

Happy Holidays!



¡Felices fiestas!

## Seminars

No seminars are scheduled for this coming week, due to the holidays.

## Arrivals

Stefan Schnitzer, University of Minnesota, Dec 23 - Feb 15, to work with Walter Carson, on BCI and Gigante.

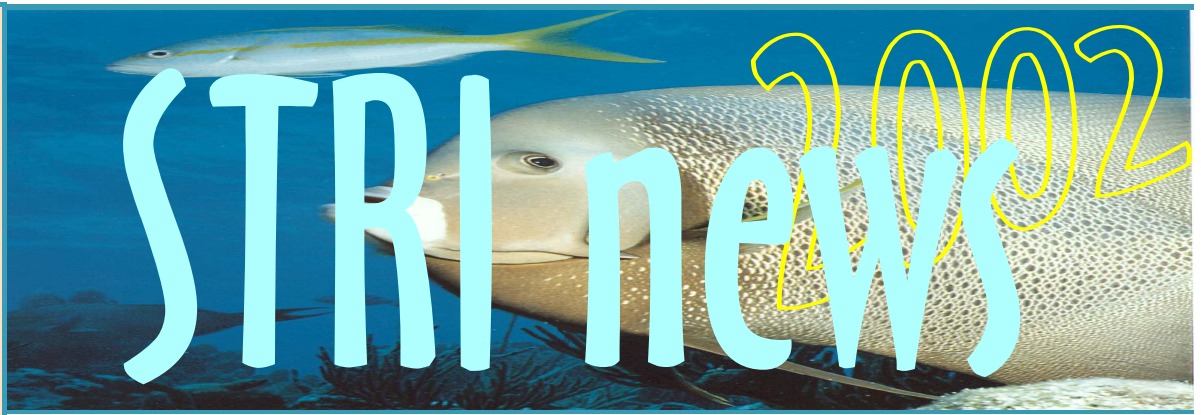
Nancy Knowlton, Dec 23 - Jan 11, to continue research projects and consult with staff.

Ulrich Mueller, University of Texas at Austin, Dec 26 - Jan 10, to study evolutionary ecology of the ant-microbe mutualism, at Gamboa.

Eloisa Lasso, University of Illinois, Dec 27, to explore carbon allocation to reproduction within the genus *Piper*, on BCI.

## Departures

Eldredge Bermingham, Dec 21 - Jan 14, to the U.S. on vacation. He will also attend the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Meetings in Toronto, Canada.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

[www.stri.org](http://www.stri.org)

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## Improvements on Galeta • Mejoras en Galeta

Under the leadership of STRI scientist Stanley Heckadon-Moreno, the Galeta Island Marine Laboratory, on the Caribbean entrance to the Panama Canal, completed major improvements to its facilities: offices for marine and coastal scientific programs, the marine environmental education program, the caretaker and for security services. A lobby for educational exhibits and an observation deck with spectacular view of the surrounding reefs, lagoons and mangroves, was also completed. The deck was an instant success as open-air classroom for students and teachers from Colón, villages on the Caribbean coast and the Panama Canal Watershed. The expansion was possible by generous private donations from Elektra Noreste, and Elizabeth Barber and Joan Siedenburg, members of the Smithsonian Associates. Professors Amador Hassell and Nicasio Saenz, from the Technological University of Panama, provided vital technical support in soil studies, material testing and structural design of the new deck. At STRI, support was received from Julio Polo and Edmundo Rodríguez from the Office of Engineering and Operations, Oscar Jiménez and Dora Justo from Facilities Management, and the Galeta team, specially Santos Lemos.

Bajo la dirección del científico de STRI Stanley Heckadon-Moreno, el Laboratorio Marino de Galeta, situado en la entrada caribe del Canal de Panamá, completó grandes mejoras en sus instalaciones: oficinas para programas científicos marinos y costeros, el programa de educación ambiental, el cuidador y para servicios de seguridad. También se completaron un salón para exhibiciones educativas y un “deck” de observación con una vista espectacular de arrecifes, lagunas y manglares que lo rodean. El “deck” fue un éxito instantáneo como salón de clases al aire libre, para estudiantes y docentes de Colón y otras áreas de la costa caribe y la cuenca del Canal. Esta expansión fue posible gracias a generosas donaciones privadas de Elektra Noreste y Elizabeth Barber y Joan Siedenburg, de los Asociados del Smithsonian. Amador Hassell y Nicasio Saenz, profesores de la Universidad Tecnológica de Panamá, aportaron apoyo técnico vital como los estudios de suelo, resistencia de materiales y el diseño estructural del nuevo “deck”. En STRI, se recibió apoyo de Julio Polo y Edmundo Rodríguez de la Oficina de Diseño y Construcción, Oscar Jiménez y Dora Justo de la Oficina de Operaciones, y el equipo de Galeta, en especial Santos Lemos.

## Congratulations!

To Juan Maté and Zeida Batista, for the birth of their son Juan Alexander, on December 15 in Panama City. He weighed 6 pounds and his height is 47.5 cms.

## New publications

Fortunato, Helena. 2002. "Foregut and reproductive tract anatomy of the Strombina group (Neogastropoda: Columbellidae): A preliminary report, *Second International Congress of the European Malacological Societies, Abstracts*: 135.

Fortunato, Helena, Gruber, K., and Bermingham, Eldredge P. 2002. "Evolution of the Strombina group (Neogastropoda: Columbellidae: Evidence from the mitochondrial data compared with morphology and the fossil record, *V Congreso Latinoamericano de Malacología (CLAMA), Abstracts with Program*: 111.

Roubik, David W. 2002. "Tropical bee colonies, pollen dispersal and reproductive gene flow in forest trees." In Degen, B., Loveless, M., and Kremer, A. (Eds.), *Proceedings of the symposium "Modelling and experimental research on genetic processes in tropical and temperate forests"*: 30-40. Belém: Documentos de Embrapa Amazônia Oriental.

## STRI in the news

"Con el alma en la ciencia tropical" by Lilmaría Herrera. 2002. En *Exclusiva* (Dec): 16-23. Can also be seen at [www.enexclusiva.com](http://www.enexclusiva.com)

## Six new biologists directed by Gómez

This year, staff scientist Nélica Gómez has directed theses of six biologists graduated from the University of Panama (UDP). In collaboration with Eligio Vega, professor at UDP, Gómez directed Nyree Abad Cuevas to obtain her biology degree with the thesis "Estudio fitoquímico y de bioactividad de *Cordia panamensis* y *Cordia cymosa*", and Nelly Rivas, with the thesis "Estudio fitoquímico y de bioactividad de *Cordia alliodora* y *Cordia spinescens*". Also, in collaboration with Viterbo Rodríguez, from UDP in Veraguas, Gómez directed Keyla Aparicio and Ana Lorena Vega de Castillo in "Histología del tracto digestivo de *Orexita wagneri*, *Coptocyclus leprosa* y *Botanochara impresa* (Coleóptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae)", and Esilda Batista and Cindy Miranda, with "Histología del tracto digestivo de *Eurypedus nigrosignata*, *Cistudinella foveolata* y *Physonota alutacea* (Coleóptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae)."

Este año, la científica de STRI Nélica Gómez ha dirigido las tesis de seis nuevos biólogos recién graduados de la Universidad de Panamá (UDP). En colaboración con Eligio Vega, profesor en la UDP, Gómez dirigió a Nyree Abad Cuevas para obtener su licenciatura en biología con la tesis "Estudio fitoquímico y de bioactividad de *Cordia panamensis* y *Cordia cymosa*", y a Nelly Rivas, con la tesis "Estudio fitoquímico y de bioactividad de *Cordia alliodora* y *Cordia spinescens*". También, en colaboración con Viterbo Rodríguez, de la UDP en Veraguas, Gómez dirigió a Keyla Aparicio y Ana Lorena Vega de Castillo con "Histología del tracto digestivo de *Orexita wagneri*, *Coptocyclus leprosa* y *Botanochara impresa* (Coleóptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae)", y a Esilda Batista y Cindy Miranda, con "Histología del tracto digestivo de *Eurypedus nigrosignata*, *Cistudinella foveolata* y *Physonota alutacea* (Coleóptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae)."

## Gómez dirige a seis nuevos biólogos



## Visitors at Naos

William J. Harrington Jr., co-director of The William J. Harrington Medical Training Program for Latin America, and Lawrence H. Boise, associate professor of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Miami School of Medicine, visited Naos Island Laboratories on Friday, November 22. They were hosted by Mercedes Denis, laboratories manager, and scientist Eldredge Bermingham, who briefed them on STRI activities and research in molecular ecology and evolution. Since its inception in 1967 the Harrington Program has

provided training for more than 2000 physicians and medical students at the University of Miami's Jackson Memorial Medical Center. In the photo (from the left) are Lawrence H. Boise, Eldredge Bermingham, William J. Harrington Jr. and Mercedes Denis.

## Help for Willie

### Ayuda para Willie

Willie Pomaires, STRI research assistant at the Bocas station, lost all his belongings during a fire this past weekend in Bocas (see photo). STRI will receive help for Willie and his family at the Procurement Office in Tupper. You may bring baby clothing, canned milk, kitchen appliances, beds, T.V., stove, cash, etc. Willie's pant size is 34, large for shirts, and 9½ shoes, his wife is large or 14-15, shoes 8½, and the baby is 11 months old. STRI will arrange transportation. Thanks for your help.

Willie Pomaires, asistente de investigación en la Estación de Bocas del Toro, perdió todas sus pertenencias durante un incendio en Bocas el fin de semana pasado (ver foto). STRI está recibiendo donaciones para Willie y su familia en la Oficina de Compras en Tupper. Usted puede contribuir con ropa para el bebé, leche en lata, útiles de cocina, camas, estufa, T.V., efectivo, ropa, etc. La talla de Willie 34 para pantalones, large para camisas, y 9½ de zapatos. Su esposa es large, talla 14 ó 15, zapatos 8½, y el bebé es de once meses de edad. STRI se encargará del transporte. Gracias por su ayuda.

