

STRI newsletter

MARCH 16, 1990

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 11

SEMINARS

Tupper Center Auditorium

No regular noon seminar scheduled for Tuesday, March 20.

On Wednesday, March 21, Rogelio Moreno from TRT will give a computer talk (in Spanish) from 6 - 8 p.m.

Facsimile en el Ambiente de Redes Locales.

Everyone from the general community is invited; the talk is sponsored by the 'Club de Usuarios de DOS'.

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- George Angehr, STRI Assistant Development Officer, March 18 - April 8, to work on the STRI exhibit *Parting the Green Curtain* and to attend the Tupper dedication.
- Carol Augspurger, University of Illinois, March 18 - 31, to work on sources of forest regeneration in natural and artificial disturbances on BCI.
- Charles Handley, SI National Museum of Natural History, March 20 - May 7, to continue study of evolution of terrestrial vertebrates of the islands of Bocas del Toro.
- Gordon Orians, University of Washington, and Loyal Mehrhoff, March 23 - May 30, to work on the ecology of rarity in the genus *Psychotria*, and to attend the OTS Executive Committee Meetings.
- Edgar Maravi, STRI Development Officer, March 22 - 30, and Daniel Burns, SI National Associates Board member, March 22 - 28, to consult with STRI staff on activities and development, and to attend the Tupper dedication.

Departures

- Jeremy Jackson, STRI scientist, and Carl Hansen, STRI Photographer, March 14 - 24, to Costa Rica on RV Benjamin expedition.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Week

March 20 - Members of the STRI Academic Board are reminded that the quarterly meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the Tupper Meeting Room.

Deadlines

March 30 - Deadline for submission of proposals for the Scholarly Studies Program to the STRI Director for signature. Proposals are due in the SI Office of Fellowships and Grants on April 1. For guidelines and cover sheets contact Audrey Smith, Director's Office. Twenty (20) copies and one original should be submitted.

April 4 - Proposals for James Smithson Society grants are due in the Director's Office. For guidelines, see Audrey Smith.

April 12 - Deadline for submission of proposals for Seidell Endowment Fund in the STRI Director's Office. For further information, contact Audrey Smith.

ESP Call for Proposals

The *Environmental Sciences Program* (ESP) anticipates awarding several grants for new projects in FY1991. ESP grants are made to staff and visiting scientists for long-term research at established STRI research sites.

The Program is designed to fund research that requires a longer time-line than can be reasonably funded by Scholarly Studies or other Smithsonian programs. Areas of research concentrate on biological and physical monitoring, long-term studies of ecological processes, and other phenomenon with relevance to global change. Top priority this year will be given for projects in the Barro Colorado Nature Monument, Galeta, and the San Blas.

For guidelines, application forms and further information, please contact Eric Fischer in the Director's Office. The deadline for application is June 15, with funding for approved projects beginning on or after October 1.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

STRI Employee's Party / Fiesta de Empleados

All STRI staff, contract employees, fellows, volunteers and visiting scientists are invited to a party to be held in their honor at the Tupper Center 'Corotu Plaza' on Thursday, March 29, at 4 p.m. The party is being sponsored by Secretary Adams and Dr. Hoffmann in appreciation for the bravery, good sense, and dedication shown by staff during the invasion and its aftermath. It will be hosted by Dr. Hoffmann.

Todo el personal de STRI, contratistas, becarios, voluntarios y científicos visitantes están invitados a una fiesta que se dará en su honor en la 'Plaza Corotú' del Centro Tupper, el jueves, 29 de marzo, a las 4 p.m. La fiesta la ofrecerán el Secretario Adams y el Dr. Hoffmann en apreciación por el valor, buen sentido y dedicación mostradas por el personal de STRI durante la invasión y su secuela. El Dr. Hoffmann será el anfitrión.

Posters for Tupper Dedication

For scientists who need assistance with work on maps, graphs, etc., the following persons are currently available and have done work for STRI recently:

| | | |
|------|-----------------|---------------|
| 5216 | Aracely Torres | 26-5671 / 60- |
| | Ricci Rodriguez | 20-3886 |

STRI I.D. Photos

The STRI Photography Department is issuing a new schedule for I.D. cards beginning next week.

| | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| <i>Monday</i> | 8:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. |
| <i>Tuesday</i> | 8:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. |
| | 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. |
| <i>Friday</i> | 8:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. |

It is very important that you call Tupper extension 310 / 361 to make an appointment.

Tupper Center Dedication Ceremony

The Earl Silas Tupper Research and Conference Center dedication will take place on March 27 at 6:15 p.m. in the Tupper Auditorium. The ribbon cutting ceremony will include opening remarks by STRI Director Ira Rubinoff, an address by the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution Dr. Robert McCormick Adams, and remarks by the President of the Republic of Panama Mr. Guillermo Endara Galimany. Following the ceremony, guests will view the facilities and the exhibit 'Parting the Green Curtain: the evolution of tropical biology in Panama'. STRI scientists from Tupper and other facilities will present poster sessions of their current work.

Guests from Washington, D.C. include Phillip Reiss, SI Director of Design and Construction, Dr. Michael Robinson, Director of the National Zoo, and several Smithsonian Regents. Guests from Panama include government ministers, directors of institutions and members of the diplomatic corps. The STRI ODC staff and the permanent scientific staff are also invited. Some Tupper support staff will also be present to assist with the visit to the facility and the poster sessions.

RV Benjamin March Trip

The RV Benjamin left on a research visit to Parque Nacional Corcovado in Costa Rica, from March 14 - 30. J. Jackson, L. Collins, C. Hansen and O. Sugasti from STRI, A. Coates from George Washington University, P. Jung from Switzerland and S. Rhodes from the Univ. Americana will be doing research on the Central American fauna from the Pliocene to the Pleistocene.

Personnel News

On February 26, *Alicia Salas* moved from Procurement to Accounting to take charge of the Oil Spill Project accounting under the supervision of Carlos Urbina. She will also assist Brian Keller in the general administration of the project.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Paper Recycling and Other Environmental Measures

Many people already recycle aluminum cans in Panama, and STRI is no exception. We have also eliminated the use of styrofoam cups, which are non-biodegradable. STRI will add to this effort shortly by starting a recycling program for bond and computer paper. This program will put us further along the path of setting a good example environmentally, and most likely at a profit. Watch your mailbox and the Newsletter for details.

If you have any suggestions of other ways we might reduce the potential negative environmental impact of our activities, please send them to the Director's Office.

Young Investigator Prize

The American Society of Naturalists annually awards the Young Investigator Prize to several individuals as recognition of outstanding and promising research. To be eligible, candidates must have received their doctorate in the preceding three years or be in their final year of graduate study. All qualified individuals are encouraged to apply, and suggestions of who should be encouraged to apply are welcome. Send a summary (3 pages, excluding tables, figures and bibliography), reprints, a CV, and a letter from a person familiar with your work to:

Dr. Mark Bekoff
Dept. of EPO Biology
University of Colorado
Boulder, CO 80309-0334.

Position Available

The Panos Institute seeks a full-time Director for its Wider Caribbean Information Programme, based in Washington, D.C. The Programme's primary objective is to help strengthen the capacity of local media and non-governmental organizations to produce and disseminate

information on environment and development issues. Qualifications include knowledge and familiarity with the region; total fluency in Spanish and English (French an asset); an understanding of environment and development issues facing the region and strategies being implemented; excellency in communication; ability to manage budgets. If interested, contact Director, Panos Institute, 1409 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314, Tel: (1) 703-836-1302, FAX (1) 703-836-4805.

XI Congreso Latinoamericano de Zoología

Debido a la difícil situación en Colombia el año pasado, el XI Congreso Latinoamericano de Zoología fue postergado hasta abril 23 - 27 de 1990. La sede sigue siendo Cartagena y la cuota de inscripción para extranjeros es de \$90. Las nuevas inscripciones deben hacerse en Cartagena al iniciarse el Congreso. Si desea mayor información, puede ponerse en contacto con Alberto Cadena, Presidente del Congreso, Apartado 93169, Bogotá, Colombia, FAX 57-1-244-23-87, Tel: 268-24-85.

Seminario de Secretarias Ejecutivas

La Asociación de Secretarias Ejecutivas de Panamá invita a toda persona interesada a participar en un seminario sobre 'Factores que Influyen en la Efectiva Comunicación Organizacional', el sábado, 24 de marzo, en la sede de APEDE en Ave. Balboa, a un costo de \$20. Para mayor información, llamar a Carmen Sucre, Tivoli.

Youth Symphony Concert

A Youth Symphony Concert (following the two weeks of music camp in El Valle) will be held Monday, March 19, in Atlapa. Tickets cost \$5 and are being sold by the Argosy Bookstore and the Concert Association.



Le estamos muy agradecidos a los guardias de seguridad de nuestras instalaciones en Ancón y Tupper, quienes continuaron su labor de protección aún durante la invasión. Aquí los vemos durante una sencilla ceremonia de premiación, segundo de izquierda a derecha Andrés Sánchez, Manuel Guerrero, Conrad Selman McGregor. (Foto por C. Hansen)



El 1ero. de marzo se organizó un pequeño agasajo en honor de Rita Jordan, de la Oficina del Secretario Adjunto para la Investigación en el Smithsonian, en agradecimiento por su apoyo a STRI a través de los años y su ayuda durante la reciente invasión. (Foto por C. Hansen)



Agapito González (derecha) comenzó en STRI como empleado temporal en enero de 1979 en Ancón. En junio de 1986 consiguió su permanencia como técnico de mantenimiento, y actualmente trabaja en el edificio Tupper. La foto muestra una vista de la celebración de sus 10 años de servicio. (Foto por M. Guerra)