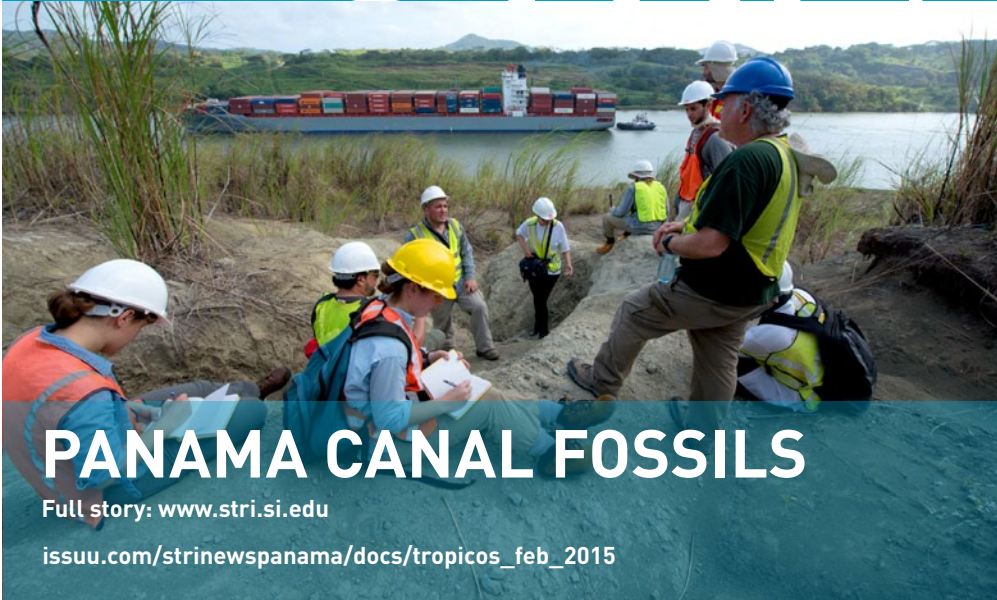




STRINNEWS

FEB 27, 2015



PANAMA CANAL FOSSILS

Full story: www.stri.si.edu

issuu.com/strinewspanama/docs/tropicos_feb_2015

Gary Morgan (R), a co-principal investigator on a large grant to study fossils from the Panama Canal expansion earthworks, talks to project interns and others during a visit to the Cucaracha Formation in January. (Photo by Sean Mattson)

Gary Morgan (der.), co-investigador principal en una cuantiosa beca para estudiar fósiles descubiertos durante los movimientos de tierra del proyecto de expansión del Canal de Panamá, conversa con los pasantes del proyecto y otros participantes durante una visita a la Formación Cucaracha en enero. (Foto por Sean Mattson)

SEMINARS

CTFS TALK
Tues., Mar. 03, 10:30am
Marco Visser
Radboud University
Tupper Large Meeting Room
Speeding up Ecological and Evolutionary Computations in R; Essentials of High Performance Computing for Biologists

TUPPER SEMINAR
Tues., Mar. 03, 4pm
Gerhard Zotz
University of Oldenburg and STRI
Tupper Auditorium
Epiphytes - a critical review of concepts, facts and assumptions

TUPPER PUBLIC TALK
Wed., Mar. 4, 6pm
Stanley Heckadon
STRI
Tupper Auditorium
La Institución Smithsonian en Panamá: 1910-2015

BAMBI SEMINAR
Thur., Mar. 5, 7:15pm
Charlotte Jander
Yale University
Barro Colorado Island
TBA

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT STRI?

FIELD COURSES

Princeton University - Semester in the field
Contact person: Lolly O'Brien
Feb 3 - Apr 30

MarineGEO Workshop
Contact person: Rachel Collin
Mar 1 - Mar 13

Yale University - Introduction to Tropical Field Ecology
Contact person: Liza Comita
Mar 7 - Mar 22





DREAMS COME TRUE AT PUNTA CULEBRA NATURE CENTER

Wishes old and new met this week at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute's (STRI) Punta Culebra Nature Center when research intern Alexander Barr and 11-year-old Canadian Zachary Pylychuk took part in a special tour organized in collaboration with Make-A-Wish Foundation, a non-profit organization that grants wishes to children with serious illnesses.

Alexander's return to Panama comes 14 years after his first visit when he, like Zachary, had his dream to see tropical wildlife in its natural habitat fulfilled by Make-A-Wish and STRI. Alexander's experience at STRI helped inspire him to pursue a career in environmental science. "My trip to STRI made me realize that the rainforest was disappearing and I want to help stop that from happening," he said.

After graduating from Central Washington University, Alexander was accepted into STRI's competitive internship program. For the next three months, he will study insect behavior with STRI staff scientist and deputy director for research William Wcislo, who took part in Alexander's 'wish' to collect insects in the rainforest so many years ago.

Like Alexander, Zachary developed an early fascination with wildlife. He and his family have memberships to all the zoos and nature centers near their home in Thunder Bay, Canada. When asked to pick one 'wish' he would

LOS SUEÑOS SE HACEN REALIDAD EN EL CENTRO NATURAL PUNTA CULEBRA

Deseos antiguos y nuevos se reunieron esta semana en el Centro Natural de Punta Culebra del Instituto Smithsonian de Investigaciones Tropicales, cuando el pasante de investigación Alexander Barr y el joven canadiense de 11 años Zachary Pylychuk participaron en una gira especial organizada en colaboración con Make-A-Wish Foundation, una organización sin fines de lucro que concede deseos a niños con enfermedades graves.

El regreso de Alexander a Panamá, 14 años después de su primera visita, cuando al igual que Zachary, que tenía el sueño de ver la vida silvestre tropical en su hábitat natural se le cumplió gracias a Make-A-Wish y el Smithsonian. La experiencia de Alexander le inspiró a seguir una carrera en ciencias ambientales. "Mi viaje al Smithsonian hizo que me diera cuenta de que la selva está desapareciendo y quiero ayudar a evitar que eso suceda", comentó.

Después de graduarse de la Universidad Central de Washington, Alexander fue aceptado en el competitivo programa de pasantías del Smithsonian. Por los próximos tres meses, estudiará el comportamiento de los insectos con el científico y director adjunto de investigación del Smithsonian William Wcislo, quien participó en el 'deseo' de hace muchos años de Alexander de coleccionar insectos en la selva.

Zachary también desarrolló una temprana fascinación por la vida silvestre. Él y su familia tienen membresías



Alexander Barr (izq.), quien de niño visitó el Smithsonian hace 14 años por medio de Make a Wish, saluda a Zachary Pylychuk (der.) durante su visita al Centro Natural de Punta Culebra .

Alexander Barr (left), who visited STRI 14 years ago as a Make a Wish child, greets Zachary Pylychuk (right) during his visit to Punta Culebra Nature Center.

like to have fulfilled, Zachary said he wanted to meet the animals of the rainforest “where they live, not where we live.” Punta Culebra Nature Center provided a unique opportunity for Zachary to have his wish come true, offering on-site wildlife experts in a natural environment easily accessible for those with limited mobility.

During his visit to Punta Culebra, a team of scientists and guides provided Zachary with a hands-on experience including a private tour of the center’s frog exhibit, a chance to touch sea stars and sea cucumbers, and to meet one of its resident sea turtles.

Zachary and his family capped off their visit with a ride up in a canopy crane at Metropolitan Park, exploring the rainforest canopy with scientist Javier Mateo and park guide Yarabí Vega.

In the end, Zachary had a difficult time deciding which part of his visit with STRI he liked most, but one thing is certain: he will return to Canada with a new understanding of the animals he loves, and with his special wish realized.

en todos los zoológicos y centros naturales cerca de su hogar en Thunder Bay, Canadá. Cuando se le preguntó qué “deseo” le gustaría cumplir, Zachary mencionó que quería conocer a los animales de la selva “en el lugar donde viven, no donde vivimos.” El Centro Natural de Punta Culebra proporciona una oportunidad única para que Zachary haga su deseo realidad, contando con expertos en vida silvestre in situ en un entorno natural de fácil acceso para personas con movilidad reducida.

Durante su visita a Punta Culebra, un equipo de científicos y guías le brindaron una experiencia práctica que incluyó una visita privada a la exhibición de anfibios, la oportunidad de tocar las estrellas de mar y los pepinos de mar, y conocer a una de las tortugas marinas residentes.

Zachary y su familia finalizaron su visita con un paseo en una grúa del dosel en el Parque Natural Metropolitano, explorando las alturas de la selva tropical junto al científico Javier Mateo y la guía del parque Yarabí Vega.

Al final, Zachary tuvo dificultad en decidir qué parte de su visita al Smithsonian le gustó más, pero una cosa es cierta: volverá a Canadá con una nueva comprensión de los animales que tanto ama, y con su deseo especial hecho realidad.



U.S. Representatives in Panama as part of an Aspen Global Leadership Institute workshop visited STRI staff scientist Rachel Page's bat lab in Gamboa: l to r, Representative Rick Larsen (D-WA), Senator Benjamin Cardin (D-MD), Myrna Edelman Cardin, Susan Huffman, Tiia Karlen, Representative Jared Huffman (D-CA), Matthew Larsen (STRI Director), Dylan Gomes (intern, Page lab), Luisa Fernanda Gómez-Feuillet (intern, Page lab). Photo: Wouter Halfwerk (Page lab postdoctoral fellow)

Their visit to STRI's Santa Cruz site included presentations by senior staff scientist Klaus Winter on plant physiology and CO₂ interactions associated with climate change and a demonstration of the use of UAV (drone) techniques to map and assess forest canopy health from above by Jonathan Dandois, post-doctoral fellow in staff scientist Helene Muller-Landau's group.

Representativos de los Estados Unidos en Panamá, como parte de un taller del Instituto de Liderazgo Global Aspen, visitaron el laboratorio de murciélagos de la científica del Smithsonian Rachel Page en Gamboa: de izq. a der., el Representante Rick Larsen (D-WA), el Senador Benjamin Cardin (D-MD), Myrna Edelman Cardin, Susan Huffman, Tiia Karlen, el Representante Jared Huffman (D-CA), Matthew Larsen (Director del Smithsonian en Panamá), Dylan Gomes (pasante del laboratorio de Page), Luisa Fernanda Gómez-Feuillet (pasante del laboratorio de Page). La visita al sitio de Santa Cruz del Smithsonian incluyó presentaciones del científico senior Klaus Winter sobre la fisiología de las plantas y las interacciones del CO₂ asociadas con el cambio climático y una demostración de técnicas del uso de vehículos aéreos no tripulados (drones) para mapear y evaluar la salud dosel del bosque presentada por Jonathan Dandois, becario de posdoctorado en el grupo de la científica Helene Muller-Landau. Imagen cortesía de: Wouter Halfwerk (becario de post doctorado del laboratorio de Page)

ARRIVALS

Matthew Fuxjager
Wake Forest University
Physiological Control of Physically Elaborate
Social Displays
Gamboa and Tupper

Meghna Krishnadas
Yale University
The BCI 50-ha Plot Seedling and Small Sapling
Census
Barro Colorado Island

Richard Wallbank
University of Cambridge
The evolution of mimicry in *Heliconius*
Gamboa

Magdalena Krimmel
University of Ulm
Ecology and species barriers in emerging viral
diseases
Barro Colorado Island

Sebastian Stockmaier
University of Konstanz
Predator foraging behavior
Gamboa

Anna Mazzaro and Erika Hakcett
Montclair State University
Mary Hall and Donna Love
Barro Colorado Island Mammal Census
Barro Colorado Island

Patrick Green and Rachel Crane
Duke University
Maya deVries
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Lovely Alvear
Universidad de Panamá
Feeding ecology of stomatopod crustaceans:
Phase 2
Naos Marine Lab and Galeta Station

James Leichter
University of California - San Diego
Mark Patterson
Northeastern University
Field Course - Three Oceans Northeastern
University 2015

Leonida Fusani and Cornelia Bröckl
University of Vienna
Anders Ödeen and Jannika Bostrom
Uppsala University
Hormonal and neural control of a sexually
dimorphic behavior
Gamboa

Jacob Rex
Panama Amphibian Rescue
and Conservation Project
Gamboa

DEPARTURES

Jose Perurena
To Bocas Del Toro
For meetings and inspections at the Bocas
Station

Rachel Collin
To Bocas Del Toro
To oversee administration at the Research
Station

Leopoldo León
To Washington, DC
To attend Finance and Administration
meetings

Raul De Leon
To Bocas Del Toro
For equipment maintenance and CPR
Training

Steve Paton
To La Selva Biological Station, Costa Rica
To attend the annual OTS Science
Committee meeting

Andrew Altieri
To Maryland, USA and Quebec, Canada
For a meeting at SERC and a conference in
Quebec

Mariechen Lang
To Bocas Del Toro
To interview candidates

Hector Guzman
To Changuinola
To evaluate an area of influence of the
Changuinola River

PUBLICATIONS

Laurance, W. F., Andrade, A. S., Magrath, A., Camargo, J. L., Valsko, J. J., Campbell, M., Fearnside, P. M., Edwards, W., Lovejoy, T. E. and Laurance, S. G. 2014. Long-term changes in liana abundance and forest dynamics in undisturbed Amazonian forests. *Ecology*, 95(6): 1604-1611. doi:10.1890/13-1571.1

Stapley, J., Garcia, M. and Andrews, R. M. 2015. Long-Term Data Reveal a Population Decline of the Tropical Lizard *Anolis apletophthalmus*, and a Negative Affect of El Nino Years on Population Growth Rate. *PLoS One*, 10(2): 1-14. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0115450

Tarvin, R. D., Silva B., C., Briggs, V. S. and Warkentin, K. M. 2015. Carry-over Effects of Size at Metamorphosis in Red-eyed Treefrogs: Higher Survival but Slower Growth of Larger Metamorphs. *Biotropica*, doi:10.1111/btp.12198

Wright, A., Schnitzer, S. A. and Reich, P. B. 2014. Living close to your neighbors: the importance of both competition and facilitation in plant communities. *Ecology*, 95(8): 2213-2223. doi:10.1890/13-1855.1

La Institución Smithsonian en el Istmo de Panamá, 1910 – 2015



**STANLEY
HECKADON-MORENO**

Científico Antropólogo, Instituto Smithsonian

4 de marzo
2015 | 6pm

Centro de Conferencias
Earl S. Tupper, Ancón – Panamá

Información: 212-8000 | ventocilla@si.edu

PRESENTADO POR PROGRAMAS PÚBLICOS de STRI
ENTRADA LIBRE



PRÓXIMA CHARLA
Miércoles 1 de abril
Agua Salud: Experimento
de la Cuenca del Canal
Dr. Jeff Hall – Instituto Smithsonian

SERIE DE CHARLAS

CIENCIA
Smithsonian
EN EL CANAL DE PANAMÁ

100 años revelando maravillas

Imagen: Llegada de Botes, Lago Gatún, Circa - 1910

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