

Tupper seminar

Tuesday, June 20, noon seminar speaker will be Gregory Retallack, visiting senior scholar from the Department of Geological Sciences, University of Oregon

World's greatest midlife crisis: the Permian-Triassic extinctions on land

Interested to learn about his most recent research interests please visit:

<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~dogsci/retall/rsch.html>

Bambi seminars

Thursday, June 22, Bambi seminar speaker will be Gregory Retallack, visiting senior scholar from the University of Oregon

Getting high and cool on grass: grassland emergence and global change during the last 40 million years

Arrivals

Paige Wickner, Vermont, Jun 17 - Aug 7, to work with Joe Wright, on BCI.

Gregory Retallack, University of Oregon, Jun 17-24, to visit STRI and present seminars.

Mike Robinson, STRI research associate from SI National Zoological Park, Jun 20 - Dec 31, to study the predatory and mating behavior of araneid spiders, in Gamboa.

Alfred Fischer, senior scholar from University of Southern California, Jun 21-31, to visit STRI and present seminar.

Robin Rossmann, Southern Illinois University, Jun 21 - Aug 19, to work with Karen Lips on the spread and causes of amphibians declines in tropical America, on mainland.

STRI news

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama www.stri.org

June 16, 2000

Training for STRI supervisors



Photo: Oscar León

The STRI Human Resources Office is offering leadership and supervision training to managers and supervisors every Thursday morning from June 1st until August 17. The objective of this training is to strengthen communication skills, the ability to solve problems and conflicts, adapt to changes, and establish new performance appraisal policies in accordance with the Panamanian labor code. In the photo, the participants practice an exercise to improve team-work.

La Oficina de Recursos Humanos de STRI está ofreciendo entrenamiento para supervisores sobre liderazgo y supervisión cada jueves desde el 1ro de junio hasta el 17 de agosto. El objetivo de este entrenamiento es reforzar la comunicación efectiva, la habilidad para solucionar problemas y conflictos, adaptarse a los cambios, y establecer nuevas políticas para la evaluación del desempeño, acordes a las políticas del Código de Trabajo panameño. En la foto, los participantes practican un ejercicio para mejorar la dinámica del trabajo en equipo.

Entrenamiento para supervisores

Charles O. Handley, Jr. (1925-2000)

Charles O. Handley, Jr., 75, curator at the Department of Vertebrate Zoology, SI National Museum of Natural History, died on Friday, June 9, in Washington, D.C., after a struggle with cancer. Handley was an expert on the systematics, distribution, ecology and natural history of mammals of the Western Hemisphere, bats, in particular. He is survived by his wife, Darelyn, and sons, Ben and Tom. There will be a celebration on Handley's life in Washington, D.C., in the coming months.

“Charles Handley first came to Barro Colorado Island in 1964, when the Panamanian government evacuated him from the Darien. In 1976 he began a major study of bats on BCI that lasted for nine years. During this research he recorded 50,000 captures and enabled the first count of a population of a species of tropical bats *Artibeus jamaicensis*. Since then, he has mapped fig trees on BCI. He has also inspired many other people to do bat work on BCI, especially Elizabeth Kalko and her students. He had an extraordinary capacity to work hard and long and with little sleep. His knowledge and wisdom will be greatly missed by those who work in the forest of Barro Colorado and by many others.”

Egbert G. Leigh

Arrivals

Heike Prohl, Tieratlicce Hochschule, Hannover, Germany, Jun 23-30, to study the behavioral and genetic variations in the tungara frog, in Gamboa.

Aubrey Gilbert, South Carolina, Jun 23, to conduct studies of model systems for biomonitoring Panamanian coast pollution, at Naos.

Ellen Clark, Monash University, Australia, Jun 23 - Jul 23, to study *Atta* traffic: organization of ants along foraging trails, on BCI.

Departures

Haris Lessios, Jun 17 - Jul 9, to Connecticut, to attend the meetings of the Society of Molecular Biology and Evolution, and to Washington, D.C., to consult with SI colleagues.

On leave

Steve Paton, June 17 - Jul 15, on vacation.

New publications

Bernardi, Giacomo, Robertson, D. Ross, Clifton, Kenneth E., and Azzurro, Ernesto. 2000. "Molecular systematics, zoogeography, and evolutionary ecology of the Atlantic parrotfish genus *Sparisoma*." *Molecular Phylogeny and Evolution* 15(2): 292-300.

Sautú, Adriana (editor) 2000. Cultivo de árboles nativos de Panamá. Caoba. *Svietenia mahogany*. King Familia Meliaceae. *Proyecto de Investigación* 3 (May 24). Published by STRI, CTFS and Fundación Natura.

International search for STRI's deputy director

STRI is conducting an international search through *Science* and *Nature* to replace deputy director Anthony Coates, who accepted the position of deputy undersecretary for Science at SI, in Washington, D.C. This search—that will continue for as long as necessary to find the best possible candidate—will also appear in *New Scientist* and *Chronicle for Higher Education*.

STRI está llevando a cabo una búsqueda internacional a través de *Science* y *Nature* para reemplazar al subdirector de STRI, Anthony Coates, quien aceptó la posición de subsecretario asistente para Ciencias en el Smithsonian en Washington, D.C. La búsqueda, que se llevará a cabo durante el tiempo que sea necesario para encontrar el mejor candidato posible, también será publicado en *New Scientist* y *Chronicle for Higher Education*.

Welcome to new arrivals at STRI

Melissa Spalding de Balcazar will join STRI next Monday, June 19, as budget analyst, in the Office of the Comptroller, under the supervision of Leopoldo León. She has a wide experience in finance, and has a master's degree in Business Administration from the Universidad Católica Santa María (USMA). Luisa Villalaz will also join STRI next Monday as administrative assistant at the STRI's Business Ventures Office, under the supervision of Laura Flores. Villalaz has a Bachelor's degree in Marketing from USMA, and graduate studies in Business Administration.

Melissa Spalding de Balcazar empezará a trabajar en STRI el próximo lunes 19 de junio, como analista de presupuesto en la Oficina del Contralor, bajo la supervisión de Leopoldo León. Spalding de Baltazar tiene amplia experiencia en finanzas y una maestría en Administración de Empresas de la Universidad Católica Santa María, USMA. Luisa Villalaz también empezará a trabajar en STRI el próximo lunes, como asistente administrativa en la Oficina de Iniciativas Empresariales bajo la supervisión de Laura Flores. Villalaz tiene una licenciatura en Mercadeo de la USMA, y estudios de post-grado en Administración de Empresas.

Bienvenidas nuevas funcionarias

Smithsonian Women's Committee

The Smithsonian Women's Committee welcomes grant proposals for consideration in 2000-2001. In April 2000, they granted \$337,332.30 to fund 24 projects representing thirteen SI museums and offices. Grants ranged in size from \$4500 to \$25,000. The deadline for submission of proposals is August 18, 2000. Proposals should be sent to the Women's Committee Program Coordinator, Heidi Austreng, Women's Committee Office, SIB 436, MRC 037. Submission procedures' guidelines can be found at the Office of the Director in Tivoli, or the Office of Education at Tupper.



Photo: Francisco Rivera

Improving communication with the Bocas station

Recently, the Office of Information Technology completed the new structural wiring of STRI's Bocas del Toro Marine Station, to improve communications with this facility. In the photo, Luis Moreno works overnight from May 25-26, to complete the job.

Recientemente, la Oficina de Informática terminó el trabajo de cableado estructural en la Estación Marina de Bocas del Toro de STRI, para mejorar las comunicaciones con esta instalación. En la foto, Luis Moreno trabaja hasta la madrugada del 25 al 26 de mayo, para terminar el trabajo.

Mejorando la comunicación con la estación de Bocas