



Hildrus Poindexter – A Brief Biography

Susan Safford

Biology Department, March 26, 2022

Proposal Description

This intent of this proposal is to conduct the necessary library research, obtain library resources and write a brief biographical sketch of Dr. Hildrus Poindexter for publication in a journal such as the Journal of the National Medical Association or the American Journal of Tropical Medicine, as he was a frequent contributor to both these journals. Dr. Poindexter was a Lincoln alum, the first African American to earn both a Ph.D. and an M.D., a professor at Howard University, an officer in the Army during WWII, rising to the rank of Lt. Colonel, and a long-time member of the United States Public Health Service. In addition to the biographical sketch, the information learned through this project will be used to create teaching modules for the First Year Experience course (FYE 101) and General Biology for Majors (Bio 103). I have collected and read many of his journal articles and his autobiography *My World of Reality*. I intend to spend the summer collecting the remainder of his written works, creating the teaching modules and writing the biographical sketch for submission to an appropriate journal as the life of this remarkable man needs to be brought to light for the next generation of doctors, public health professionals and scientists.

Goals and Objectives

There are three goals with objectives for this proposal:

A) To collect in one place paper and digital copies of the collective works of and about Dr. Hildrus Poindexter

- i. Articles that are freely available through the internet will be downloaded and archived; they will also be printed so paper copies are available
- ii. Articles that can be obtained through interlibrary loan will also be downloaded and archived, and printed to have paper copies available
- iii. Dr. Poindexter's publications appeared primarily from the 1930's to the 1970's, so some are no longer readily available. Therefore, I will travel to libraires at Penn State College of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania and Howard University as necessary to obtain copies of these articles as these libraries have archived copies of the journals in which he published. Howard University also has a collection of works by all their faculty.
- iv. When the project is complete, I will work with Lincoln's Langston Hughes library to store digital and print copies of Dr. Poindexter's collected works at the library

B) To write a short biographical sketch on Dr. Poindexter to submit to an appropriate journal. The journals named in the introduction would be the most appropriate as those are the ones in which he published the most.

- i. To finish reading his autobiography and to read or reread the various papers published toward the end of his life and after his death that describe his remarkable life.
- ii. To read his collected works that I have not yet read, to get a more complete sense of the man and his science to appropriately convey it in the biographical sketch
- iii. To write the biographical sketch and start the process of submitting it to journals

C) To develop teaching modules for two freshmen level classes on Hildrus Poindexter

- i. Part of FYE 101 is to introduce students to Lincoln legacy. I will create a hands-on module that briefly describes my research process and provides a 2-3 paragraph sketch of

Dr. Poindexter. Students will use this to develop additional questions about Dr. Poindexter and use the resources I will have collected to answer those questions.

- ii. Research has shown that STEM students who are underrepresented minorities feel more ownership with science when exposed to scientists of color. For Bio 103, I will create a case study where small groups of students read a brief description of my methodology and the biographical sketch of Dr. Poindexter. They will then research and identify another scientist, who may be but does not have to be an underrepresented minority and produce a one-page biographical sketch using 3-4 references.

Timeframe

I expect to complete this work in two months.

Collecting written work- This is ongoing, and I expect to have most of the most readily obtainable works by the end of May. I will travel in late May and early to mid-June to the libraries named above to collect the remaining articles.

Writing the Sketch – I will start the outline in early June and fill it in as I read more works. July will be devoted primarily to writing the sketch.

Developing Teaching Modules - Once the sketch is complete in July, I will use it as a basis for creating the two shorter sketches to be used for the two different classes. As I do my research, I will record the methods I use to identify articles and extract the desired information for producing short descriptions of my methodologies for the classes. The modules will be completed by August 15 and will be introduced in my Fall 2022 classes – FYE 101 and Bio 103.

Enhancing Teaching and Learning at Lincoln

The proposed work will enhance teaching as it will provide new information on an important Lincoln alum, advancing Lincoln's Legacy. It will also introduce students to doing biographical research. The published paper will provide a new audience with information about Lincoln.

Deliverables and Measures of Success

The deliverables will be a published paper, creation of an updated archive in the library on Dr. Poindexter and two teaching modules designed for different audiences. Success will be measured by publication of the sketch, creation of an updated archive on an important Lincoln alum and assessment of the impact of the teaching modules on student's knowledge of Lincoln's place in history and their ownership of science.

Dissemination

The biographical sketch will be published. The teaching modules will be made available to other FYE and Bio 103 faculty after the Fall 2022 semester. I will give a seminar through CETL and present this at an appropriate conference.

Budget

Title: Hildrus Poindexter - A Brief Biography

Item	Description	Total
Salary	2-months summer salary (\$3,000 per month)	$\$3,000 \times 2 = \$6,000$
Travel to up to three regional libraires	Mileage and meals for up to three day trips	$\$100/\text{trip} \times 3 = \$300$
Purchase of articles from ILL; copy costs at regional libraries; right to use copyrighted pictures of Poindexter	Costs vary, but should not exceed \$300	\$300
Production of paper copies of articles and the modules	Cost of printing – may use archival paper	\$200
Total		\$6,800

Budget Justification:

Salary: I expect to spend at least two months collecting and reading the remaining works of Dr. Poindexter, writing the Biographical Sketch and creating the two teaching modules.

Travel to Regional Libraries: I will use this money once my allotted faculty travel is exhausted. Although many articles are available digitally and on-line, some of the older ones are not and collection would advance much faster if 2 or 3 days were spent copying articles from their original journals at libraires that hold them. Also, rules surrounding ILL allow only a certain number of articles to be obtained from a journal within a year, so I will be able to collect many more in person.

Purchase of Articles and Copyright Fees: Some journals require payment of articles even through ILL. This line item will allow me to purchase any articles not freely available through either ILL or at a regional library. If I need to make paper copies of articles at the regional libraries, I will have to pay copy costs than can range from 5 cents to 25 cents a page. Finally, Dr. Poindexter earned his MD from Harvard. His graduation picture is copyrighted and fees are required to lawfully obtain and use this photo. It is an important part of this collection and should be included.

Modules and Paper Archive: The newly developed modules and all the collected works will be printed so that in the event of loss of digital copies, there is a paper back-up. The paper collected works will be stored as recommended by the library staff. The modules will be kept in a small binder and stored with CETL.