



STRINews

FEBRUARY 3, 2012



SEMINARS

GAMBOA SEMINAR

Mon., Feb. 6, at Noon
Omar Lopez
STRI, INDICASAT
Gamboa schoolhouse

Introduced alien plant species in Panama: preliminary results from a national inventory.

CTFS-SIGEO SEMINAR

Tues., Feb. 7, at 10:30 am
Jess Zimmerman
University of Puerto Rico
Tupper Exhibit Hall

Land use legacies and forest dynamics in wet forest of Puerto Rico.

TUPPER SEMINAR

Tues., Feb. 7, at 4 pm
Kanchon Dasmahapatra
University College, London
Tupper Auditorium

Genomic evidence for promiscuous exchange of adaptations among *Heliconius* butterfly species.

BAMBI SEMINAR

Thurs., Feb. 9, 7:15 pm
Meg Crofoot
STRI, Max Planck Institute for Ornithology; Princeton University
Barro Colorado Island

Collective ecology: Is the whole greater than the sum of its parts?

On Thursday, Feb. 2, 2012, STRI celebrated the groundbreaking for the new research campus in the community of Gamboa, in Panama's Colon Province. Representatives of the Government of Panama: Mayra Arosemena, Acting Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Tomás Guardia, Director of International Entities; the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., Wayne Clough; Undersecretary for Science, Eva Pell; other Smithsonian Institution staff and members of the Smithsonian National Board and the STRI Advisory Board were in attendance.

The new campus will strengthen the synergy and productivity between staff and visiting scientists from around the world, who study the Republic of Panama's exceptionally rich flora and fauna and will contribute to the increase of our knowledge of global change and biodiversity.

From this new campus, scientists will conduct studies to generate new knowledge that will help to respond to questions such as: How do plants respond to environmental stress? Which native tree species are best for smart reforestation projects? Why are butterflies so abundant? How do bats perceive the world?, and Why are the world's frogs disappearing?

Because of its location at the confluence of the Chagres River and the Panama Canal, and at the edge of Soberania National Park, the campus will complement international scientific research projects underway on Barro Colorado Island in Gatun Lake.

"The project to develop a campus in Gamboa has been possible thanks to support from the government of the Republic of Panama, through all of its offices, representatives and authorities," said Eldredge Bermingham, STRI's director. "This investment in Gamboa is proof of the trust and commitment that the Smithsonian has maintained with Panama as a result of our excellent, close relationship throughout our 100 year presence on the Isthmus."

100 Años Abriendo Nuevos Caminos

El jueves 2 febrero de 2012, el Smithsonian en Panamá realizó la ceremonia de colocación de la primera piedra del nuevo campus de investigaciones del Smithsonian en el poblado de Gamboa, provincia de Colón. Este acontecimiento contó con la presencia de

→ ARRIVALS

Chantal Vogels

Wageningen University
TEAM - Panama (Tropical Ecology Assessment and Monitoring)
Barro Colorado Island

Maaik Bader

University of Oldenburg, Germany
Changes in plant carbon balance of epiphytes along an altitudinal gradient.
Fortuna and BCI

Lolly OBrien, Lauren Castro, Youngin Lim, Diana Goodman, Dana Miller

Princeton University
Field Course - Princeton 2012
Gamboa

Christina Riehl

Princeton University
Breeding Biology of the Greater Ani
Barro Colorado Island

Heiner Roemer

Karl-Franzens-Universität, Austria
Sensory ecology of cricket communication
Barro Colorado Island

Barnett Schlinger

Univ. of California - Los Angeles
Hormonal and neural control of a sexually dimorphic behavior
Gamboa

Amanda Waite

University of Miami
Biostratigrafía del Neotrópico
Center for Tropical Paleocology (CTPA)

Taylor Callicrate and Sarah Kingston

University of Maryland
Field Course - Restriction-site Associated DNA 2012
Gamboa

Avi Chertock

University of California - Berkeley
Latitudinal variation and synergistic biotic interactions among mangrove fouling and boring communities
Naos Marine Lab



▲ STRI Director, Eldredge Bermingham; STRI Advisory Board Founding Member, Frank Levinson; Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Wayne Clough; Acting Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Panama, Mayra Arosemena; STRI Advisory Board Founding Member, Steven Hoch, and Smithsonian benefactor, Lisina Hoch.

Director del Smithsonian en Panamá, Eldredge Bermingham; Miembro Fundador del Comité de Asesores del Smithsonian en Panamá, Frank Levinson; Secretario del Instituto Smithsonian en Washington, Wayne Clough; Vice Ministra Encargada de Relaciones Exteriores, República de Panamá, Mayra Arosemena; Miembro Fundador del Comité de Asesores del Smithsonian en Panamá, Steven Hoch; Benefactora del Smithsonian en Panamá, Lisina Hoch.

representantes del Gobierno de la República de Panamá:

Mayra Arosemena, Vice Ministra Encargada de Relaciones Exteriores y Tomás Guardia, Director de Organismos Internacionales, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores; del Secretario de la Institución Smithsonian en Washington, D.C., G. Wayne Clough; la Subsecretaria de Ciencia, Eva Pell; otros funcionarios del Smithsonian, distinguidos miembros de la Junta Directiva Nacional de la Institución y del Consejo Consultivo del Instituto.

El nuevo campus fortalecerá la sinergia y la productividad entre los científicos de planta del Smithsonian y visitantes de todas partes del mundo, quienes realizan investigaciones sobre la excepcional riqueza biológica de la República de Panamá y contribuyen a aumentar nuestro conocimiento acerca de los cambios globales del clima y la biodiversidad.

Desde este nuevo campus, científicos realizarán estudios para generar nuevos conocimientos que ayuden a responder preguntas como: ¿Cómo responden las plantas al estrés?

¿Qué árboles nativos son mejores para la reforestación inteligente?, ¿Por qué son tan abundantes las mariposas?, ¿Cómo perciben los murciélagos el mundo?, ¿Por qué están desapareciendo las ranas en el mundo?

Por su ubicación en un área de confluencia del Canal de Panamá y el río Chagres, y en la ribera de bosque del Parque Nacional Soberanía, el campus complementará las actividades científicas internacionales de investigaciones terrestres que se realizan el Monumento Natural de Barro Colorado en el Lago Gatún.

El director del Smithsonian en Panamá, Dr. Eldredge “Biff” Bermingham dijo: “El proyecto del campus del Smithsonian en Gamboa ha sido posible gracias al respaldo del Gobierno de la República de Panamá, a través de todos sus estamentos, representantes y autoridades. Esta inversión constituye una prueba de la confianza y compromiso que el Smithsonian mantiene en Panamá como resultado de las excelentes y estrechas relaciones durante nuestros 100 años de presencia en el Istmo.”

→ ARRIVALS

Marleny Rivera

Universidad de Panamá
CTFS arthropod initiative
Barro Colorado Island

Irving Bethancourt

Universidad de Panamá
Molecular systematics and historical biogeography of tropical marine fishes
Naos Marine Lab

Adriana Corrales Osorio

Univ. of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Ectomycorrhizal fungi associated with *Oreomunnea mexicana* (Juglandaceae) a dominant tree in a Panamanian montane forest
Fortuna and Naos Marine Lab

Carmen Karina Velasquez Santos

Univ. Autónoma de Chiriquí, Panama
Elevation effects on the life history characteristics of tropical trees
Fortuna

Chelina Batista

Univ. de Barcelona, Spain
Monitoring the dynamics of avian communities and population in Central Panama
Gamboa

→ NEW PUBLICATIONS

Dick, C. W. and Pennington, R. T. 2012. Molecular systematic perspectives on biome origins and dynamics. *New Phytologist*, 193(1): 9-11. doi:10.1111/j.1469-8137.2011.03991.x

Dickau, R., Bruno, M. C., Iriarte, J., Prümers, H., Betancourt, C., Holst, I. and M., Francis E. 2012. Diversity of cultivars and other plant resources used at habitation sites in the Llanos de Mojos, Beni, Bolivia: Evidence from macrobotanical remains, starch grains, and phytoliths. *Journal of Archaeological Science*, 39(2): 357-370. doi:10.1016/j.jas.2011.09.021

Haller, B. C., De León, L. F., Rolshausen, G., Gotanda, K. M., Hendry, A. P. 2012. Magic traits: distinguishing the important from the trivial. *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*, 27(1): 5-6. doi:10.1016/j.tree.2011.09.005