**Tupper 4pm seminar**
Tuesday, January 26, 4pm
seminar speaker will be Kate Kirby, University of British Columbia
Exploring links between agricultural biodiversity, cultural diversity, and economic development in Panama's Darien region

**Paleo-Talk**
Wednesday, January 27, Paleo-talk speaker will be Heather Graham, Penn State University at 4pm, CTPA, Ancon
Biomarkers: Extant models and fossil molecules

**Bambi seminars**
Thursday, January 28, Bambi seminar speaker will be John Christy, STRI
TBA
Monday, February 1st, Bambi seminar speaker will be Sebastian Wolfe, Institute of Plant Sciences, Zurich, Switzerland
Carbon cycling of two tropical ecosystems

**Arrivals**
Christopher Dick, University of Michigan, to study population genetic structure and phylogeography of widespread tropical forest trees.

Katharine Bowgen, The Royal Veterinary College, to study the physiological trait patterns and their role in governing mobile animal competitive hierarchies, on BCI.

Eric Griffin, University of Pittsburgh, to work on filling in the gap hypothesis: Are treefall gaps an engine for reproduction in tropical forests?, on BCI.

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**W. Owen McMillan joins STRI as academic dean and staff scientist**

Recently, Owen McMillan accepted the position of staff scientist and academic dean at STRI. McMillan has a Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Hawaii, where his thesis focused on speciation and species boundaries in coral reef fishes. He spent three years at University College London as a postdoc working with Jim Mallet on speciation in butterflies. He continues to be interested in speciation and, more recently, in the origins of adaptive variation. His current research includes evolutionary genomics of mimicry in Neotropical butterflies; population history of morphological differentiation; and applied research in ecology and evolutionary biology.

Before coming to STRI, McMillan spent eight years at the University of Puerto Rico. Most recently he was an associate professor in the Department of Genetics, North Carolina State University. He has been a visitor to STRI for over 20 years and has encouraged many of his own students and postdocs to seek research opportunities in Panama. According to him, "STRI has always been a special place for me and I have a deep appreciation of the unique possibilities that STRI offers for research and education."

At STRI, McMillan will take a leading role in shaping STRI's academic mission. Key administrative goals include: increasing the impact of STRI's educational programs; enriching the STRI intern and fellowship experience; developing new strategic partnerships and new opportunities for STRI's academic programs.

According to director Eldredge Bermingham, "The new appointed position of Academic Dean represents STRI's recognition of the pivotal importance to our mission of academic partnerships and training the next generation of tropical scientists."

McMillan joined the group of Nélida Gómez, Adriana Bilgray and Nilka Tejeira. His offices are located at the Tupper Center.

Recentemente, Owen McMillan aceptó la posición de decano académico e investigador permanente dentro del cuerpo científico de STRI. McMillan tiene un doctorado en Zoología de la Universidad de Hawaii, con una tesis enfocada en la especiación y diferencias en peces de arrecifes coralinos. Durante tres años como becario postdoctoral en University College en Londres estudio la especiación de mariposas junto con Jim Mallet. Ha mantenido su interés en la especiación, y más recientemente, en los orígenes de la variación por adaptación. Sus investigaciones actuales incluyen la genética evolutiva del camuflaje en mariposas del Neotrópico; la historia de poblaciones con diferenciación morfológica, y el estudio aplicado en ecología y biología evolutiva.

Antes de unirse a STRI, McMillan trabajó ocho años en
Bermingham announces changes at the Director’s Office

In a general STRI e-mail dated January 18, STRI director Eldredge Bermingham addressed the community to announce changes at the Director’s Office. These changes are the result of numerous assessments and consultations both with external sources as well as the scientific staff and members of the administration.

With the appointment of deputy director Ron Herzig, who has brought great experience in the management of scientific and medical private institutions, STRI is expected to enter a new era of improvement in all operations. To that end, Herzig will be working directly with Georgina de Alba for a year. During this time, she will be helping him to gain familiarity with STRI operations and to help execute the administrative changes to come.

De Alba has announced her retirement by January 2011 in order to dedicate more fully to her growing family. Her decision, as well as the improvements envisioned for our organizational structure, has caused consideration to be given to the need to create a new position to maintain and strengthen the critical link between science and administration. We are already announcing the position of Associate Director of Scientific Administration. This person will work closely with the Director, deputy director Ron Herzig, Academic dean Owen McMillan, and their teams.

De Alba will also lead a team of STRI employees in shaping the events and opportunities associated with STRI’s centennial celebrations. Her enormous dedication to STRI and 34 years of experience will be especially useful during the upcoming transition and centennial celebrations.

En un correo general a STRI con fecha del 18 de enero, el director Eldredge Bermingham se dirigió a la comunidad de STRI para anunciar cambios en la Oficina del Director. Estos cambios son el resultado de numerosos cálculos y consultas tanto con fuentes externas como con el personal científico y miembros de la administración.

Con el nombramiento del subdirector Ron Herzig, quien porta una gran experiencia en la administración de instituciones...
STRI hosts Mesoamerican conference on reforestation with native trees

Teak, Caribbean pine and other fast-growing, non-native trees have been the species of choice for reforestation and restoration projects in Latin America in the past. However, native tree species are often better suited to local conditions, more resistant to pests and disease, and of equal or greater timber value.

The Environmental Leadership & Training Initiative (ELTI), and the Native Species Reforestation Project (PRORENA), projects of STRI and Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, hosted a group of experts from Mexico, Costa Rica, Brazil and other countries of the region from January 21-22, to share experiences with native species, a growing business in Panama.

"This conference celebrates the coming of age of reforestation with native species in Panama and the region. We had ideas about how this would work, but now we have actually had time to see them take root. The presentations will sum up experiences from around Mesoamerica and will highlight important initiatives in the Canal area and elsewhere," said Jefferson Hall, director of applied ecology at STRI’s Center for Tropical Forest Science. Eva Garen, coordinator of ELTI’s Neotropics Training Program, adds that "the conference will also explore the human dimensions of native species reforestation efforts, recognizing the fundamental role that rural communities play in transforming, managing and restoring forested and agricultural landscapes and their ecosystem services."

The conference, held at STRI’s Tupper Center, consisted of four panel presentations: "Where, When, Why and How?" shared experiences from field experiments in the region; "Restoring Environmental Services" considered the implications of reforestation projects in the restoration of water cycles, carbon sequestration and biodiversity; "Native Trees in Agroforestry and Silvopastoral Systems" explored the role of native trees
in small-scale agriculture and cattle ranching; and the cultural aspects of reforestation with native species were examined in "The Use and Management of Native Trees by Rural Landholders."

"Our job is to translate the scientific results we have from experimental work with native trees into information that can be used by decision-makers, conservationists and land holders," said Javier Mateo-Vego, ELTI director.

En el pasado, la teca y el pino caribeño, así como otros árboles no nativos de rápido crecimiento han sido utilizados en proyectos de reforestación y restauración en Latinoamérica.

Sin embargo, las especies de árboles nativos se adaptan mejor a las condiciones locales, son más resistentes a las pestes y enfermedades, y poseen igual o mayor valor maderero.

La Iniciativa de Liderazgo y Capacitación Ambiental (ELTI), en inglés y el Proyecto de Reforestación de Especies Nativas (PRORENA), de STRI y la Escuela de Estudios Forestales y Ambientales de la Universidad de Yale reunieron a un grupo de expertos de países de la región, incluyendo a México, Costa Rica y Brasil del 21 al 22 de enero, para compartir experiencias con proyectos de reforestación con especies nativas y restauración de tierra, un negocio en auge en Panamá.

"Esta conferencia celebra la madurez de la reforestación con especies nativas en Panamá y la región. Antes teníamos ciertas ideas de cómo funcionaría ésto, pero ahora lo hemos visto arraigarse. Las presentaciones resumirán experiencias de Mesoamérica y señalarán iniciativas importantes del área del Canal y otros lugares", dijo Jefferson Hall, director de ecología aplicada del CTFS de STRI. Eva Garen, coordinadora del Programa de Capacitación del Neotrópico de ELTI, añadió que "la conferencia también explorará las dimensiones humanas de los esfuerzos de reforestación con especies nativas, y reconocerá el papel fundamental que desempeñan las comunidades rurales en la transformación, administración y restauración de paisajes forestales y agrícolas y de servicios de sus ecosistemas".

Esta conferencia, celebrada en el Centro Tupper de STRI, consistió en cuatro presentaciones por grupos de expertos: "Dónde, cuándo, cómo y porqué" con experiencias de campo en la región; "La restauración de servicios ambientales" que consideró las implicaciones de proyectos de reforestación en la restauración de ciclos de agua, captación de carbono y biodiversidad; "Árboles nativos en los sistemas agroforestales y silvo-pastoriles", o el papel de los árboles nativos en la agricultura y ganadería a pequeña escala; y los aspectos culturales de la reforestación con especies nativas, "Uso y manejo de árboles nativos por dueños de tierra rurales".

"Nuestro trabajo es traducir los resultados científicos que hemos obtenido del trabajo experimental con árboles nativos para convertirlos en información que pueda ser utilizada por líderes, conservacionistas y dueños de tierra", dijo Javier Mateo-Vega, director de ELTI.