

## Tupper seminar

Tuesday, March 4 is Carnival day. No noon seminar is scheduled.

## Bambi seminar

Thursday, March 6, Bambi seminar speaker will be Melva Haydee, Jaguar private refuge in El Baúl region, Cojedes State, Venezuela.

## Arrivals

Catherine Lovelock, SERC, Maryland, Mar 1-7, to work with Ilka Feller on the ESP Mangrove Research Program at Bocas del Toro.

Seth Factor, Mar 1, to work as volunteer with Michael Libsch, in the organization of a neotropical montane bird community, in Fortuna.

Carlton Mark Eakin, NOAA, Colorado, Mar 1-19, to conduct long-term ecological studies of the Pacific coast coral reefs, on the Urracá.

Jean-Christophe Domec, Oregon State University, Mar 1-15, to work with Guillermo Goldstein on the functional convergence and constraints in regulation of transpiration and carbon assimilation in tropical forest canopy trees, in Gamboa.

Randal Moore, Auburn University, Mar 1-31, to study the role of dispersal ability in persistence of understory forest birds in Panamanian forest fragments, on the BCNM.

Lora Richards, University of Utah, Mar 3 - Jun 3, to study the effects of natural variations in productivity on herbivore and predator populations in gaps and understory, on BCI.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

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## STRI researchers contribute to Chagres River Symposium

STRI researchers Eldredge Bermingham, Richard Condit, Mireya Correa, Stanley Heckadon, Roberto Ibáñez, Cristián Samper and Joe Wright contributed to the International Scientific Symposium “The Rio Chagres: A multidisciplinary profile of a tropical watershed” from Monday, February 24, to Wednesday, February 26, at the Gamboa Rainforest Resort and Conference Center, in Panama. Deputy director Cristián Samper chaired the first session and was the keynote speaker during the official symposium dinner, on Tuesday evening. Heckadon talked about the Chagres as a river for interoceanic communication. Condit and collaborators from STRI’s Center for Tropical Forest Science presented “Tree diversity and composition of the upper Chagres basin contrasted with forests along the Panama Canal.” Correa, Bermingham and STRI fellow Christopher Dick contributed with “Historical biogeography of tree communities in the Panama Canal.” Bermingham and collaborators gave a talk on the fishes of the Chagres River. Ibáñez contributed with a presentation on amphibians and reptiles, and Wright presented “Poachers alter mammal abundance and early plant regeneration throughout the Rio Chagres watershed.” This symposium was sponsored by STRI, The Panama Canal Authority, the Technological University of Panama and US Army Yuma Proving Ground Tropics Regions Test Center.

## US Ambassador visits Galeta

Recently appointed US ambassador to Panama Linda Watt visited STRI’s Galeta Marine Laboratory in the Colón area. In the photo, Ambassador Watt (left), listens to STRI staff scientist Stanley Heckadon-Moreno, describing Galeta educational program and recent changes at the facilities. After her visit, Watt commented: “Thank you very much for this wonderful morning of education about the marine environment and the wonderful scientific and educational programs at Isla Galeta. I am so very



## More arrivals

Margarita Kalka, University of Ulm, Mar 3 - Apr 3, to work with Elisabeth Kalko, on BCI.

Peter Mullen, University of Duesseldorf, Mar 3 - Apr 15, to work with Thomas Eltz on the fragrance biology of euglossine bees, in Gamboa..

Richard Aronson and Ian McIntyre, Dauphin Island Sea Laboratory, Alabama, Mar 3-8, to study disturbance and reorganization of Caribbean reef communities, on Bocas del Toro.

Stefan Klose, University of Ulm, Germany, Mar 4 - Apr 3, to assist Elisabeth Kalko in bat project, on BCI.

Bente Klitgaard and Alex Monro, National History Museum, UK, Mar 4-28, to carry out a botanical collection expedition to the Caribbean slopes, at Bocas del Toro.

Christoph Meskens, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, Mar 4 - Jul 4, to study coevolution of Hispinae and parasitoids, on BCI.

Karen Castro and Mark Kachmar, University of Alberta, Canada, Mar 4-16, to work with Gerardo Sánchez, on leaf and canopy spectral reflectance from the Parque Metropolitano and Ft. Sherman canopy cranes.

Carolina Polonia, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Mar 5 - Jun 22, to study the phylogeography of Fitzinger's leaf-litter frog: a northern frog heads south in the Great American Biotic Interchange, at Naos.

impressed with the commitment and dedication of your staff. I am pleased that I have had the opportunity to visit and to understand the value of the contributions you are making to the world of marine science and to the enrichment of the minds of children. I want everyone who comes to Panama to know about this special place, and I hope that the leaders of Panama will come to appreciate all your contributions. Please invite me back over and over! Many thanks, Linda Watt - U.S. Ambassador to Panama."

Linda Watt, embajadora norteamericana recién llegada a Panamá, visitó el Laboratorio Marino de Galeta de STRI en la región de Colón. En la foto de la página anterior, la embajadora Watt (izquierda) escucha al científico Stanely Heckadon Moreno explicar el programa educativo en Culebra, y los recientes cambios en sus instalaciones. Luego de su visita, Watt comentó: "Muchas gracias por esta maravillosa mañana educativa sobre el ambiente marino y los maravillosos programas educativos y de investigación que se llevan a cabo en Galeta. Estoy muy impresionada por el compromiso y la dedicación de su personal y me alegro de haber tenido esta oportunidad de visitarlos y comprender el valor de las contribuciones que hacen al mundo de las ciencias marinas y al enriquecimiento de las mentes de los niños. Quisiera que todos los que vienen a Panamá visiten este lugar tan especial, y espero que los líderes en Panamá aprecien todas sus contribuciones. Invítenme una y otra vez! Muchas gracias, Linda Watt, Embajadora de los Estados Unidos en Panamá."

## Becas BCI y Alan Smith

STRI y los residentes de BCI están recibiendo aplicaciones para las becas BCI y Alan Smith de 2003. Ambas becas se otorgarán a estudiantes de biología o ciencias afines, para llevar a cabo proyectos de investigación dentro de los límites del Monumento Natural de Barro Colorado. Las aplicaciones deben incluir una descripción del proyecto (menos de 5 págs.) con presupuesto de materiales y estadías en BCI. Los estudiantes seleccionados deberá pasar algunas noches en la Isla para interactuar con otros investigadores. Monto máximo de la beca BCI \$1000. Beca Alan Smith: \$800. La propuesta para la beca BCI debe entregarse antes del 20 de marzo en la Oficina de Educación de STRI en Tupper. La propuesta para la beca Alan Smith puede entregarse hasta el 1ro de abril. Habrá una gira para los candidatos el 6 de marzo (max 10 personas). Los interesados deben llamar a Adriana Bilgray al 212-8031 y reservar cupo. Para mayor información sobre estas becas favor comunicarse con Oris Acevedo, E-mail: [acevedo@bci.si.edu](mailto:acevedo@bci.si.edu)

## March birthdays

Alexander Pérez	1	Víctor Castillo	23
Haris Lessios	4	Rosa Zambrano	25
Jesús A. Valdés	5	Audino Gómez	27
Johant Lakey,	14	Rick Condit	29
Mauricio Pineda	19		

## More arrivals

Dina Dechmann, University of Zurich, Switzerland, Mar 5 - Jul 10, to study the sociogenetics of *Tonatia silvicola*, a bat with a unique roost choice, on BCI.

David Bass, University of Oxford, UK, Mar 7-21, to study tropical biodiversity and biogeography of the *Phylum cercozoa* (Protozoa), on BCI.

## Departures

Dolores Piperno, Mar 2 - Sep, 2004, on sabbatical. She will be working at the Smithsonian in Washington DC.

Olga F. Linares, Mar 7-13, to Washington DC, to serve on the Evaluation Committee of the National Academy of Sciences, and work at SI.

## New publications

Coates, Anthony G., Aubry, Marie-Pierre, Berggren, William A., and Collins, Laurel S. 2003. "Early Neogene history of the Central American arc from Bocas del Toro, western Panama." *Geological Society of America Bulletin* 115(3): 271-287.

Murren, Courtney J. 2003. "Spatial and demographic population genetic structure in *Catsetum viridiflavum* across a human-disturbed habitat." *Journal of Evolutionary Biology* 16(2): 333.

Ryan, Michael J., Rand, William M., Hurd, Peter L., Phelps, Steve M., and Rand, A Stanley. 2003. "Generalization in response to mate recognition signals." *American Naturalist* 161(3).