



Smithsonian

100 years of science in Panama



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

STRI news

www.stri.org

November 26, 2010

Tupper seminar

Tuesday, November 30, 4pm seminar speaker will be Ferna García-Pichel, Arizona State University

Microbial adaptations in biological soil crusts, Earth's most extensive biofilms

Paleo-Talk

Wednesday, December 1st at 4pm, CTPA PaleoTalk speaker will be Naia Holme, STRI
Inferring the role of history for large-scale biodiversity patterns.

Bambi seminar

Bambi “jefe” Brian Sedio left STRI and was unable to recruit a new “jefe”. If you wish to coordinate Bambi seminars, please contact Belkys Jimenez at 212-8900 or e-mail jjimenezb@si.edu

Holiday

Sunday, November 28 is Panama’s Independence Day from Spain. Monday, November 29 will be observed instead.

Safety number: 212-8211



STRI celebrates 990 years of service

"Recognizing our people, those who have dedicated years of their lives to increasing and disseminating knowledge, is always a pleasure" were the opening words of Human Resources director Luz Latorraca at this year’s awarding ceremony at STRI for 10, 20, 30 and 40 years of service. The ceremony, held at the Tupper Center Auditorium, gathered 85 employees, their supervisors, colleagues and members of the administration.

STRI associate director for Finance and Administration, Georgina de Alba, presented the awards in the name of STRI and director Eldredge “Biff” Bermingham and deputy director Ronald “Ron” Herzig, both overseas at the moment. “I feel very fortunate to represent the Directors at this event in which we celebrate the years of service of our employees, especially this year that we are celebrating our

centennial and honoring such a numerous group...”

“All of you have directly participated in the development of our Institution and I hope that you feel a sense of pride in what together we have achieved” added de Alba, as she expressed her appreciation for past and present support of STRI’s mission, both in good times and during difficult moments.

40 years of service
40 años de servicio
Marialuz Calderón

30 years of service
30 años de servicio
Juan Barría, Mirna Fernández, and Marcos Guerra

20 years of service
20 años de servicio
Nélida Gómez, Amalia Herrera, Noris Salazar and Reynaldo Tapia.

10 years of service
10 años de servicio

Edwin Andrades, Jorge Aranda, Julia Areas, Orelis Arosemena, Xiomara Avila, Melissa Balcázar, Rodolfo Batista, Maria Elena Becerra, Rigoberto Blake, Santiago Bonilla, Ligia Calderón, Noriel Camarena, Ernesto Camarena, Sotero Campos, Jennifer Campuzano, Ayda Carrasco, Irina Casal, Arcadio Castillo, Leonardo Chávez, Ricardo Chong, Clementina Chung, Marla Díaz, Carlos Espinosa, Jaime Flores, Nelly Flores, Carmen Galdames, Elina García, Erika Garibaldo, Eyda Gómez, Adalberto Gómez, Lina González, Alberto González, Maribel González, Rufino González, Apolinar Guerrero, Omar Hernández, Rubén Hernández, Nimiadina Herrera, Rigo Hurtado, Milton Jackson, Gabriel Jácome, Máximo Jiménez, Jonás Jiménez, Elisabeth “Beth” King, Luz Latorraca, Maritza López,

Arrivals

Nancy E. Gwinn, Smithsonian Institution Libraries (SIL) director and deputy director Mary Augusta Thomas, to meet and consult with the administration, scientific staff and library staff, prepare visit of the SIL Board, and to visit Panama.

Sara Fern Leitman Neihaus, University of Cambridge, UK, to collaborate in assessing the importance of litterfall for tree growth and nutrient dynamics through a large scale litter removal experiment in tropical deciduous forest in Panama, on Barro Colorado Island.

Luitgard Schwendenmann, University of Auckland, New Zealand, to study the effects of species identity and plant diversity on soil carbon dynamics in a tropical tree plantation, at Sardinilla.

Susan Perkins and Bryan Folk, American Museum of Natural History, NY, to study the lizard malaria parasites of Panama: Taxonomy, biogeography and evolution, on Barro Colorado Island.

Steven Kembel, University of Oregon, to work on quantifying the scaling of bacterial phyllosphere diversity: The role of space, environment, and host plant attributes, on Barro Colorado Island.

Keri Goodman, Georgia Institute of Technology, to study the regulation of macroalgae communities via sea urchin grazing: density-dependent factors and algal palatability, at Bocas.

Sofie Sjogersten, University of Nottingham, UK, to join the soil nutrient dynamics project, at Bocas del Toro.

Doroteo Machado, Sixto Martínez, Juan Martínez, Aizpuro Martínez, Miriam Medina, Jorge Melgar, Francisco Morales, Luis Moreno, Elías Murillo, Mirza Murillo, Gilberto Murray, Dayra Navarro, Edgardo Ochoa, Eduardo Ortega, Daniel Pérez, Alexander Pérez, Arcenio Pérez, Andrea Pérez, Tania Quiel, Antonio Reina, Marcelo Renno, José Sánchez, Oris Sanjur, Eleuterio Santos, Marí Stapf, Apolonio Valdez, Aureliano Valencia, Lidia Valencia and Renier Vargas.

"Reconocer a nuestra gente, a nuestro personal, a quienes han dedicado años de sus vidas para incrementar y difundir el conocimiento a la humanidad, es siempre motivo de gran satisfacción personal para mí" fueron las primeras palabras de Luz Latorraca, directora de la Oficina de Recursos Humanos en la ceremonia de reconocimiento de este año, para 10, 20, 30 y 40 años de servicio. La ceremonia, que se llevó a cabo en el Auditorio del Centro Tupper, reunió a 85 empleados, sus supervisores, colegas y miembros de la administración.

Georgina de Alba, directora asociada para Administración y Finanzas hizo entrega de los reconocimientos en nombre de



STRI, el director Eldredge Bermingham y el subdirector Ronald Herzig, ambos de viaje en ese momento. "Me siento muy afortunada de representar a los Directores en este evento cuando celebramos lo años de servicio de nuestros empleados, especialmente este año que celebramos nuestro centenario y que honramos a un grupo tan numeroso..."

"Todos ustedes han participado en el desarrollo de nuestra Institución y espero que se sientan orgullosos de lo que hemos logrado juntos" agregó de Alba, mientras expresó su gratitud por el apoyo a la misión de STRI, tanto en el presente como en el pasado, en buenos tiempos y durante momentos difíciles.

**STRI Christmas Party
December 17, 2010**

**Prizes!
Surprises!**

**Restaurante Al Dente
Restaurant, Panama**

Calzada de Amador

Causeway, Panama

¡Premios!

Fiesta de Navidad de STRI

¡Sorpresas!

17 de Diciembre de 2010

New publications

Andersen, Kelly M., Corre, Marife D., Turner, Benjamin L., and Dalling, James W. 2010. "Plant-soil associations in a lower montane tropical forest: physiological acclimation and herbivore-mediated responses to nitrogen addition." *Functional Ecology* 24(6): 1171-1180.

Bayona, German, Montes, Camilo, Cardona, Agustín, Jaramillo, Carlos, Ojeda, Germán, Valencia, Victor A., and Ayala-Calvo, Carolina. 2010. "Intraplate subsidence and basin filling adjacent to an oceanic arc-continent collision: a case from the southern Caribbean-South America plate margin." *Basin Research Online*.

Bonachea, Luis A., and Ryan, Michael J. 2010. "Localization error and search costs during mate choice in Túngara frogs, *Physalaemus pustulosus*." *Ethology Online*.

Cusatti, Ursula Vargas, Garay, Alfredo Lanuza, and Johnson, Paul J. 2010. "New records of *Platycrepidius costaricensis* Johnson and *Platycrepidius eburatus* (Champion) (Coleoptera: Elateridae) in Panama." *The Coleopterists Bulletin* 64(3): 285-286.

Eastwood, Rod, Kongnoo, Pitton, and Reinkaw, Manus. 2010. "Collecting and eating *Liphyra brassolis* (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) in southern Thailand." *The Journal of Research on the Lepidoptera* 43(1): 19-22.

New publications

Endara, María-José, and Coley, Phyllis D. 2010. "The resource availability hypothesis revisited: A meta-analysis." *Functional Ecology* Online.

Garen, Eva J., Saltonstall, Kristin, Ashton, Mark S., Slusser, Jacob L., Mathias, Shane, and Hall, Jefferson S. 2010. "The tree planting and protecting culture of cattle ranchers and small-scale agriculturalists in rural Panama: Opportunities for reforestation and land restoration." *Forest Ecology and Management* Online.

Jordano, Pedro, Forget, Pierre-Michel, Lambert, Joanna E., Bohning-Gaese, Katrin, Traveset, Anna, and Wright, S. Joseph. 2010. "Frugivores and seed dispersal: mechanisms and consequences for biodiversity of a key ecological interaction." *Biology Letters* Online.

Kennett, Douglas J., Piperno, Dolores R., Jones, John G., Neff, Hector, Voorhies, Barbara, Walsh, Megan K., and Culleton, Brendan J. 2010. "Pre-Pottery Farmers on the Pacific Coast of Southern Mexico." *Journal of Archaeological Science* 37(12): 3401-3411.

Kress, W. John, Erickson, David L., Swenson, Nathan G., Thompson, Jill, Uriarte, Maria, and Zimmerman, Jess K. 2010. "Advances in the use of DNA barcodes to build a community phylogeny for tropical trees in a Puerto Rican forest dynamics plot." *PLoS ONE* 5(11): e15409.

Poorter, Lourens, Kitajima, Kaoru, Mercado, Pablo, Chubina, Jose, Melgar, Israel, and Prins, Herbert H. T. 2010. "Resprouting as a persistence strategy of tropical forest trees: relations with carbohydrate storage and shade tolerance." *Ecology* 91(9): 2613-2627.

Fernando Pascal leaves STRI after 25 years of service

STRI's associate director for Facilities Fernando Pascal is leaving STRI after 25 years of service, to pursue other interests. Fernando joined STRI in 1985 as director of the Office of Design and Construction. In 2004 he was promoted to associate director for Operations in charge of the Office of Facilities, Engineering and Operations (OFEO), Panama. From both positions he provided significant long-term support to STRI facilities across the breadth of Panama.

"Working with the rest of the OFEO team in Panama and Washington, DC, Fernando leaves a lasting legacy where his impact can be seen at each and every site that STRI maintains" wrote STRI director Eldredge Bermingham in a joint e-mail issued jointly with Bruce Kendall, director of OFEO, DC, announcing his departure. Pascal helped coordinate the STRI Facilities Master Plan and the completion of many construction projects that are crucial to our organization today like the new marine laboratory and facilities at Bocas del Toro and the renovation of the CTPA. "Fernando was also a strong proponent of environmental conservation and found ways to reduce STRI's environmental footprint" concluded Bermingham in his e-mail.

El director de Instalaciones de STRI, Fernando Pascal deja a STRI luego de 25 años para seguir otros intereses. Fernando



se unió a STRI en 1985 como director de la Oficina de Diseño y Construcciones. Fue promovido a director asociado para Operaciones a cargo de la Oficina de Instalaciones, Ingeniería y Operaciones (OFEO), Panamá. Desde ambas posiciones ofreció un extenso apoyo a todas las instalaciones de STRI a lo largo del Istmo de Panamá.

"Al trabajar con el resto del equipo de OFEO en Panamá y en Washington DC, Fernando deja un legado perdurable donde su labor se puede ver en todas y cada una de las instalaciones que mantiene STRI" escribió el director de STRI, Eldredge Bermingham en un correo conjunto anunciando su partida con Bruce Kendall, director de OFEO, DC. Ayudó a coordinar el plan maestro de las instalaciones de STRI y la finalización de muchos proyectos de construcción cruciales para la institución como son el nuevo laboratorio marino de Bocas del Toro, y la renovación del CTPA. "Fernando fue también un fuerte defensor de la conservación ambiental, encontrando maneras para reducir la huella de carbono de STRI," concluyó Bermingham en su mensaje.

New publications

Prasad, Soumya, Pittet, André, and Sukumar, R. 2010. "Who really ate the fruit? A novel approach to camera trapping for quantifying frugivory by ruminants." *Ecological Research* 25(1): 225-231.

Prasad, Soumya, and Sukumar, R. 2010. "Context-dependency of a complex fruit-frugivore mutualism: temporal variation in crop size and neighborhood effects." *Oikos* 119(3): 514-523.

Suen, Garret, Scott, Jarrod J., Aylward, Frank O., Adams, Sandra M., Tringe, Susannah G., Pinto-Tomas, Adrian A., Foster, Clifton E., Pauly, Markus, Weimer, Paul J., Barry, Kerrie W., Goodwin, Lynne A., Bouffard, Pascal, Li, Lewyn, Osterberger, Jolene, Harkins, Timothy T., Slater, Steven C., Donohue, Timothy J., and Currie, Cameron R. 2010. "An insect herbivore microbiome with high plant biomass-degrading capacity." *PLoS Genetics* 6(9): e1001129.

Waddington, Sarah J., Santorelli, Lorenzo A., Ryan, Fiona R., and Hughes, William O.H. 2010. "Genetic polyethism in leaf-cutting ants." *Behavioral Ecology* 21(6): 1165-1169.

Weber, Mary Beth I., Cardona, Agustin, Valencia, Victor A., Garcia-Casco, A., Tobon, M., and Zapata, S. 2010. "U/Pb detrital zircon provenance from Late Cretaceous metamorphic units of the Guajira Peninsula, Colombia: tectonic implications on the collision between the Caribbean arc and the South American margin." *Journal of South American Earth Sciences* 29(4): 805-816.

Photo contest

Concurso de fotografía

STRI 2011

Prizes!

¡Premios!

Begins/inicia

January 3 de enero

deadline/finaliza

February 28 de

febrero

For the STRI

community

Para la

comunidad de STRI

Office of Bioinformatics/Bioinformática

Photography Department/Fotografía

Centennial Committee/Comité del Centenario

Wellbeing Committee/ Comité de Bienestar Institucional

announce a photo contest

anuncian un concurso fotográfico

Categories: Centennial activities, Biodiversity and People

Categorías: Actividades del centenario, Biodiversidad y Gente

For more information please visit/ Para mayor información, visite:

http://intranet.stri.si.edu/downloads/2011_STRI_Photocontest_Rules.pdf

