

## Tupper seminar

Tuesday, October 28, noon seminar speaker will be Dennis R. Rasmussen, Panama's Metropolitan Nature Park, Primate Refuge and Sanctuary of Panama, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, and University of Panama

**Development of the Primate Refuge and Sanctuary of Panama as an international resource for research, education, and conservation**

## Bambi seminar

Please check your GroupWise and bulletin boards for information on the next Bambi.

## Congratulations!

To Brice Quenouille who successfully defended his doctoral thesis *Systématique moléculaire des poissons demoiselle (Teleostei: Pomacentridae): diversité et biogéographie en milieu marin tropical* at the University of Perpignan, France, on September 18. His PhD research was supported by STRI in the Naos lab of Eldredge Bermingham, juror of the Brice's doctoral thesis and member of the PhD committee.

## Arrivals

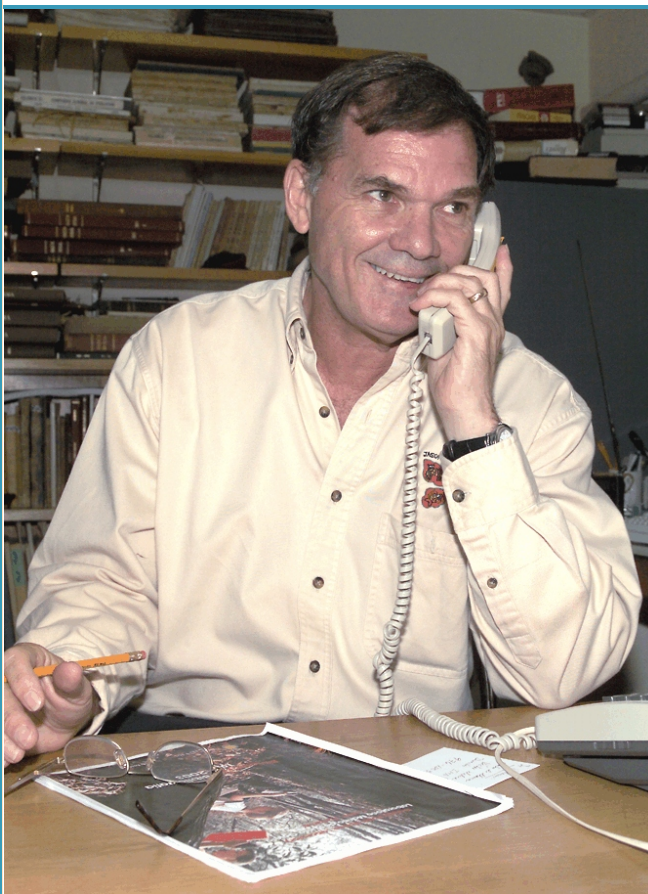
Roland Kays, NY State Museum, Oct 25 - Nov 21, to continue research with the automated telemetry project, on BCI.

Juan Pablo Giraldo Gómez, Universidad de Los Andes, Oct 27 - Apr 27, 2004, to work with Tom Kursar and Melvin Tyree, on BCI.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

www.stri.org October 24, 2003



## E-mail chat from STRI to thousands of students

STRI scientist Stanley Heckadon, director of the Office of Communications and Public Programs, participated in a 90-minute e-mail chat, with US school kids participating in the JASON project, on Thursday, October 16. Students from Panama's Balboa Academy also participated. The kids sent over 1,100 questions to JASON headquarters in Boston, and Heckadon answered by phone from Panama. According to JASON coordinators, the chat beat all their previous participation records. The students were interested in knowing everything about STRI, Panama, its people, culture, languages and of course, the Canal. Heckadon emphasized on Panama's biodiversity, the different cultures and the tolerance between its groups, and described how building the Panama Canal allowed for a revolution in tropical medicine. "Peoples living in the

forest are poor only in a material sense" he commented. "A young Embera boy learns very quickly while in elementary school how to build a house, a dugout canoe, a paddle and young girls will know how to make lovely baskets which are made from forest products like palms. In that sense they are more mature than people in urban areas." Upcoming chats include Arturo Lindsay, Roland Kays, Randy Morgan, Elisabeth Kalko, Jackie Willis, Roland Smith, Meg Lowman, Mark Wishnie, Mike Kaspari and Robert Stallard, president of the JASON Project. This week, Panama's Ministry of Education formally accepted the JASON study guide as part of the national curriculum.

El científico Stanley Heckadon, director de la Oficina de Comunicaciones y Programas Públicos de STRI, participó en una charla de 90 minutos por correo electrónico, con estudiantes de los Estados Unidos que participan en el Proyecto JASON, el jueves, 16 de octubre. Estudiantes de Balboa Academy de Panamá también participaron. Los estudiantes enviaron cerca de 1,100 preguntas a las oficinas principales de JASON en Boston, y Heckadon las contestaba por teléfono desde Panamá. De acuerdo a los coordinadores de JASON, la conversación rompió todos sus récords anteriores de participación. Los estudiantes estaban interesados en saber todo sobre STRI, Panamá, su gente y por supuesto, el Canal. Heckadon resaltó la biodiversidad de Panamá, sus diferentes culturas y la tolerancia que existe entre ellos, y describió cómo la construcción del Canal dio paso a una revolución en medicina tropical. "La gente que vive en el bosque es pobre sólo desde un punto de

## More arrivals

Juan Pablo Giraldo Gómez, Universidad de Los Andes, Oct 27 - Apr 27, 2004, to work with Tom Kursar and Melvin Tyree, on BCI.

Anna Herdina, University of Vienna, Austria, Oct 28 - Dec 3, to work with Christoph Meyer, on BCI.

Angela Skeeles, University of Virginia, Oct 30 - Nov 9, to work with Roland Kays on the interactions between ocelots and their prey, on BCI.

Heinrich Krause, research associate from the University of Dusseldorf, Germany, Oct 30 - Dec 11, to study photo inhibition of photosynthesis in leaves of tropical plants, at Tupper.

## New publications

Banks, Alexander N., and Srygley, Robert B. 2003. "Orientation by magnetic field in leaf-cutter ants, *Atta colombica* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)." *Ethology* 109(10): 835-846.

Eltz, Thomas, Roubik, David W., and Whitten, Mark W. 2003. "Fragrances, male display and mating behaviour of *Euglossa hemichlora*: A flight cage experiment." *Physiological Entomology* 28: 1-10.

Fortunato, Helena M. 2003. "Evolutionary paleontology and informatics: the Neogene Marine Biota of Tropical America (NMITA) database." In A. Legakis, S. Stenthourakis, R. Polymeni, and M. Thessalou-Legaki (Eds.), *The new panorama of animal evolution. Proceedings of the 18th International Congress of Zoology*: 591-601. Moscow: Pensoft Publishers.

vista material" comentó. "Un joven Emberá aprende desde muy temprano en escuela primaria a construir una casa, una canoa y un remo, y las niñas aprenden a hacer bellas canastas de productos del bosque, como palmas. En ese sentido son mucho más maduros que los que vivimos en áreas urbanas." Las próximas charlas incluyen a Arturo Lindsay, Roland Kays, Randy Morgan, Elisabeth Kalko, Jackie Willis, Roland Smith, Meg Lowman, Mark Wishnie, Mike Kaspari y Robert Stallard, presidente del Proyecto JASON. Esta semana, el Ministerio de Educación de Panamá aceptó formalmente la guía de estudio de JASON como parte del programa educativo nacional.

## E.O. Wilson visit to the canopy at Sherman

"This is how I imagine the ascent to heaven", said Edward O. Wilson describing his slow, graceful lift by STRI's canopy-access crane through the trees of the lowland tropical rainforest along Panama's Caribbean slope at Fort Sherman. Wilson, Pellegrino professor emeritus at Harvard University and a world authority on ants and the conservation of biodiversity, is pictured above the trees in the gondola of the the canopy crane where he spent the morning of Sunday, October 12, investigating canopy ants with Bruno Corbara, *Radeau des Cimes* scientific director of missions. Corbara, also an authority on ants, is visiting the Smithsonian's Tropical Research Institute, where he is co-directing a three-week intensive biodiversity survey of soil and canopy arthropods by 30 scientists from ten countries. Frode Odegaard, a research scientist with the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Norway and an expert on canopy arthropod diversity, and Eldredge Bermingham, STRI staff scientist and deputy director, also accompanied professor Wilson on his exploration of the canopy.



"Así es como imagino el ascenso al cielo" dijo Edward O. Wilson, mientras se elevaba lenta y fácilmente entre los árboles del bosque lluvioso tropical de tierras bajas a lo largo de la costa caribeña de Panamá en la grúa del dosel de STRI en Sherman. Wilson, profesor Pellerino emérito de la Universidad de Harvard, y una autoridad mundial en hormigas y la conservación de la biodiversidad, aparece arriba de los árboles en la góndola del sistema de acceso al dosel, donde pasó la mañana del domingo 12 de octubre, investigando hormigas del dosel con Bruno Corbara, director científico de misiones de *Radeau des Cimes*. Corbara, quien también es una autoridad en hormigas, visita STRI, donde está co-dirigiendo un censo intensivo de la biodiversidad de artrópodos del suelo y el dosel, con 30 científicos provenientes de 10 países. Frode Odegaard, científico de investigaciones del Instituto Noruego de Investigaciones de la Naturaleza, y experto en diversidad de artrópodos del dosel, y Eldredge Bermingham, científico y subdirector de STRI, también acompañaron al profesor Wilson en su viaje exploratorio al dosel.



## \$3.44 million to ICBG

Fogarty International Institute of the National Institutes of Health awarded \$3.44 million to Panama International Cooperative Groups (ICBG) for the proposal "Bioassay and Ecology directed drug discovery in Panama". Of the 32 applications, the proposal from Panama ICBG received the highest ranking. Bill Gerwick from Oregon State University is the principal investigator for the program. Gerwick is a marine natural products chemist who specializes in the isolation of biologically active compounds from cyanobacteria and the isolation of the genetic pathways responsible for their synthesis. The program is

## More publications

Fortunato, Helena M. 2003. "Habitat change and biodiversity maintenance: two faces of the same process?, 38th *European Marine Biology Symposium: Abstract book/ Programme*. 38. Aveiro, Portugal.

Fortunato, Helena M. 2003. "Biogeography and the tempo of speciation in strombinid gastropods, XVIII *Encontro Brasileiro de Malacologia*: 259. Rio de Janeiro: Sociedade Brasileira de Malacologia.

Guzman, Hector M. 2003. "Caribbean coral reefs of Panama: present status and future perspectives." In Jorge Cortes (Ed.), *Latin American Coral Reefs*: 241-274. Amsterdam: Elsevier Science B.V.

Kursar, Thomas A., and Coley, Phyllis D. 2003. "Convergence in defense syndromes of young leaves in tropical rainforests." *Biochemical Systematics and Ecology* 31(8): 929-949.

Laube, S., and Zotz, Gerhard. 2003. "Which abiotic factors limit vegetative growth in a vascular epiphyte?" *Functional Ecology* 17(5): 598-604.

McCartney, Michael A., Acevedo, Jenny, Heredia, Christine, Rico, Ciro, Quenouille, Brice, Bermingham, Eldredge P., and McMillan, W. Owen. 2003. "Genetic mosaic in a marine species flock." *Molecular Ecology* 12(11): 2963-2973.

Novick, Rachel Roth, Dick, Christopher W., Lemes, Maristerra R., Navarro, Carlos, Caccone, Adalgisa, and Bermingham, Eldredge P. 2003. "Genetic structure of Mesoamerican populations of Big-leaf mahogany (*Svietenia macrophylla*) inferred from microsatellite analysis." *Molecular Ecology* 12(11): 2885-2893.

divided into Central Operations and four associate programs. Central Operations, responsible for Panama-based coordination, is run by STRI research associate Todd Capson. Associate programs: "Panama plant collection and extraction and database management" is led by STRI research associate Phyllis Coley; "Assessment of bioactivity against parasites (malaria, leishmaniasis, Chagas' disease), cancer and agricultural pests" is led by Eduardo Ortega, STRI research associate and scientist at INDICASAT; "Isolation and structure elucidation of Panama plant bioactives" is led by Bill Gerwick; and "Conservation, outreach and biodiversity inventory in Panama" is led by Todd Capson (its primary focus will be the Coiba National Park. Industrial collaborators include Novartis Pharmaceuticals and Dow Agrosciece. The program will continue to stress the training of local students and investments in scientific infrastructure in Panama.

El Instituto Internacional Fogarty de los Institutos Nacionales de Salud de los Estados Unidos le otorgaron \$3.44 millones a los Grupos Internacional de Cooperación para la Biodiversidad (ICBG) de Panamá por la propuesta "Bioensayo y descubrimiento de drogas ecológicamente dirigido en Panamá". De las 32 aplicaciones, la propuesta de ICBG de Panamá recibió el puntaje más alto. Bill Gerwick, de Oregon State University será el investigador principal del programa. Gerwick es un químico de productos naturales marinos que se especializa en aislar compuestos biológicamente activos de cianobacterias y en aislamiento de procesos genéticos responsables por su síntesis. El programa se divide en Operaciones Centrales y cuatro programas asociados. Operaciones Centrales, responsable por la coordinación de Panamá estará a cargo del investigador asociado a STRI, Todd Capson. Los programas asociados: "Colectas de plantas de Panamá, extracción y manejo de base de datos" estará a cargo de la investigadora asociada a STRI Phyllis Colley; "Estudios de bioactividad contra parásitos (malaria, leishmaniasis, enfermedad de Chagas) cáncer y pestes de la agricultura" estará a cargo de Eduardo Ortega, investigador asociado a STRI y científico de INDICASAT; "Aislamiento y estructura de elucidación de plantas bioactivas de Panamá" estará a cargo de Bill Gerwick; y "Conservación, extensión e inventario de biodiversidad en Panamá" será dirigido by Todd Capson (su enfoque principal será el Parque Nacional de Coiba). Los colaboradores industriales incluyen a Novartis Pharmaceuticals y Dow Agrosciece. El programa continuará dándole prioridad al entrenamiento de estudiantes locales y las inversiones en infraestructura científica en Panamá.

## Oil painting exhibit at Tupper



STRI and the University of Panama inaugurated an oil painting exhibit at the Tupper Center, on Thursday, October 16. The paintings feature Panama's Metropolitan Natural Park, seen through the eyes of the artists. It will be open to the public 9am to 4pm until Friday, October 31. Everybody is invited.

STRI y la Universidad de Panamá inauguraron una exhibición de óleos en el Centro Tupper, el jueves, 16 de octubre. Las pinturas muestran el Parque Natural

Metropolitano, desde el punto de vista de los artistas. Se mantendrá abierta al público de 9am a 4pm hasta el viernes, 31 de octubre. Todos están invitados.

## Apartment for rent:

Three bed/r, 4 bath/r, balcony, recreational area, Av. Balboa, beautiful view of bay, \$ 1,200. Call Clara Peixoto De Souza at 265-2061.

Se alquila apartamento de 3 recámaras, 4 baños, balcón, área recreativa, en la Avenida Balboa. Bella vista de la Bahía, \$1200. Interesados favor llamar a Clara Peixoto De Souza al tel. 265-2061.