it away. You get what you give: when you give, you get! To succeed should be a possibility for all. Always get back up when you fell. **(Ray Migizi Hopp)**

## God to Hungry Child

*Hungry child,*

*I didn’t make this world for you.*

*You didn’t buy any stock in railroad.*

*You didn’t invest in my corporation.*

*Where are you shares in standard oil?*

*I made the world for the rich*

*And the will-be-rich*

*And the have-always-been-rich.*

*Not for you,*

*Hungry child.*



We are always saying this world isn't fair and it is made only for the rich or the privileged. Langston Hughes's poem "God to Hungry Child" displays this exactly. Hungry child is another name for a poor person. If you are poor, then most likely you are hungry.

This could be looked at in two ways in my opinion. You can look at it in the literal way; meaning basically what it says. You didn't put any of your money or you had no money to put into the building of the world. You didn't put any money into the companies in this world, so therefore you are not a part of this world.

The idea of oil being a source of wealth in our culture speaks volumes in this poem. It seems to give this poem a modern feel. Even though it was written years ago, it is still relevant today. You can also look at it this poem in a spiritual way. If you don't tithe or give offering to the church, you can't partake in the world. (**Morgan Chichester**)

## Listen Here Blues

### A Short Story by Morgan Chichester Inspired by Langston Hughes

I just turned 21 years old, and no one can tell me anything. I have spent my entire life doing what my mom, dad, and grandparents have wanted me to do, but now I am determined to do it my way. I won't follow anyone's rules but mine; hell, I'm grown. I walk into the juke joint ready to hear some blues, get a drink and meet my future husband! Inside it's dark and very smoky! So smoky I start to cough a little. I catch myself because I don't want to look out of place, even though I know I am.

I sit at the bar sipping on my drink waiting for the show to start. There is a beautiful middle aged woman who walks to the center of the stage and begins fixing the microphone stand. Her hair hangs down past her shoulders, and there is a big flower stuck in the right side of her hair. Her face is full of make-up, but it can't hide the worn and tired look in her eyes. She is wearing a long, form-fitting

sequined dress that hangs to the floor. I can't tell if she is fidgeting from the nervousness or if she is feeling a nice buzz from whatever she is drinking out of her glass.

A group of smooth brothers move to the back of the stage and take their place behind their instruments. The singer closes her eyes and sways her hips to the beat. She gets everyone's attention and all eyes are on her. I sit on the edge of my seat as she opens her mouth:

*"Sweet girls, Sweet girls*

*Listen here to me*

*All you sweet girls,*

*Listen here to me:*

*Gin an' whiskey*

*Kin make you lose yo' 'ginity "*

She sounds melodic as the words flow off her lips. I close my eyes to take in all she is saying. As I open my eyes, I see nothing and no one but the singer. She looks over to me and our eyes lock. No one is there but us. Is she talking to me? Did she know me? Did she write this for me?

*"I used to be a good chile*

*Lawd, in Sunday School*

*Used to be a good chile-*

*Always in Sunday School*

*Till these lick-headed rounders*

*Made me everybody's fool"*

We are still staring at each other. There is a look of desperation and despair in her eyes. I feel her pain. Not only do I feel her pain but I also can feel exactly what she's saying. Is she warning me? Is she trying to stop me from walking down the same path she traveled?

*"Good girls, good girls,*

*Listen here to me*

*Oh, you good girls,*

*Better listen to me:*

*Don't you fool wid no men cause*

*They'll bring you misery."*

She stops singing and just stands there. We are not alone anymore. The darkness is back. The smoke and noise and laughter are back. And with reality coming back, I come back as well. I come back to my senses and realize I am a sweet girl. I am a good chile, and I am in the wrong place.

# The Day Goes On

## By Takeyla Benton

*a response to Benjamin Leader's "Worcester Cathedral," 1894, at the Chazen Museum of Art*

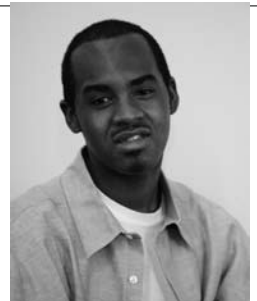
I sit alone  
across the river  
watching the river flow by  
reflecting the sky  
I sit alone  
as people watch and stare  
but I don't care  
I sit alone  
watching the city  
busy  
alive  
as I sit here dying inside  
The church bell rings  
but the high pitch stings  
my ears  
and eyes fill with tears  
I watch the city  
thinking it's a pity  
they know not of this hell  
they're selfish, petty fools who would  
kill their own firstborn  
to know wealth well  
but I sit across the river  
alone in hell



### **I am an Ocean by Marseills McKenzie**

I am the ocean  
where my personality runs  
deep  
and flows gentle like a  
wave  
quite mysterious like many of the unknown  
who lurk around the gloomy misty waters  
of the underworld.

I am the ocean  
blowing, rustling back and forth  
across the shore like a fierce tidal wave  
due to being strong-willed.  
My writing represents the hue of blue  
so resilient with whistling brilliance  
I will now and forever be an ocean.  
Come swim the seven seas  
of my circumference.





## Letters to the Class of 2012

You are about to start a journey of no return. It probably feels that there is no hope, but I am here to say that ANYBODY can make it. Don't give up, be strong, and have patience! (**Precious LaShore**)

This is the start to the rest of your life. The Odyssey Project can help you in more ways than you can ever imagine. Most of you I'm sure are ready to move on with your schooling. You want to move on in your life and do better for your kids. Well, this is your dream come true. With education, you can go anywhere. So kick back and ride this Odyssey bus until you get your Ph.D. in whatever you want. (**Kiara Hill**)

You are about to embark on a beautiful learning experience that you will never forget. You will learn to enjoy reading and also writing and learning new words. You will care about a group of people you don't know at first. You'll feel "I just can't wait to come to class on Wednesdays." There are wonderful teachers here to help you with what you may need, and alumni students that are willing to help you. There's also great food. Grasp all the knowledge you can. I have found that learning new words is so wonderful. Come in and try to have an open mind because a new idea cannot be grafted onto a closed mind. (**Edwina Robinson**)

First and foremost, congratulations on being chosen to ride on this fantastic voyage! This is a wonderful experience that you will cherish for the rest of your life! Trust me! The Odyssey Project is a

journey of self fulfilling experiences. You will learn things that you have never even dreamed of learning and you will love it.

By the end of this fantastic voyage you will have a better understanding of when to use words like *to* or *too*, *it's* or *its*, *principal* or *principle*. You'll become a poet, an actor, Fredrick Douglass, Martin Luther King Jr., Socrates, William Blake, and many more. Don't get me wrong—it's not all fun and games! The professors that will be teaching you all these wonderful things—what music meant in the Vietnam War, Art History, Literature and Philosophy, to name a few—mean business! They expect 100%, and you shouldn't expect anything less from yourself!

Some advice to you all: ask questions, rely on your teachers and classmates for support, and come to class even if you haven't finished your homework; just show up. Yes, you may be thinking at times, why bother? It doesn't affect them if I don't show up because it's of no cost. But believe me it is! They pay for your books, they provide you with meals, and most of all they provide you with state of the art education.

My prayer is that you all will do well and succeed, but you have to put in the time and effort. By the end of your Odyssey, some of you will find that inner voice that has been dying to come out. You will be a brand new you with your head held high screaming, "We are the class of 2012 and this is our Odyssey!" (**Catina McAlister**)



Be prepared to embark on a journey of a lifetime! If you would like the opportunity to begin a college degree, Odyssey is it! If you like to be amazed, Odyssey is it! If you believe in yourself, then Odyssey is for you! Congratulations, Class of 2012. **(Helen Montgomery)**

Welcome to a once in a lifetime journey. Get ready to have your thinking challenged, your core beliefs discovered, your mind ignited with ideas you never knew existed. You will read things you never knew existed and meet people you would never have talked to. Get ready for the ride. Make sure not to miss a class. I have been to every one and would have never been able to find that knowledge again. Do your reading, do your writing, give your mind time to absorb this new knowledge, and have fun. **(Danielle Rosales)**

Class of 2012, I'd like to encourage you to embrace your Odyssey. You will gain newfound freedom through knowledge and education. Learning is a life changing experience. Don't take your experiences here lightly. Work smart, stay focused, keep close contact with your support (instructors, classmates), and enjoy your new endeavors. Have a blessed future. **(Bonita Greer)**

Don't give up! Come to every class, do all your reading and all your homework. If you have personal problems, ask Emily for help. The teachers are here because they love you and they want to be here. Turn your cell phones off in class! Respect your teachers! Odyssey is your nine-month journey to a wonderful education. Make the best of your journey here and give it your all.

You can do it! Don't give up or quit because you'll regret it. Emily is a tough cookie, but she does mean well. She's not just here for a paycheck. Emily is a mother to everyone! I want each and every one of you to graduate in 2012. You will not only gain friends but you will gain a family. People will have your back like the Mafia. There is love in the Odyssey Project! You can't go back, so don't miss class. If you feel like quitting, call Emily. You can do this! The power is within you! **(Kian Cunningham)**

I would liken Odyssey to a sor-frat [sorority-fraternity]. You'll have a connection forever, and what a wonderful thing that is. Class of 2012, be proud, grateful, humble, hopeful, and as honest as you can be. The innumerable opportunities are very much worth the effort. You will absolutely have to commit in order to succeed, and attendance is a must. You literally have to be on your death-bed to be absent because time is short, and there is a lot of learning to be done in a short period of time. Emulate all things Odyssey! **(Pamela Lee)**

First I would like to congratulate you all on being accepted. It is truly an honor. You all are about to embark on a journey of education that is life changing. It is not your typical teacher-student classroom education; it is totally unique. It is a chance to explore and expand. It is a time to reflect and renew.

Odyssey is awesome, and you will be awestruck. Once you start, you won't want to stop. This class is going to take you places and have you doing things you never thought about. Odyssey is education on a new level. The professors are caring and cool. They



treat every student as an individual. In a class of 30, how cool is that? These professors care about what they are teaching and who they are teaching. They also make learning fun. Now I must tell you, it won't be easy. Nothing worth having ever is, but it will be worth it. The feeling of fulfillment is unbelievable. I would encourage you all to take this seriously because everyone won't get this chance—the chance to get a good education from great professors and have an excellent time doing it. Odyssey is a journey you will never forget and won't want to. So get on your mark, get ready, get set, learn!! (**Eleita Florence**)

You have truly made one of the best decisions of your life. This is a great journey that you are about to embark on. This Odyssey journey is going to prepare you for the second phase of your life, with a new breath of life and a new beginning. It will help to build you up in confidence and self esteem. It will teach you and help you to believe in yourself! This odyssey will show you that you can do it and that you can make it.

Professor Emily will definitely be there for you, encouraging you and helping you in any way she can! She believes that you can make it and succeed in class and beyond class. She is a very dedicated and compassionate lady who loves what she does and each and every one of you! Don't be afraid to ask for help with your schoolwork, and don't be afraid to talk to her if you're having challenges and trials or feeling low. She will do whatever she can to help you and to point you in the right direction where you can get some help. Her fellow professors (Jean Feraca, Gene Phillips, Craig Werner) are a great asset to the Odyssey Project; they are simply

wonderful. Professor Cook is one of a kind; he is a real hoot! Professor Emily's assistant, Miss Diane, is a jewel, an awesome, pleasant woman. Professor Emily is a gold nugget in this city and a diamond, ruby, and emerald to the Odyssey Project. Be thankful and appreciate the opportunity she has given you. You will see that Emily's parents have been very instrumental and valuable to the Odyssey Project; they are simply beautiful.

You all will learn so much and be enlightened by the knowledge you gain in this class. Now it won't be easy. Some days will be better than others. Some obstacles and hurdles might try to hinder you. Kick the obstacles right out of your way, and jump right on over the hurdles. The ball is in your court. So please push, persevere, and endure. Fight the good fight and stay in the race. Don't give up. Stay the course all the way to the Odyssey finish line on graduation day. Go beyond graduation day by taking your education on to the next level by earning your degree and degrees and then with your careers. Be encouraged. You have been given the tools to make it. You have been provided the keys to succeed! Many blessings, and best wishes to each and every one of you. Know that with God all things are possible! (**Marie Hill**)

Congratulations! You have been chosen to take a journey in learning. Looking around the classroom you might see familiar faces and some unfamiliar; however, by the end of the Odyssey Project this will be a new family. You all together will learn literature, poetry, and vocabulary with a great bunch of professors. So please throw off your bowlines, sail away from your safe harbor, and get ready to catch the winds of your sails. (**Tracy Cunnigan**)



# My Mother

By Ray Migizi Hopp

*For Delores "Dee" Jean Gougé for  
Mother's Day, May 2011*

You are a very special being!  
I am believing now that I am seeing...

God blessed you with a forever fabulous heart-n-  
soul.  
You are definitely way wonderful.  
I always love the way you sing.  
Thank God for that tender touch of a heavenly dove.

My mother, I love your love.  
You are my everything.  
Ah, what appealing, appreciative gifts you bestow.  
You show me how to live.

Many thanks and gratitude I give  
For in my actions and goodness I to you will show  
My love for you is a fortunate food  
For it I have to survive this Life you gave...

My Mother, you are a colorful, beloved, balanced  
Butterfly Belle  
Hey, Good God, thanks for the necessarily needed  
save.  
For you, God, I owe a perfect attitude of gratitude!

Mom, you know how we love to thoughtfully talk  
And tell our many inspirational succulent stories  
For we are excellent evolved Eagles  
Of the same sacred feather, feather sacred.

I am glad we both stop and smell and see the roses  
For life is of many bold, bold beauties!  
You are a unique, tenacious tree of life wisdom  
For this I give you much righteous respect.

My Mother, to you I give my undying unconditional  
love  
A Wanabozho Warrior Woman, My Mother,  
Che Miigwitch Gezhigokway, Ni Mama  
Magnificent My Mother, Miraculous My Mother.



# Remembering Tierra "Tee Tee" Hill

(March 22, 1985-May 20, 2004)

## **Tee Tee: A Mother's Angel** **By Marie Hill**

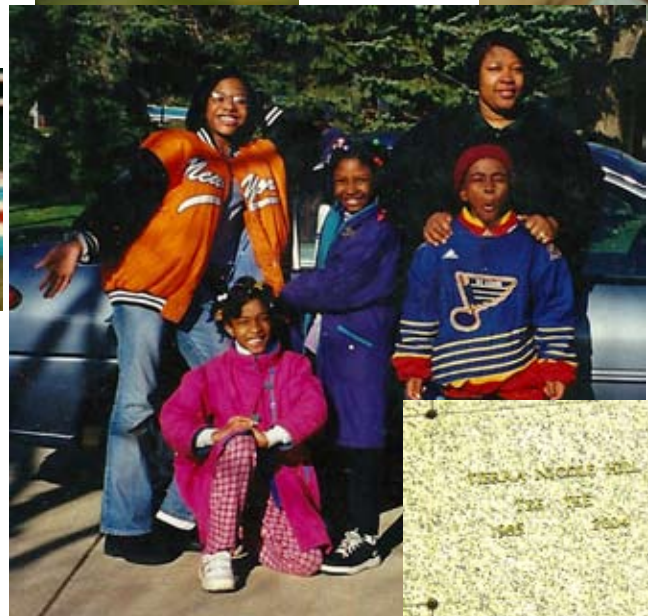
*To My Beloved Daughter, Tierra*

I love you to the bottom of my heart  
with every fiber of my being.  
I miss your loving embrace,  
I miss your angel eyes, your precious smile,  
your laughter, your anointed singing,  
your zest for life, your many jokes,  
your loving hugs, your tender kisses,  
and the touch of your hands.  
Tierra, how I miss your presence  
and seeing and talking to you every day.  
You are my firstborn.  
You will never ever be forgotten.  
I remember the joy you brought into my life.  
I remember the day you were born.  
You are God's gift to me.  
My life will never be the same.  
I am thankful to the Lord.  
You are in his bosom  
Watching over me, Kiara,  
Ciara, Julius, and Sugar Ann.  
They miss and love you  
to the utmost of their beings as well.  
Our lives are not the same without you.  
Our hearts are with you,  
Our loving, beautiful angel.  
You are the best Mother's Day gift.  
Love always and forever,  
Your Loving Mommy



## **God Gives** **By Annette Bland (Odyssey '06)** *In Loving Memory of Tierra Hill*

God gives us everything we need. He is the giver of  
life and all that is in life.  
God gives us love enough love to share and enough  
to keep.  
God gives us peace in times of sadness and sorrow.  
He gives us today but never promises tomorrow.  
When we feel the cares of life we cannot bear,  
God's loving grace will see us through. . . .  
God gives us hope when we feel hopeless.  
God gives us tears so that he can wipe them away...  
God gives us victory over death. His eternal gift is  
to live with him forever in paradise.  
God gave us Tierra Hill (Tee Tee), a gifted child,  
His child that will never be forgotten.  
She was a priceless gift sent from above.





## KUDOS TO OUR ALUMNI!



Brian Benford ('07) will graduate this summer from the UW-Madison with a Social Work degree and plans to pursue a Master's Degree in that field. He was just awarded a prestigious "Outstanding Returning Adult Student" award from the UW. At the award ceremony, he acknowledged the role of his stimulating Odyssey education and supportive Odyssey family in helping him achieve his goals.

Also honored at the Returning Adult Student Award Ceremony on April 26, 2011, were two additional Odyssey alumni: Sherri Bester ('08) and Anthony Ward ('04). Sherri is now pursuing her bachelor's degree in Community Non-Profit Leadership. Anthony was unable to attend his ceremony because he was on duty as a police officer and called away to make an arrest. Both Sherri and Anthony received renewals of their UW Osher Scholarships.



Additional congratulations go out to Sherreallum Allen ('05) for receiving her Associates Degree from MATC. Sherreallum has battled medical challenges following a car accident and the strains of raising four children, including one with special needs, while attending school, so her accomplishment is especially inspiring.

Kudos to Cameron Daniels ('07) for graduating this month with a Bachelor's degree in Journalism from Texas A & M University. Cameron has made a name for himself there as a sports writer. Cameron is the son of Daphne Daniels ('05) and brother of Charrod Miller ('08).



Congratulations to these five alumni and all our other alumni who are going forward toward their dreams!