

Tupper 4pm seminar

Tue, Feb 1, 4pm seminar speaker will be Priska Schafer
The Nordic Seas: A changing environment - an interdisciplinary approach

Bambi seminar

Thu, February 3rd, Bambi seminar speaker will be William F. Laurance, STRI
How to be more prolific: A strategy for writing and publishing scientific papers

Arrivals

Stefan Klose and Kristen Jung, Jan 12, University of Ulm, to do bat research, on BCI.

Margaret Metz, University of California at Berkeley, Jan 31 - Feb 14, to study seedling dynamics and forest diversity, in Gamboa.

Liza Comita, University of Georgia, Feb 1 - Apr 22, to work with Steve Hubbell, in Gamboa.

Olga Pantos, San Diego State University, Feb 1 - Mar 15, to work with Nancy Knowlton, at Bocas.

Carol Garzon, University of Groningen, The Netherlands, Feb 1 - May 1, to work with Patrick Jansen, on BCI.

Adam Stein, Syracuse University, Feb 1 - Jul 1, to study the signal evolution and speciation in bearded manakin, on Bocas del Toro.

Diego Perez-Salicrup, UNAM, Mexico, Feb 1 - Mar 30, to study plant reproductive biology and seedling recruitment, at Tupper.

Corey Tarwater, University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign, Feb 2 - Sep 30, to work with Jeff Brawn, in Gamboa.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

www.stri.org

January 28, 2005

STRI people continuing studies abroad

Thirty Panamanian biologists that work or have worked in the past few years at STRI as research assistants, interns, volunteers and a facility manager, are currently undergoing graduate studies abroad, in different areas of research conducted at STRI. After graduating from the University of Panama, their experience at STRI helped them focus their careers, and sometimes STRI scientists were instrumental to obtain their scholarships.

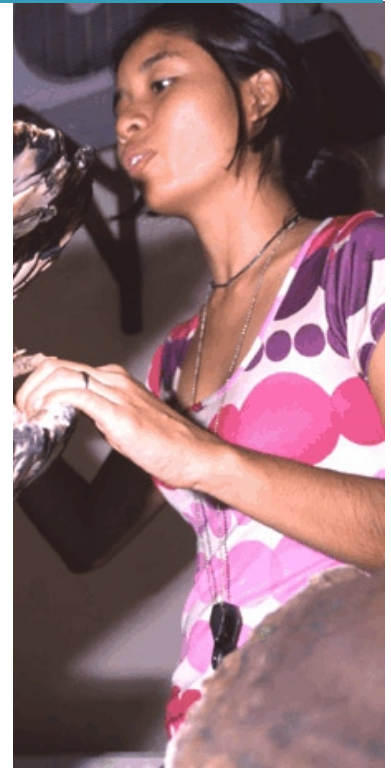
One of them, Omar López, from BCI, is conducting postdoctoral studies in plant physiology, at the University of Wisconsin, in Madison.

Fourteen members of the group are Ph.D. candidates in Brazil, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Spain, UK and the US. They are: Hermógenes Fernández, Edgardo Garrido, Jonathan Gonzalez, Eloisa Lasso, Maricarmen Ruiz, Mirna Santana and Katia Silvera, from Barro Colorado Island. Also

from BCI/Tupper are Mónica Mejía and Yolanda Corbett. Nadilia Gómez, Marcelino Gutiérrez and Maria Stapf are from Tupper. Arturo Dominici was the aquarist at STRI's Marine Exhibition Center at Culebra, and Dayanara Macias worked at Naos Island Laboratories.

Fourteen of the students abroad are pursuing their master's degree in Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, UK, US and Venezuela. They are Dora Alvarez, Javier Ballesteros, Nidia Castillo-Arauz, David Galvez, Luis Mejía, Ricardo Moreno (photo bellow) and Melva Olmos, from BCI. From BCI/Tupper are Blanca Araúz and Nayda Flores Elizabeth Osorio, Juan Carlos Villarreal and Alana Domingo worked at Tupper. Carlos Guevara and Yehudi Rodriguez are from the Naos Labs, and Inez Campbell worked in Galeta and Culebra.

Recently, Mabelle Chong (photo above), who worked at



Tupper, finished her master's degree in microbiology at the Autonomous University of Nuevo Colón, México, and is working with Don Windsor at the Naos Laboratories. The rest of them are expected to obtain their degrees before 2009.

Information provided by Oris Acevedo



Treinta y un biólogos panameños que trabajan o han trabajado en años recientes en STRI como asistentes de investigación, becarios, voluntarios y una administradora, se encuentran actualmente realizando estudios de posgrado en el extranjero, en diferentes áreas de investigación que se llevan a cabo en STRI. Luego de graduarse en la Uni-

versidad de Panamá, su experiencia en STRI les ayudó a enfocar sus carreras y en algunas ocasiones los científicos de STRI ayudaron para obtener becas.

Uno de ellos, Omar López de BCI, estudia un posdoctorado en fisiología vegetal en la Universidad de Wisconsin, en Madison, EU.

More arrivals

Thomas Eltz, Universitat Dusseldorf, Feb 3-20, to study the fragrance biology and courtship behavior of male orchid bees, on BCI.

Jacqueline Miller, University of Toronto, Feb 5-25, to study the phylogeny, function and form: the evolution of acoustic communication in *Peromyscine* rodents, in Darien.

Fiona Reid, Royal Ontario Museum, Feb 5-12, to work with Jacqueline Miller, at Tupper.

STRI on TV

Sunday, January 30 at 10:30pm, Channel 11, there will be a transmission of *Ecoaventuras* featuring STRI's work.

New publications

Cueto, Mercedes, D'Croz, Luis, Mate, Juan L., San-Martin, Aurelio, and Darias, Jose. 2005. "Elysiapyrones from *Ehysia diomedea*. Do such metabolites evidence an enzymatically assisted electrocyclization cascade for the biosynthesis of their bicyclo[4.2.0]octane core?" *Organic Letters* 7(3): 415-418.

Kitajima, Kaoru, Mulkey, Stephen S., and Wright, S. Joseph. 2005. "Variation in crown light utilization characteristics among tropical canopy trees." *Annals of Botany* 95(3): 535-547.

Mora, Camilo, and Robertson, D. Ross. 2005. "Factors shaping the range-size frequency distribution of the endemic fish fauna of the Tropical Eastern Pacific." *Journal of Biogeography* 32(2): 277-286.

Catorce miembros del grupo son candidatos al doctorado en Alemania, Brasil, España, Estados Unidos, Italia, México, Puerto Rico y el Reino Unido. Ellos son: Hermógenes Fernández, Edgardo Garrido, Jonathan González, Eloisa Lasso, Maricarmen Ruíz, Mirna Santana y Katia Silvera, de Barro Colorado. Mónica Mejía y Yolanda Corbett estuvieron en BCI/Tupper. Nadilia Gómez, Marcelino Gutiérrez y María Stapf, en Tupper. Arturo Dominici fue acuarista en el Centro de Exhibiciones

CREHO board meeting

The Regional Ramsar Center for Wetland Training and Research in the Western Hemisphere (CRE HO) held its annual board meeting on November 7, 2004, in Merida, Mexico. The meeting was attended by Elena Lombardo (first from the left) from STRI's Office of External Affairs representing the Institute. During the meeting, CREHO's baseline and institutional self-diagnosis were reviewed, as well as the financial situation and activities carried out from January to October 2004. Additionally, the Strategic Plan, annual work plan and administrative, financial and Board manuals were reviewed. Finally, actions were defined for 2005 on the technical and operational level.

BCI Paper Club

BCI scientific community has launched the new BCI Paper Club, that will be held in an informal setting every Wednesday at 1pm, starting January 26. The meeting will be held on the balcony outside the lounge. The group will discuss recent papers related to BCI surroundings, or representing a key contribution to the fields of tropical ecology or general ecology. During the next meeting, the Club will discuss

Marinas en Punta Culebra, y Dayanara Macias trabajó en los Laboratorios de Isla Naos.

Dieciséis de los estudiantes participan en programas de maestría en Chile, Costa Rica, Estados Unidos, México, Reino Unido y Venezuela. Ellos son Dora Alvarez, Javier Ballesteros, Nidia Castillo-Araúz, David Galvez, Luis Mejía, Ricardo Moreno (foto en página anterior) y Melva Olmos de Barro Colorado; Blanca Araúz y Nayda Flores, de BCI/Tupper; Elizabeth

Osorio y Juan Carlos Villarreal, de Tupper; Alana Domingo, Carlos Guevara y Yehudi Rodriguez, de los Laboratorios de Naos; e Inéz Campbell, de Culebra.

Recientemente, Mabelle Chong (foto en la página anterior) terminó su maestría en microbiología y está en los Laboratorios de Naos. Se espera que todos hayan completado sus estudios antes de 2009.

Información cortesía de Oris Acevedo

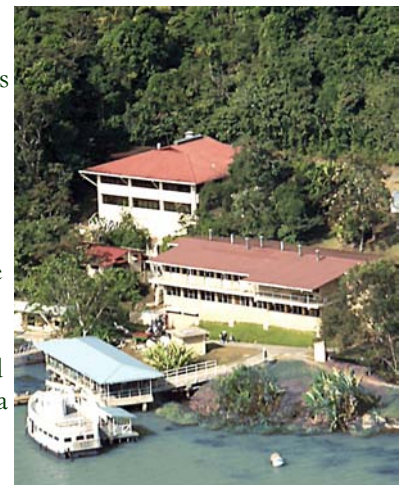


El Centro Regional Ramsar para la Capacitación e Investigación sobre Humedales en el Hemisferio Occidental (CREHO) llevó a cabo su reunión de junta directiva anual, el 7 de noviembre de 2004, en Merida, Mexico. Elena Lombardo (primera desde la izquierda) de la Oficina de Asuntos Externos, asistió en representación de STRI. Como parte de la reunión se revisaron

las bases de CREHO, los estados financieros, y las actividades realizadas de enero a octubre del 2004. Igualmente, se revisó el plan estratégico y el plan de trabajo anual, así como los manuales administrativo, financiero y de Junta Directiva del Centro. Igualmente, se definieron las próximas acciones a nivel técnico y operativo para el 2005.

"Topographic position affects water regime in a semideciduous tropical rainforest in Panamá" by M.I. Daws, C.E. Mullins, D. Burslem, S.R. Paton and J.W. Dalling, published by *Plant and Soil* (238: 79-90), in 2002.

Suggestions for papers to be discussed are invited anytime. The idea is to get a broad overview and access to past and present tropical research. Send a .pdf version of the paper to bci@si.edu.



McGill students visit Campana



Thirty-two students from STRI-McGill Neotropical Environmental Option (NEO) graduate program traveled to Cerro Campana National Park on Tuesday, January 25, with instructors Catherine Potvin, director of NEO in Panama and Héctor Barrios, STRI research associate from the University of Panama.

The students arrived in Panama on January 4. Previous to that, they had preparatory sessions in Montreal, Canada, and will complete the program in April. During this period they will participate in courses on Neotropical environments, social changes in Panama, and environmental management. They will also conduct research projects in Panama, independent or in groups, organized around multi-disciplinary environmental issues important for Panama. They will have the opportunity to gain real-life, hands-on experience related to their field of study. The students are required to speak English and Spanish, in part to be able to work for a Panamanian organization that will supervise their work during three weeks,

expecting a product of use and relevance to them. The nature of the projects centers on practical environmental problems/questions.

Other study field trips will include Kuna Yala, central provinces, Veraguas and Chiriqui. They will also have the time to enjoy Panama's Carnival next month.

At the end of the program, NEO students will present their research projects during a symposium.

Treinta y dos estudiantes del programa de posgrado "Opción Ambiental Neotropical" (NEO) de STRI-McGill viajaron al Parque Nacional Cerro Campana el martes 25 de enero, con sus instructores Catherine Potvin, directora de NEO en Panamá, y Héctor Barrios, investigador asociado a STRI de la Universidad de Panamá. Los estudiantes llegaron a Panamá el 4 de enero. Antes de llegar recibieron cursos preparatorios en Montreal, Canadá, y concluirán el programa en abril. Durante este período participarán en cursos sobre ambientes neotropicales,

cambios sociales en Panamá, y administración ambiental. También llevarán a cabo proyectos de investigación independientes o en grupos, organizados alrededor de asuntos ambientales multidisciplinarios de Panamá. Tendrán la oportunidad de ganar experiencia real relacionada con su área de estudios. Se requiere que estos estudiantes hablen inglés y español, en parte para poder trabajar con una organización panameña que supervisará su trabajo durante tres semanas, a cambio de recibir un producto útil y de relevancia para ellos. La naturaleza de los proyectos se centra en problemas y cuestionamientos ambientales prácticos.

Otros viajes de estudio al campo incluirán Kuna Yala, las provincias centrales, Veraguas y Chiriquí, y también tendrán tiempo para disfrutar de los Carnavales de Panamá que se celebran en febrero.

Al final del programa, los estudiantes participantes en NEO presentarán sus proyectos de investigación durante un simposio.

February b' days

Diógenes Ibarra	5
Mireya Correa	6
Dafne Ruiz	6
Gilberto Batista	6
Ernesto Cordovéz	7
Gloria Jované	7
Karl Kaufmann	8
Enrique Martínez	9
Roberto Borrell	10
Luis Carlos López	10
Isis Estribí	12
Santos Lemos	13
Georgina De Alba	15
Edwin Andrades	16
Gilberto Murray	16
Elías Murillo	16
Stephen Hubbell	17
Walter Dillon	18
Ricardo Escudero	19
Mark Torchin	21
Rigoberto Blake	23
Ernesto Camarena	26
Vielka Chang-Yau	29

Miscellaneous

Seeking two *Guía de Aves de Panamá* by Ridgely & Gwynne in Spanish to buy. Interested please contact Marta Vargas and Renate Sponer at vargasm@si.edu sponerr@si.edu.

Canadian seeks contract work in/around Panama City April-June, 2005. Graduate of McGill University with a M.Sc. in Physical Geography. Experience in field research. English & French, some Spanish. Please contact Jennifer Turner at frozen_ground@hotmail.com

Two rooms for rent in furnished house in Ancon, 10 min. walk from Tupper., quiet, with a spacious veranda, 24h security and cleaning service. All inclusive \$250/room per month. Call Renate at 232 8729 or 510 9177 or sponerr@si.edu.



Ecological consequences of predator induced hatching project in Gamboa

James Vonesh, visiting scientist from the University of Florida, conducts the project “Ecological consequences of predator induced hatching plasticity in the red-eyed treefrog, *Agalychnis callidryas* (photo at right).

Hatching early likely increases embryonic survival, but this may come at the cost of increased vulnerability to hatchling predators. A great deal is known about the short-term selection pressures and mechanisms of hatching plasticity in this species, but little is known about the longer-term ecological implications of predator-induced hatching plasticity. With his research, Vonesh aims to provide a more general understanding of the relative ecological importance of plasticity versus density effects. In the photo above, Vonesh collects predators of the red-eyed treefrog in a Gamboa pool, to take them to a setting where he maintains the frogs in captivity.

James Vonesh, de la Universidad de Florida, lleva a cabo el proyecto “Consecuencias ecológicas de la plasticidad de la eclosión inducida por depredadores, en la rana arbórea *Agalychnis callidryas*.”

La eclosión prematura aumenta la supervivencia de los embriones, pero puede resultar costoso al aumentar la vulnerabilidad ante depredadores de larvas. Se sabe mucho de las presiones de selección a corto plazo y los mecanismos de plasticidad de eclosión en esta especie, pero poco se sabe sobre sus implicaciones ecológicas a largo plazo. Con sus investigaciones, Vonesh pretende ofrecer un mejor conocimiento de la importancia ecológica relativa de la plasticidad contra los efectos de densidad. En la foto de arriba, Vonesh colecta depredadores de la rana en una charca de Gamboa, para llevarlos a un lugar de estudio donde mantiene las ranas en cautiverio.

