

STRI news

June 13, 1997

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Foreign Relations Minister Ricardo Alberto Arias and STRI Director Ira Rubinoff signed an agreement ensuring STRI operations in the Republic of Panama beyond the termination of the Panama Canal Treaties, and the use of STRI facilities by the national and international scientific community. The agreement, signed on Tuesday, June 10 at the Foreign Relations Ministry of Panama, is for 20 years, as of Jan 1, 2000, automatically extended for similar periods ••• Ricardo Alberto Arias, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores y Ira Rubinoff, Director de STRI, firmaron un convenio que asegura las operaciones de STRI en la República de Panamá al terminar los Tratados del Canal de Panamá, así como el uso de las instalaciones del Instituto para la comunidad científica nacional e internacional. El acuerdo, firmado el martes 10 de junio en el Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores es por 20 años empezando el 1ro de enero del año 2000 y se extenderá automáticamente por períodos similares. (Foto: M.A. Guerra)

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

No noon seminar scheduled for Tuesday, June 17. If you wish to give a seminar, please contact Neal Smith at the Tupper Center, ext. 2300.

BAMBI SEMINAR

No Bambi seminars are scheduled for next week.

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CHARLA SMITHSONIAN DEL MES

El Patronato del Parque Natural Metropolitano y el Instituto Smithsonian de Investigaciones Tropicales invitan a la XIII Charla Smithsonian del Mes, dictada por Jorge Ventocilla, el miércoles 25 de junio, 7:30pm en el Salón Las Oropéndolas del Parque Metropolitano
Experiencias de Educación Ambiental en Territorio Kuna

Para mayor información favor comunicarse con Stanley Heckadon en STRI, o llamar al Parque Metropolitano al 232-5516 • Fax 232-5615 • E-mai: pnmetrop@sinfo.net

¡FELIZ DIA DEL PADRE!

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!



As part of the commemoration of the International Environmental Day, on Thursday, Jun 5, STRI signed an agreement with the "Corporación Panameña de Radiodifusión" (RPC-Channel 4) to start the production of information segments in RPC's Ecological Minute. In the photo, from left to right are Leonor Motta, STRI, Mercedes Eleta de Brenes, RPC, Ira Rubinoff, STRI, Irene Escoffery, Fundación Smithsonian de Panamá, and Lucas Alemán, RPC. (Foto: M.A. Guerra)

CHARLAS DE SIBUP

La Sociedad de Investigaciones Biológicas de la Universidad de Panamá invita a toda la comunidad de STRI a la Charla de SIBUP que será dictada por Carlos Vergara, el miércoles 18 de junio a las 5:30pm en la planta baja de la Escuela de Biología, Local SIBUP

Poliquetos de la Comunidad Arenosa-Fangosa de Playa Bique, Pacífico Panameño

Para mayor información sobre estas charlas, favor comunicarse con Edgardo Garrido, en Barro Colorado.

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- David Taylor, University of Michigan, Jun 15 - Aug 18, to carry out a taxonomic revision of the genus *Chione* (Rubiaceae), at Tupper.
- Susanne Bard, University of Washington, Jun 15 - Sep 15, to work with Martin Wikelski, on the physiological mechanisms of reproductive seasonality in the rainforest dwelling spotted antbird, in Gamboa.
- Mary Alice Coffroth, University of Buffalo, Jun 15 - Sep 6, to work on the ontogeny and dynamics of cnidarian-algal symbiosis, in San Blas.
- Howard Lasker, University of Buffalo, Jun 16 - Aug 11, to study the broadcast spawning and the population ecology of coral reef invertebrates, in San Blas.
- Robert Percy, Mellon Senior fellow from the University of California, Jun 17 - Jul 4, to carry out integrative studies of photosynthesis and whole plant performance in the understory, at BCI.
- Martin Griffin, STRI intern from Wisconsin, Jun 17 - Aug 30, to work with Ross Robertson using light-traps to study the dynamics of recruitment of juvenile reef fishes to compare patterns of recruitment ; San Blas with those on the Great Barrier Reef.
- Lee Dyer, Mesa State College, CO, Jun 18-28, to study the larval defensive mechanisms in two different tropical forests, on a Mellon Exploratory Research Award, at BCI and the OTS.
- Wyatt Williams, Mesa State College, CO, Jun 18 - Jul 15, to work with Lee Dyer, at BCI.
- Marcus Von Wangelin, University of Bremen, Germany, Jun 18 - Sep 30, to work as volunteer with Ross Robertson.
- McGill University Dean of Science Alan Shaver, and Deborah Buszard, Dean of Agriculture and Environment Sciences, Jun 18-26, to visit STRI facilities and sign an agreement of collaboration for a teaching program for undergraduate students.
- Todd Capson, University of Utah, Jun 19, 1997 - Jun, 1998, to work with Phyllis Coley and Tom Kurs, in the deterrence of fungi and herbivores in young leaves with different development patterns, at BCI.

- Eric Fregraos, University of California, Jun 20 - Aug 20, to work with David Marsh on the effects of breeding density on oviposition calling site selection and male congregation in the Túngara frog, at BCI.

Departures

- Ross Robertson, Jun 10 - Jun 12, to St. Helena Island in the South Pacific, to conduct research on the biogeography of marine organisms.
- Héctor Guzmán, Jun 14 - Jul 17, to Venezuela, to work with colleagues on coral reef research at the Morrocoy National Park. Will also take OTRAT vacation with his family.
- Harry Lessios, Jun 14-19, to Boulder, CO, to attend the meetings of the Society of the Study of Evolution. Paul Colinvaux, Jun 15-20, to Nicaragua, to participate in an expedition to take core samples from various lakes for studies of the Climate Era of Nicaragua.
- Joe Wright, Jun 15-20, to San José, Costa Rica, to attend the meetings of the Association for Tropical Biology.
- Bill Wcislo, Jun 15-21, to San José, Costa Rica, to attend the meetings of the Association for Tropical Biology and to visit the La Selva Station to attend the STRI-OTS-Mellon Workshop.
- Allen Herre, Jun 16-21, to San José, Costa Rica, to attend the meetings of the Association for Tropical Biology and to visit the La Selva Station to attend the STRI-OTS-Mellon Workshop.
- Marco Díaz, Jun 16-19, to Washington D.C., to coordinate setup of the Coral Reef Exhibit at the Union Station, Western Lobby. Tony Coates, Jun 16-19, to Washington D.C., to attend the opening of the Coral Reef Exhibit at the Union Station.



Jorge Ventocilla started a new series of talks to the BCI personnel on the research and educational programs at the Island, on Friday, Jun 6. On this occasion, Stephan Schnitzer, from the University of Pittsburgh, gave an introduction to his studies on the ecology of lianas at BCI ••• Jorge Ventocilla inició una serie de conferencias sobre los programas educativos y de investigación para los empleados de Barro Colorado, el viernes 6 de junio. En esta ocasión, Stephan Schnitzer, de la Universidad de Pittsburgh, dió una introducción sobre sus estudios de la ecología de las lianas en Barro Colorado. Foto: M.A. Guerra

- Luis D'Croz, Jun 16-21, to Washington D.C., to attend the opening of the Coral Reef Exhibit at the Union Station.
- Ira Rubinoff, Jun 17 - Jul 3, to Denmark and Norway, for official meetings, and to Kenya, to attend two meetings of the Board of Trustees of the Mpala Ranch. Will also travel to Washington D.C., on official business at SI.
- David Roubik, Jun 19 - Jul 27, to Kansas City, MO, on OTRAT.
- Olga F. Linares, Jun 20 - Sep 30, to France, to continue work on a manuscript and to make preparations for a field trip to Senegal to continue studies on the Diola people.
- John Christy, Jun 20 - Jul 28, to Japan, on a fellowship awarded by the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science.

A Baby Girl ••• Una Niña

Keydi Jennifer Sierra Rangel was born on Saturday, June 7, at 2:45am. She is the daughter of Eduardo Sierra (1960-1997) and Suneli Rangel. Her family wishes to thank the STRI community for the gifts received ••• El

sábado 7 de junio nació la niña Keydi Jennifer Sierra Rangel, hija de Eduardo Sierra (1960-1997) y Suneli Rangel. Keydi pesó 7lb 10oz. Su familia agradece los regalos recibidos de la comunidad de STRI.

FROM THE EDUCATION OF-

New SI Fellows and their Projects

- **Reginald Cofroft:** The role of communication in social behavior: signals and responses in group-living insects (*Homoptera: Membracidae*). Sep 1, 1997 - Aug 31, 1998.
- **Jessica Eberhard:** Phylogeny and biogeography of the Amazona ochrocephala (*Psittacidae*) specie complex. Jun, 1997 - Jun 1998.
- **Peter Marko:** Phylogenetic analysis of faunal turnover in tropical American arcid bivalves. Jan 15, 1998 - Jan 15, 1999.
- **David Shoemaker:** Dynamics of *Wolbachia* in fig wasp communities. Aug 1, 1997 - July 31, 1998.
- **Helene Muller-Landau:** Interspecific differences in mortality rates, light transmittivities and light-specific sapling growth rates of tropical trees: towards a resource-based model of tropical forest dynamics. Jun 6, 1997 - May 5, 1998.

Volunteer Available

Sabine Heimbach de Zenzola, environmental chemist and biologist would like to work as volunteer at STRI, starting in June. Has knowledge in the use of computers and word processors and speaks Spanish, English and German. For more information please contact Adriana Bilgray, at the Education Office, Tupper Center.

FROM HUMAN RESOURCES

Regional Director • Central America

The Nature Conservancy seeks a Regional Director for Central America, to work at the Latin America and Caribbean Division, in Rossilyn, Virginia. The Director of the Central America Region is responsible for the design, implementation and financing



During the inauguration of the BCI Visitor's Center on Wed, Jun 4, a group of visitors were briefed by STRI scientist Cecilio Puga on his research projects on the Island. Puga started working for STRI on October 1, 1996 ••• Durante la inauguración del nuevo Centro de Visitantes de BCI el miércoles 4 de junio, Cecilio Puga, científico de STRI, ofrece una introducción de sus proyectos de investigación a un grupo de invitados. Puga empezó a laborar en STRI el 1ro de octubre de 1996. (Foto: M.A. Guerra)

of strategies for the conservation of biological diversity in the Central America Regional Program, which includes Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. Deadline: June 30. For more information please contact the STRI Office of Human Resources at Tivoli.

NEW STRI PUBLICATIONS

- Duke, Norman.** 1997. "Mangrove Reforestation in Panama: An Evaluation of Planting in Areas Deforested by a Large Oil Spill." In: *Reforestation of Mangrove Ecosystems*: 209-232, edited by C.D. Field. Okinawa: International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems.
- Graham, Jeffrey B.** 1997. *Air-Breathing Fishes: Evolution, Diversity, and Adaptation*. Academic Press.
- Jennions, Michael D.** 1997. "Reply from M.D. Jennions". *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 12: 195.
- Weislo, William T.** 1997. "Are Behavioral Classifications Blinders to Studying Natural Variation?" In: *The Evolution of Social Behavior in Insects and Arachnids*: 8-13, edited by J.C. Choe and B.J. Crespi. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.