

STRI newsletter

October 23, 1992

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 45

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tuesday, Oct 27, noon seminar speaker will be Richard Cooke, STRI.

A history of Amerid peoples of Panama and Costa Rica through multidisciplinary research

Abstract

In Panama and Costa Rica, several Amerind polities recognizable both by genetics and linguistics, have persisted despite the Spanish conquest and colonization. This vibrant, if precarious Amerind heritage, together with a respectable archaeological record and copious historical documentation, makes possible the study of the microevolution of Amerind populations in tropical forests. Cooke will describe his ongoing synthesis of linguistic, genetic, archaeological, and documentary data to reconstruct the history of Amerind populations in the Isthmus from the initial immigration to modern times. The reconstruction shows continuity, cultural resilience, and adaptation to the different forests of lowlands and highlands.

The second seminar in the STRI-University of Panama lecture series will be held at the Tupper Auditorium on Thu, Oct 29 at 5:30 pm. The speaker will be Eduardo Camacho, from the Observatorio Simológico, Universidad de Panamá, and his subject will be:

Sismotectónica de Panamá

Refreshments will be served after the seminar and there will be a late boat to BCI. *Translation into English will also be available.*

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Charles Sorenson, Univ. of Hawaii, to consult with R. Condit regarding the CIFS.
- Rosemary Muchmuti, National Museums of Kenya, Oct 26-Nov 16, to collaborate with staff at the Office of Education and visit STRI facilities.
- Emmet Duffy, Univ of California, Oct 24-Nov 24, to collect samples of *Synalpheus*.
- Jaime Polania, UICN, Oct-28-31, to meet with Norman Duke and visit STRI facilities.



On Wed, Oct 23, Neal Smith gave the first lecture on Hawk Migrations as part of the program "Conversations at the Smithsonian", organized by STRI and the Department of Defense Dependent Schools, for local teachers ••• El miércoles 21 de octubre, Neal Smith presentó la primera conferencia sobre Migraciones de Halcones, como parte del programa "Conversaciones en el Smithsonian", organizado por el STRI y las Escuelas Dependientes del Departamento de Defensa, para educadores locales.

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

Departures

- Anthony Coates, deputy director and Jeremy Jackson, staff scientist, Oct 15-Nov 2, to Cincinnati, OH, to attend the meetings of the Geological Society of America and to Washington, DC on official business at SI.
- Nancy Knowlton, staff scientist, Oct 30-Nov 10, to Washington, DC on official business at the NMNH, then to visit the Ft. Pierce Marine Laboratories in Florida.
- Alan Smith, Oct 30-Nov 14, to consult with colleagues at the Univ of Miami; to Princeton Univ, for meetings regarding the Mpala Trust and to Washington, DC to SI Research Policy Committee.

Condolence

Our sympathy to Tony and Janet Coates for the death of her father, Park Rhodes, an Englishman who lived in Washington D.C. working for the British Embassy since the Second World War. He died at 73 on Tuesday.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Delegation of Authority

Alan P. Smith will serve as Acting Director of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute for October 26-28.

New Seminar Officer

Paul Colinvaux is the new STRI seminar officer. Visiting scientists or fellows wishing to give a seminar can contact Dr. Colinvaux at his office in the Tupper Center.

At Tupper Center

- Mon, Oct 26 Inauguration of the *1ra Reunión de la Red Centroamericana de Cooperación en Enfermedades Tropicales*, Univ. de Panama, 8:30-12 noon, Auditorium.
- Tue, Oct 27 Agenda Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo de INRENARE, 3-5pm, Auditorio.
- Thu, Oct 29 Junta de Síndicos, Fundación Natura, 3-5:15pm, Exhibit Hall.
Sismotectónica de Panama, Eduardo Camacho, Universidad de Panama, 5:30pm, Auditorium.
- Fri, Oct 30 San Vicente de Paul Exhibit Visit, 9-10:30am, Auditorium and Exhibit Hall.

FROM OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES**"Use or Lose" Annual Leave Balances*****Horas de Vacaciones de "Usar o Perder"***

Employees are reminded to plan their vacations in advance, and consider their "use or lose" hours of leave. As mentioned in previous announcements, the projected "use or lose" balances are being shown in the Statements of Earnings and Leave ••• *Se les recuerda a los empleados que deben planear sus vacaciones con suficiente anticipación, y tomar en cuenta las horas que tengan de "usar o perder" antes de fin de año. Como se anunció previamente, el total de horas que cada uno va a tener de "usar o perder" están mostradas en los talonarios de pago.*

Personnel Records ••• Archivos de Personal

All STRI personnel are reminded of the importance of registering changes in marital status (marriage, divorce, annulment, or death of a spouse) or family status (the birth of a child, legal adoption, the death of a dependent or court orders affecting marital status or child custody). Please do so with the Office of Human Resources at Tivoli. Up-to-date personal information ensures that STRI can provide all benefits due legal dependents during employment, as well as for survivors, in the case of the death of an employee.

Some employees, particularly pre-treaty employees, may wish to review their old "Designation of Beneficiaries" forms on file, or file new designations, if changes in family or marital status have occurred.

In addition, employees enrolled under the self and family option of the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program should promptly notify the Office of Human Resources when they receive a final divorce decree. Federal regulations provide that coverage of an enrolled member's spouse terminates on the day on which a final divorce decree between the parties is effective, and employees who fail to notify of their final divorce can be required to reimburse the health plan for any medical benefit payment made for the former spouse after he or she ceased to be eligible for coverage ••• *Se les recuerda a los empleados la importancia que tiene notificar a la Oficina de Recursos Humanos en Tivoli, cualquier cambio que tengan en cuanto a estado civil (matrimonio, divorcio, anulación, o muerte de un cónyuge) o condición familiar (nacimiento de un niño, adopción legal, muerte de algún dependiente, u órdenes judiciales que afecten el estado civil o la custodia de algún menor), para incluirlo en el expediente personal de cada persona.*

La información actualizada tiene el propósito de estar en capacidad, en un momento dado, de poder facilitar los trámites y hacer llegar a los dependientes legales de un empleado, todos los beneficios a que él o ella tengan derecho, e igualmente a los sobrevivientes, en caso de muerte de algún empleado.

Posiblemente algunos empleados, especialmente empleados pre-tratado, quisieran revisar los viejos formularios de "Designación de Beneficiarios" que tenemos en archivo, o quizás hacer nuevas designaciones, si han tenido cambios en la familia o en su estado civil.

Además, aquellos empleados inscritos en algún plan familiar dentro del programa de Beneficios Médicos para Empleados Federales (FEHB) deben notificar sin demora a la Oficina de Recursos Humanos cuando reciban la notificación final de un divorcio. Los reglamentos federales estipulan que la cobertura del cónyuge de algún miembro inscrito termina el día en que se expida la notificación final de un divorcio, y los empleados que no lo notifican tendrían que reembolsar a la respectiva compañía cualquier servicio médico que se le hubiese prestado al ex-cónyuge después de que el mismo ya no fuese elegible para recibir la cobertura.

Cholera Prevention at San Blas

At present there are cases of cholera on the islands immediately adjacent to San Blas, Wichubhuala y Nalunega.

Until such time on this hazardous situation is resolved please observe the following, in order to minimize the risk.

- Do not visit the island until several weeks after the last new cholera case has been reported.
- Do not buy locally made bread, or fresh produce from adjacent islands.

- Cholera can be contracted by eating fresh seafood; thus do not consume any seafood collected or stored around the adjacent island until well after the epidemic has finished.
- Keep any diving around adjacent populated islands to the absolute minimum.
- Non-STRI persons are not to be encouraged to visit or work at the STRI facility until the situation is resolved.
- Pay very close attention to personal hygiene, especially after diving.

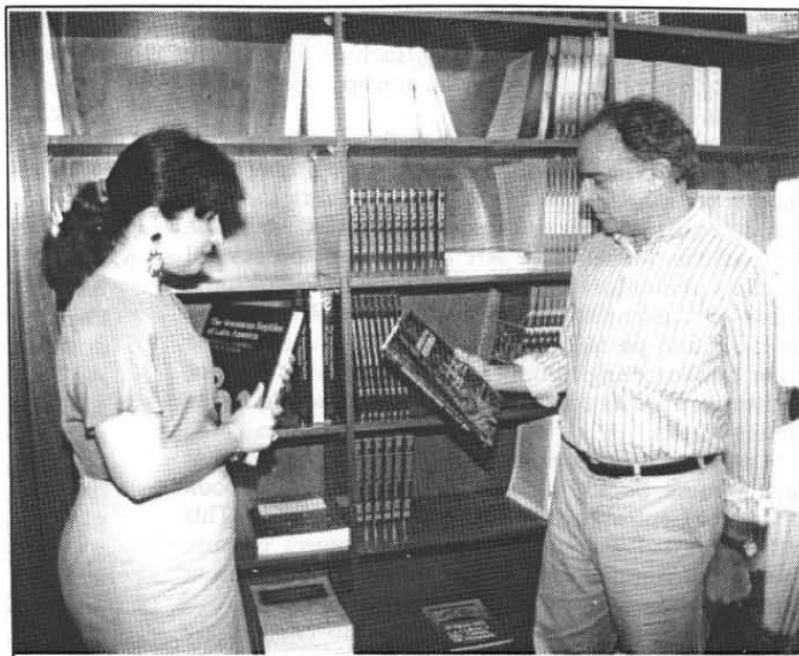
Aviso de Vacante

Para trabajo de mensajero en STRI. La persona elegida deberá recoger y entregar correspondencia, paquetes y toda clase de documentos importantes entre STRI en Ancón, el laboratorio de Naos, Gamboa, las oficinas de correos, los bancos y entidades gubernamentales y privadas en Panamá. **Requisitos:** Licencia para conducir vehículos livianos (autos, pick-ups, vans), conocimiento de los reglamentos de tránsito y de seguridad, buen record como conductor, iniciativa y buen juicio. Posición temporal hasta el 30 de septiembre de 1993, tiempo completo, a nivel GS-2 (\$12,905 al año). Enviar curriculum vitae con dos referencias recientes a: "Mensajero", Oficina de Recursos Humanos, STRI, Ancón, R. de P.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

UNESCO Announces

Requests for MAB research grants for 1993 have to be submitted to the MAB Secretariat in Paris before 30 November 1992, so that they can be examined by the bureau of the MAB International Coordinating Council in January 1993 and that the grants can be made available to the selected candidates in early 1993. The requests must be submitted according to the established procedures, duly filled-in by the candidates and countersigned by the Chairman or Secretary of the MAB National Committee; the age limit of candidates has been fixed at 35; priority is given to research work undertaken within the framework of MAB projects,



Ana Maria Ford, bookstore manager, and Ira Rubinoff during the opening of the new STRI bookstore on Friday Oct 16 ••• Ana María Ford, administradora de la librería y Ira Rubinoff, durante la inauguración de la nueva librería del STRI.

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

and particularly in biosphere reserve sites; international travel will not be covered by the research grants; and taking into account the very limited budgetary allocations at our disposal, it is recommended that no more than two candidates should be submitted by a country in a year. For more information and application form contact the Office of Education.

BOOKSTORE OPENS

by Gretchen Sotomayor

Years ago, the STRI bookstore was a much simpler enterprise. Either the main receptionist, or someone working near the reception area, was responsible for the sales of the small selection of books and T-shirts.

But last Friday STRI celebrated the opening of an expanded bookstore, which has graduated from a few shelves and cabinet in the Tupper Center reception area to its own room adjacent to the exhibit hall. With more space, the bookstore has doubled its inventory and offers a greater selection of items, said bookstore manager Ana Maria Ford. In addition to a larger selection of books and T-shirts (15 designs to choose from), there are musical snow globes, watercolor prints, coffee mugs, greeting cards, children's books, ballcaps, calendars, posters, etc.

Ford is also expanding the inventory to carry some items for the scientific community, such as needles for entomological purposes, scalpels, forceps, all-weather notebooks and binoculars.

Many people are surprised when they walk through the door for the first time, Ford said. The store, with its wooden bookshelves and dark green carpeting, is quiet and colorful. The Smithsonian Institution and the Metropolitan Museum of Art are among the several suppliers to the store's inventory. Art replicas and snow globes are some of items ordered from the SI, and many notecards and posters come from the art museum.

For those starting to think about purchasing gifts for Christmas, Ford is considering a Christmas sale in the coming weeks.

In addition to serving the local community, Ford is buying more books in Spanish and creating a book catalog for Central and South American customers. This will enhance distribution to these customers because many have difficulty finding these books from other sources, Ford said.

Temporary bookstore hours, subject to change, are 11am to 4pm., Monday through Friday. The bookstore is located adjacent to the exhibit hall on Corotu Plaza, which has a big tree in the middle of it. To reach the outside entrance to the bookstore, follow a short sidewalk leading to a glass door in the exhibit hall complex. The store can also be entered from the exhibit area inside the building.

STRI NEW PUBLICATIONS

Allen, Gerald R. and Robertson, D. Ross. 1992. "Deux Nouvelles Espèces de Girelles (Labridae: *Halichoeres*) du Pacifique Oriental Tropical." *Revue Française Aquariologie* 19: 47-52.

Allen, Gerald R. and Robertson, D. Ross. 1992. "*Serranus socorroensis*, a New Species of Serranid Fish from Tropical Eastern Pacific." *Revue Française Aquariologie* 19: 37-40.

Allen, Gerald R. and Robertson, D. Ross. 1992. "Three New Species of Triplefins (Pisces: Trypterygiidae) from Malpelo and Socorro Islands, in the Tropical Eastern Pacific." *Revue Française Aquariologie* 19: 53-56.

From: 365 Ways to Save our Planet

• Page-a-Day Calendar •

The "Rainforest Action Guide" answers questions about forest destruction, provides resources and reading suggestions, and lists seven ways you can help. It's a bargain; send 50¢ to the Rainforest Action Network, 301 Broadway, Suite A, San Francisco, CA 94133.

Arias, T.D., Barrantes, R., Jorge, L.F., Azofeifa, J., Carles, M. and Cooke, Richard G. 1992. "Estudio Sobre los "Cholos de Coclé": Determinación de su Mezcla Racial y Orígenes Genéticos." *Revista Médica de Panamá* 17(3): 180-187.

Flowers, R. Willis. 1991. "Diversity of Stream-Living Insects in Northwestern Panamá." *J.N. Am. Benthol. Soc.* 10(3): 322-334.

Mulkey, S.S., Smith, Alan P., Wright, S. Joseph, Machado, José Luis and Dudley, Robert. 1992. "Contrasting Leaf Phenotypes Control Seasonal Variation in Water Loss in a Tropical Forest Shrub." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 89: 9084-9088.

Zeh, David W. and Zeh, Jeanne A. 1992. "Emergence of a Giant Fly Triggers Phoretic Dispersal in the Neotropical Pseudoscorpion, *Semeiochernes armiger* (Balzan) (Pseudoscorpionida: Chernetidae)." *Bulletin of the British Arachnological Society* 9: 43-46.

Zeh, David W., Zeh, Jeanne, Coffroth, Mary A. and Bermingham, Eldredge. 1992. "Population-Specific DNA-Fingerprints in a Neotropical Pseudoscorpion." *Heredity* 69: 201-208.

Zeh, Jeanne A. and Zeh, David W. 1992. "Are Sexually-Selected Traits Reliable Species Characters? Implication of Intra-Brood Variability in *Semeiochernes armiger* (Balzan) (Pseudoscorpionida: Chernetidae)." *Bulletin of the British Arachnological Society* 9(2): 61-64.

