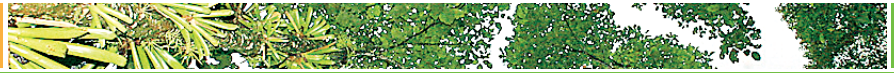


VIEW FROM THE CANOPY



IN THIS ISSUE ■ New Station Director at La Selva ■ BioScience Article Highlights Results of OTS Alumni Study
 ■ New Education Director ■ 2012-13 Graduate Course Offerings



NEW DIRECTOR OF LA SELVA BIOLOGICAL STATION

JOINS OTS

Dr. Carlos de la Rosa and his wife, Claudia.

OTS is pleased to announce that **Dr. Carlos de la Rosa** has agreed to join the OTS team as **Director of the La Selva Biological Station**, based in Sarapiquí, Costa Rica.

Dr. de la Rosa holds a Ph.D. in Aquatic Ecology from the University of Pittsburgh, where he carried out research on resource partitioning among a complex assemblage of freshwater insects. Since then, Dr. de la Rosa's research has bridged the fields of ecology and taxonomy of aquatic insects, natural resource conservation, and management and outreach to citizens about science and conservation.

Carlos career has taken him to a wide variety of environments and projects, from Pennsylvania and West Virginia, to Costa Rica (where he spent 10 years doing research on freshwater ecosystems and environmental management), as well as Nicaragua, Panama, Guatemala, Belize and then Florida and California. He is an Adjunct Professor at several US and Costa Rican universities, providing yet additional links and collaborations with academic institutions, researchers and students.

Carlos undertook his undergraduate studies in mechanical engineering and biology at the Simón Bolívar University, in Venezuela, where he was born. A US citizen now, he continued his graduate studies in Pittsburgh and landed a job as a scientist with the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, which brought him to Costa Rica. Here, he was instrumental in freshwater research and in the development of the Maritza Biological Field Station in the Guanacaste Conservation Area. Later he became the Director of USAID's Environmental Management Office in Upala, northern Costa Rica. From there, he consulted, among others, with the Organization of American States' Bi-National (Nicaragua-Costa Rica) San Juan River Basin Project, leading teams of Nicaraguan, Costa Rican and international biologists in a broad evaluation of this important watershed.

"To us, Costa Rica is more than a wonderful place to live and work. It is the home we're returning to."

In Florida, Carlos served as Program Director for The Nature Conservancy's Disney Wilderness Preserve, a landscape-scale wetland and upland restoration project; he was the Education Coordinator for the Environmental Lands Division of Pinellas County, where he led the design and construction of two major Environmental Education Centers; and he was the Director of the Riverwoods Field Laboratory for the South Florida Water Management District, where he worked as a researcher in the Kissimmee River Restoration Project. Finally, in California, Carlos and his team have blended wildland conservation, ecosystem restoration, management of native and

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NEW EDUCATION DIRECTOR JOINS OTS

OTS is pleased to announce that **Dr. Pia Paaby** has agreed to join the OTS team as the Education Director, based in Costa Rica.

Dr. Paaby has a Ph.D. in Tropical Ecology and Limnology from the University of California-Davis, and her research has focused on tropical aquatic ecology and natural resource management. Dr. Paaby is not new to OTS and spent much of the first nine years of her career as an OTS instructor in Costa Rica in the graduate courses for Latin American and U.S. students as well as for undergraduate students, high school students in special classes (eg. TIP Program) and as the person responsible for the design and implementation of training courses for local naturalists in the Sarapiquí. In addition to this, she also participated in the university semester models in Costa Rica at the

School for Field Studies (SFS) and the Friends World Program.

Dr. Paaby has a strong background in project evaluation and design of strategies for conservation of biodiversity. The geographic areas in which she has worked include Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Bolivia and Colombia. Recently, Dr. Paaby collaborated with The Nature Conservancy in the definition of a "Portfolio of Priority Sites for Conservation of Freshwater Biodiversity", as well as "Identifying Conservation Gaps" for the Costa Rican and Guatemalan administrative systems and the consolidation of a strategy to fill gaps in the conservation of continental biodiversity in Costa Rica.

Additionally, Dr. Paaby has collaborated in the development of methods to

identify conservation gaps in marine and terrestrial systems in Costa Rica. Currently, a significant portion of her work focuses on the study of climate change, its impacts on water resources, freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity in general, and the analysis of potential adaptation measures which would permit national and local governments to sustain the expected level of development.

As the new Education Director, Dr. Paaby will provide leadership and direction for all of OTS' education programs in Costa Rica at the graduate and undergraduate level. We are confident that she will keep the educational programs vibrant and at the cutting-edge, with the goals of meeting the needs of the OTS consortium and developing/preparing the scientific workforce of tomorrow.



OTS Annual Report Available Online

The 2010-11 Annual Report is now available for download on the OTS website at www.ots.duke.edu. Please consider the environment before printing this document.

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IMPACT OF GENDER ON CAREERS OF TROPICAL BIOLOGISTS: BIOSCIENCE PUBLISHES RESULTS FROM SURVEY OF OTS ALUMNI

The under-representation of women in science has received significant attention. However, there have been few studies in which longitudinal data were used to assess changes over time. In a paper recently published in the journal *BioScience*, Krista L. McGuire, assistant professor of biological sciences at Barnard College, Columbia University; Richard B. Primack, professor of biology at Boston University; and Elizabeth C. Losos, president and CEO of the Organization for Tropical Studies and adjunct professor at Duke University found that women in the field of ecological studies have experienced dramatic improvements, but persistent challenges remain.

In the present study, the authors surveyed the Organization for Tropical Studies graduate database, which also was surveyed in 1988, to determine the challenges still faced by women ecologists. Graduate students from the U.S. and Latin America were included in the study.

Certain aspects of women's situations have shown substantial improvement since 1988, such as an increased number of female colleagues, more equitable sharing of childcare and household chores with spouses, and decreased perceptions of gender bias. However, women continue to have greater responsibility for childcare and housework and also experience challenges with childcare and safety while pursuing field-based research. Women are still more likely to leave the field of science and have lower salaries, promotion rates, and productivity than do men. These results indicate that although certain obstacles for women ecologists have substantially lessened, other issues of the family/work balance and of fieldwork still need to be addressed.

The article, "Dramatic Improvements and Persistent Challenges for Women Ecologists," appears in the current issue of the journal *BioScience* (February 2012 / Vol. 62 No. 2; www.BioScience.org).

NEW DIRECTOR

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non-native species and the cultural context in which they exist, using Catalina Island as a living, working laboratory to develop strategies and actions to address major conservation issues. The lessons learned through this work are applicable to a broad spectrum of places and situations, including the California Islands, Mediterranean climate ecosystems, gateway communities and preserved areas around the world, including his beloved American tropics.

He has written several books and over 50 articles, papers and field guides in various aspects of science and conservation, as well as given more than a hundred presentations in national and international conferences and meetings.

His links to Costa Rica are deep, professionally and personally. "My children grew up in the forested slopes of Volcán Orosí, in Guanacaste, as well as in Monteverde, where they learned to love and appreciate nature, science and reading (they never watch TV, to this day)," he says. "To us, Costa Rica is more than a wonderful place to live and work. It is the home we're returning to."

As the new Director of the La Selva Station, Carlos will provide leadership and direction to an important suite of projects and initiatives in research, education, management and outreach. Together with his zoologist and wildlife artist wife, Claudia, they will bring a refreshing collection of ideas, enthusiasm and dedication to the amazing history and significance of La Selva's long-term and wide-ranging programs.



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A Newsletter of the Organization for Tropical Studies

About OTS OTS is a non-profit consortium of over 50 research institutions, colleges and universities from the United States, Latin America, Africa and Australia. OTS' mission is to promote education, research, and the responsible use of natural resources in the tropics.

The View from the Canopy is produced by the OTS Development Office. To submit comments or news items, please contact Cathleen Lemoine at 919-684-6969 or via e-mail at cathleen.lemoine@duke.edu.



VOLUME 2012, ISSUE ONE



PHOTO BY ADAM MICHAEL WILSON

OTS GRADUATE COURSES IN COSTA RICA 2012-2013

Nothing can replace the hands-on experience of a field-based course in the tropics! This is what OTS offers through its broad range of Tropical Biology and Ecology graduate level courses in Spanish or English in Costa Rica. OTS graduate courses are open to students enrolled in graduate degree programs, with preference given to students at OTS member institutions.

Traditional Courses 2012 and 2013 (5-8 week courses)

Tropical Plant Systematics

June 6 – July 9, 2012

*Application Deadline:
March 1, 2012

Ecología Tropical y Conservación (in Spanish)

January 10 – February 19, 2013

*Application Deadline:
June 15, 2012

Tropical Biology: An Ecological Approach

June 7 – July 29, 2013

*Application Deadline:
March 1, 2013

Sistemática de Plantas Tropicales (in Spanish)

June 28 – July 31, 2013

*Application Deadline:
November 1, 2012

Specialty Courses 2012 (2 week courses)

Behavior, Ecology and Diversity of Neotropical Social Insects

March 17 – 31, 2012

*Application Deadline: Open Enrollment;
Rolling Admissions

Tropical Lichens and Forest Health: a Multidisciplinary Approach

May 21 – June 1, 2012

*Application Deadline: February 7, 2012**

Diversity and Systematics of Coleoptera (Beetles)

June 6 – 19, 2012

*Application Deadline: February 13, 2012**

Inquiry in Rainforests: an in-service program for teachers

July 11 – 24, 2012

*Application Deadline: April 12, 2012**

Tropical Fungi and Fungal-likes

August 3 – 13, 2012

*Application Deadline: March 9, 2012**

* Notification date is within 30-45 days after the application deadline

** Open enrollment; rolling admissions

All courses will maintain open enrollment past the original deadline date until filled

For more information, please visit us online at www.ots.duke.edu.

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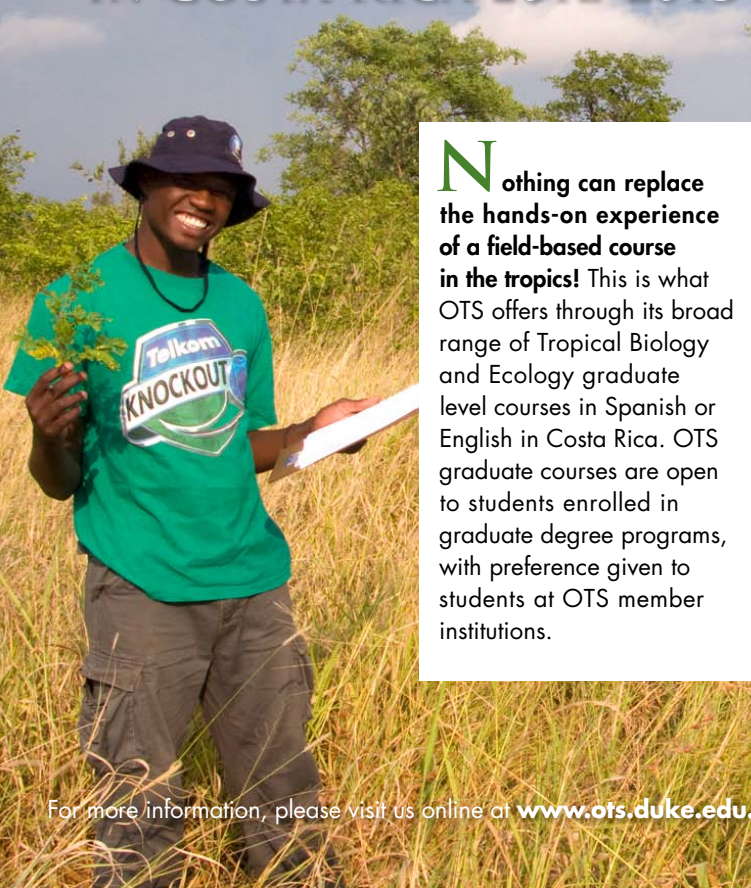


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