

Tupper seminar

No seminar scheduled for Tuesday, January 3.

Bambi seminar

Thursday, January 6, Bambi seminar speaker will be Egbert Giles Leigh, Jr., STRI Madagascar

Arrivals

Davin Lopez, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Jan 2 - Feb 6, to study meta populations in a fragmented tropical forest, in Gamboa.

Twenty six students from McGill University, to participate in the Field Study Semester, Jan 2 - Apr 30.

Twenty seven students and instructor David Wilcove, Princeton University, Jan 3 - Apr 20, to participated in Tropical Ecology Field Course Eeb521.

Wayne Sousa and assistants Christopher Hayden, Rebecca Michelle Lutzy, Brody Sandel, and Catherine Searle, University of California at Berkeley, Jan 3-15, to study patterns and mechanisms of canopy tree regeneration in a Caribbean mangrove forest, at Galeta.

Randy Moore, Oregon State University, Jan 3 - 25, to attend Avian Ecology Field Course, on BCI.

Jason Daul, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Jan 3-27, to study the life history strategies of a highly specialized tropical lizard, in Gamboa.

Scott Mangan, Indiana University, Jan 3 - Jul 15, to carry out the project "Do neotropical rodents influence forest regeneration by dispersing spores or arbuscular



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

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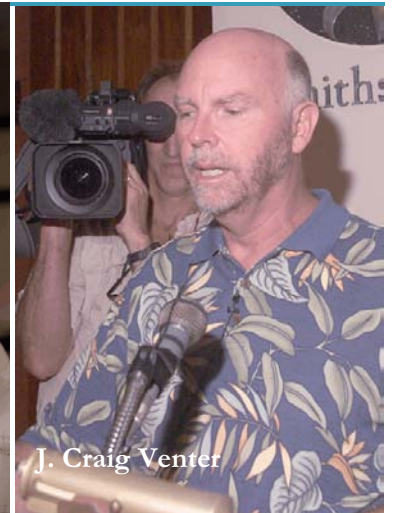
December 31, 2004



Glenn Tupper and family



Bob Ballard



J. Craig Venter

Year in review

At STRI we inaugurated 2004 with a major event that promoted, and still is promoting STRI research on the Isthmus of Panama to a highly impressionable audience: young students from the 4th to 9th grades. Nearly two million students in the US, Panama, and the World explored tropical forests guided by scientists in a transmission via Internet with *Jason XV: Rainforests at the Crossroads*, from January 26 through February 6. To launch the *Jason XV* expedition, oceanographer Bob Ballard, *Titanic* discoverer and founder of the Jason Foundation for Education, came to Panama. Also, among this year's 800 visiting scientists were J. Craig Venter, first sequencer of the human genome, Jeremy Sabloff, director of the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, John Day,

director of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, and many other distinguished scholars. STRI hosted a number of congresses and symposia in Panama, and co-hosted others in Taiwan and Brazil. We received philanthropists Kenneth E. Behring, Glenn Tupper and family; and Panama's first lady Vivian de Torrijos, tourism minister Ruben Blades, National Assembly deputies, members of the diplomatic corps, a group of 44 international science reporters on BCI, and many more. To facilitate these visits STRI appointed Tupper Center administrator Audrey M. Smith, an experienced planner and manager, to the position of Special Events coordinator.

Resident and visiting scientists' and students' research at our facilities in various marine and terrestrial

ecosystems, resulted this year in 325 publications, many of which were further publicized by *Science Now*, *News@Nature*, *SCB Services*, *Reuters*, *CBC News*, *BBC*, and *The Economist*, *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times* and many more. One example is the recent article by José Iriarte *et al* in *Nature* that has generated reviews in English, Spanish, German, Italian, Portuguese, Polish, Czech, French, and Chinese! On the other hand, the lay audiences are attracted to our public programs on Culebra (50,737 visitors), BCI (4,323), Galeta (6,887) and Bocas del Toro, highlighted in our new 402-page web site launched in July by webmaster Harold Maduro, who worked hand in hand with staff scientists and STRI communicators.

In order to strengthen our research baseline, we recruited soil biologist Benjamin Turner,

More arrivals

Gregory Adler, University of Wisconsin, Jan 3-18, to study the diversity and abundance of rodents, in Gamboa.

Larissa Albrecht, volunteer from the University of Ulm, Germany, Jan 3 - Apr 3, to work with Elisabeth Kalko, on BCI.

Christopher Mullins, CTFS fellow from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, Jan 3-31, to develop a protocol to characterize soil drought stress for use in within-and among-site comparisons of the CTFS forest dynamics plots, on BCI.

Charlotte Jander, Upsala University, Sweden, Jan 4 - Aug 31, to study plant sanctions and wasp pollination behavior in fig-wasp mutualisms, on BCI.

Sohinee Mazumbar, NEO fellow from McGill University, Jan 4 - Sep 4, to work on remote sensing for sustainable agriculture, at Tupper.

Rebekah Rogers, volunteer from the University of Georgia, Jan 5 - May 10, to work with Patricia Gotoway, in Gamboa.

Oscar Puebla, NEO doctoral fellow from McGill University, Jan 5 - Aug 31, to study molecular ecology and evolution in the genus *Hypoplectrus*, at Tupper.

Ghislain Rompre, Universite Laval, Canada, Jan 5 - Apr 1, to work on a project to predict change in distribution of avian diversity across an endangered tropical landscape, the Panama Canal corridor, at Tupper and BCNM.

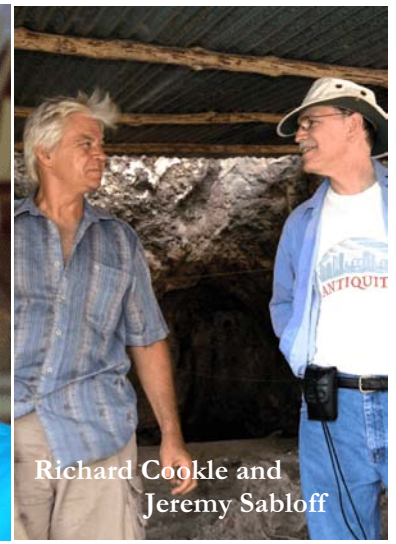
Mats Gustafsson, University of Aarhus, Denmark, Jan 5 - 25, to collaborate with Klaus Winter, at Tupper.



Herbert Sedelmier



Dolores Piperno



Richard Cookle and
Jeremy Sabloff

and conducted an international search for a paleobiologist. STRI granted 137 research fellowships this year, and received gifts and grants for almost \$5 million, and an additional \$11.5 million in pledge commitments, to further our research projects.

Director Ira Rubinoff and staff scientist Mary Jane West-Eberhard were invited as speakers at the Ernst Mayr centennial celebration at Harvard University. Staff scientists Haris Lessios, Dolores Piperno and William

F. Laurance were elected fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and botanist Mireya Correa was recognized as one of Panama's most meritorious women, by the University of Panama.

Fernando Pascal, former assistant director of STRI's Office of Facilities Engineering and Operations (OFEO) became associate director for Facilities, while Herbert Sedelmier, previously with the private sector, was appointed new manager for Design and

Construction. Rodrigo Ramirez was recruited as legal counselor to replace Natacha Chandler. We also lost BCI's administrator Daniel Millán to cancer this month.

We saw countless individual achievements this year among researchers and other members of the staff. However, as director Rubinoff highlighted during his Holidays' message, "the clue to our success is team work, and dedication in the pursue of scientific curiosity. The STRI family can be very proud for their accomplishments."

En STRI inauguramos el 2004 con un evento de grandes proporciones que promovió y sigue promoviendo las investigaciones de STRI en el Istmo de Panamá ante una audiencia altamente impresionante: jóvenes estudiantes de cuarto a noveno grados. Cerca de dos millones de estudiantes en los EU, Panamá y el mundo exploraron bosques tropicales guiados por científicos en una transmisión via internet con *Jason XV: Bosques tropicales en la encrucijada*, del 26 hasta el 6 de febrero. El oceanógrafo Bob Ballard, quien descubrió el *Titanic* y creó la Fundación Jason para la Educación vino a Panamá para inaugurar *Jason XV*. Entre los 800 científicos visitantes de este año también están J. Craig

Venter, quien decifró la primera secuencia del genoma humano, Jeremy Sabloff, director del Museo de Arqueología y Antropología de la Universidad de Pennsylvania, John Day, director de la Autoridad del Parque Marino de la Gran Barrera de Arrecifes, y muchos otros académicos distinguidos. STRI patrocinó varios congresos y simposios en Panamá, y co-patrocinó otros en Taiwan y Brazil. Recibimos a los filántropos Kenneth E. Behring y Glenn Tupper y familia; a la primera dama de Panamá Vivian de Torrijos, al ministro de Turismo Rubén Blades, diputados de la Asamblea Nacional, miembros del cuerpo diplomático, un grupo de 44 periodistas científicos

internacionales en BCI, y muchos más. Para facilitar estas visitas, STRI asignó a la administradora de Tupper Audrey M. Smith, experimentada planeadora y organizadora, en la posición de coordinadora de Eventos Especiales.

Las investigaciones que llevan a cabo investigadores permanentes de STRI, científicos visitantes y estudiantes en nuestras instalaciones— situadas en diversos ecosistemas terrestres y marinos—dieron como resultado 325 publicaciones este año, muchas de las cuales recibieron publicidad posterior por *Science Now*, *News@Nature*, *SCB Services*, *Reuters*, *CBC News*, *BBC*, y

More arrivals

Ilka Ferrer, Karen McKee, Anne Chamberlain, Christian Mckeon, SI's Environmental Research Center (SERC), Jan 5-19, to study the patterns of nutrient limitation in mangrove ecosystems in the Caribbean at three field stations in SI's Marine Science Network, on Bocas. The project will be joined by Rachel Borgatti and Judith O'Neil, from Jan 6-25.

David Combosch, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany, Jan 5 - Jul 17, for an evaluation of genetic and ecological differences between morph types of *Pocillopora* sp. Of the Panamanian Pacific coast, at Naos.

Kerstin Poltz, University of Wuerzburg, Jan 6 - May 6, to conduct the project "Is there a typical epiphyte assemblage in secondary habitats?" on BCI.

Dennis Whigham and Melissa McCormick, SERC, Jan 6-9, to gather preliminary data on epiphytic orchids, in Gamboa.

Samantha Joye and Wildred Rodriguez, volunteers from the University of Georgia, to work with Ilka Feller, on Bocas.

Jacalyn Giacalone and Greg Willis, Montclair University, Jan 6 - Feb 10, to study mammalian population fluctuations in relation to fruit crop, on BCI.

Gerhard Zotz, University of Basel, Switzerland, Jan 6-16, to continue research on the ecology of tropical epiphytes and study demographic changes along an environmental gradient in a tank bromeliad, on BCI.

Brenda Larison and assistants Pablo Martinez, Caroline Collins and Erica Larison, University of California at Los Angeles, Jan 7 - Apr 30, to study the factors influencing habitat selection and tactics in a tropical damselfly in Gamboa.

The Economist, *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times* y muchos otros. Un ejemplo es el reciente artículo de José Iriarte *et al*, en *Nature*, que ha generado noticias en inglés, español, alemán, italiano, portugués, polaco, checo, francés y chino. Por otro lado, las audiencias no científicas son atraídas por los programas públicos de STRI en Culebra (50,737 visitantes), BCI (4,323), Galeta (6,887) y Bocas del Toro, que fueron muy destacados por el nuevo sitio de web de STRI de 402 páginas, lanzado en julio por el webmaster Harold Maduro, quien trabajó en coordinación con científicos y comunicadores de STRI.

Con el objetivo de reforzar la plataforma de investigaciones, reclutamos al biólogo de suelos Benjamín Turner, y se llevó a cabo una búsqueda internacional para emplear un paleobiólogo. STRI otorgó 137 becas este año, y recibimos donaciones por cerca de \$5 millones y el compromiso de otros \$11.5 millones, para adelantar los proyectos de investigación.

El director Ira Rubinoff y la científica Mary Jane West-Eberhard fueron invitados como conferencistas en el centenario de Ernst Mayr en la Universidad de Harvard.



STRI celebrated its Holidays' party on Friday, December 17, at the Tupper Center—Happy New Year to all!

STRI celebró las festividades de fin de año el viernes, 17 de diciembre, en el Centro Tupper—¡Feliz Año Nuevo a todos!

Los científicos Haris Lessios, Dolores Piperno y William F. Laurance fueron elegidos miembros de la Asociación de los Estados Unidos para el Avance de la Ciencia (AAAS) y la botánica Mireya Correa fue reconocida como una de las mujeres más meritorias de Panamá, por la Universidad de Panamá.

Fernando Pascal, ex-director adjunto de la Oficina de Ingeniería y Operaciones (OFEO) fue promovido a director Asociado de Instalaciones, mientras que Herbert Sedelmier, del sector privado, fue seleccionado como nuevo gerente de OFEO. Roberto Ramírez fue contratado como nuevo asesor legal en reemplazo de Natacha Chandler, y perdimos al administrador de BCI, Daniel Millán, quien murió de cáncer este mes.

Hemos sido testigos de incontables logros individuales este año entre investigadores y otros miembros del personal. Sin embargo, como destacó el director Ira Rubinoff en su mensaje de las fiestas de fin de año, "la clave de nuestro éxito es el trabajo de equipo, y la dedicación en la búsqueda motivada por la curiosidad científica. La familia de STRI debe sentirse orgullosa por sus logros."

January b' days

Krysta Ríos	2
Fernando Pascal	4
Rafael Batista	5
Víctor Quintana	6
Carlos Guevara	7
Seberino Valdés	8
Julia Areas	8
Roris De Gracia	9
William F. Laurance	12
José González	15
Alexis Hernández	17
Omar Hernández	17
S. Joseph Wright	17
José Sánchez	18
Enrique Marciaga	19
Karel Muñoz	19
Mirza Murillo	19
Christopher Ros	19
Sebastián Bernal	20
Alicia Ramos	21
Alfredo De León	23
José Monteza	26
Carlos A. Vergara	27
Sixto Ballesteros	28
Miriam Medina	28
Roxana Durán	28
Agapito González	29
Noris Salazar	30
Eyda Gómez	31

Miscellaneous

Two rooms for rent in house in Ancon, 10-min. walk from Tupper. Big house, furnished, very quiet, spacious veranda, 24h security, cleaning service. All inclusive \$250/room per month. Interested please call Renate Sponer at 232-8729 or 510-9177.

Albrook apartment for rent, two bedrooms, one bath, furnished. Quiet neighborhood. Available immediately \$600. Interested please call Chimene at 276-6621 or cel. 674-6621

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