1125-92-874 **Rachelle Bouchat*** (rbouchat@iup.edu), 210 South Tenth Street, Stright Hall, Room 208, Indian, PA 15705, and **G. Ledder**, **D. Sylvester** and **J. Thiel**. *Modeling the Sub-Saharan African Disease Onchocerciasis, a Commutative Algebraist's Perspective.* Preliminary report.

In graduate school, we often choose our academic path to study either pure or to study applied mathematics. I chose to focus my career exclusively on pure mathematics; that is, until I participated in the Research Experience for Undergraduate Faculty program in the summer of 2015. During this program, I began working with a group on an applied problem, the mathematical modeling of a disease common to many Sub-Saharan African countries called Onchocerciasis (also known as "River Blindness"). In this talk, I will present some of the work my research group has done thus far and talk about the experience during the transition from being a commutative algebraists to working on an applied problem in mathematical modeling. (Received September 12, 2016)