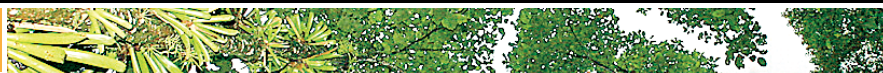


VIEW FROM THE CANOPY



2013: A CELEBRATION OF OUR

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

An Initiative for the Future

Throughout 2013, we celebrated OTS' 50th Anniversary – fifty years of research, education, and environmental leadership. This momentous milestone provided a unique opportunity to honor our founders, chart future directions of tropical biology, raise the visibility of OTS within Costa Rica, and create an environmentally sustainable infrastructure for our research stations.

THE FOUNDING OF OTS

In the early 1960's, field biologists from the Universidad de Costa Rica and several U.S. universities came together to develop a comprehensive graduate education program in tropical biology.

Several years earlier the University of Southern California and the University of Costa Rica (UCR) had begun offering a field course for young faculty in Costa Rica, led by founding-father Jay Savage, with the involvement of Rafael Lucas Rodriguez, John deAbate, and Jose Joaquin Trejos from UCR and Leslie Holdridge at the World Congress of Forestry in Seattle and with funding from Jim Bethel at the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF). At the same time, the University of Michigan was working without success to establish a field station in Chiapas, Mexico, Harvard University had seen its program terminated in Cuba when Fidel Castro swept into power, and the Universities of Florida, Kansas, and Washington were actively investigating opportunities for their students.

In 1962, under the auspices of NSF, Jay Savage, Rafael Lucas Rodriguez, and J.Robert Hunter (from CATIE in Costa Rica) organized a conference in San José to address problems of education and research in tropical biology. Seven institutions from that meeting agreed to form a consortium. Subsequently, in early 1963 at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, FL, OTS formally was founded.



Founders:

Norman Hartweg
University of Michigan

Stephen Spurr
University of Michigan

John De Abate
University of Costa Rica

Rafael Lucas Rodriguez Caballero
University of Costa Rica

Henry Leigh
University of Miami

Eugene Man
University of Miami

James Bethel
University of Washington

Ray Noggle
University of Florida

Reed Rollins
Harvard University

Edward O. Wilson
Harvard University

Leslie Chambers
University of Southern California

Jay Savage
University of Southern California

Bill Argersinger
University of Kansas

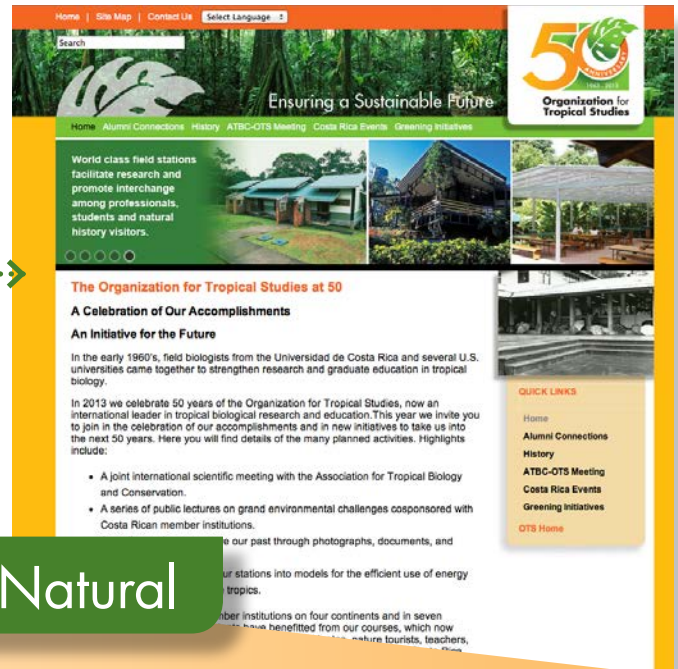


OTS TODAY OTS now counts almost sixty member institutions on four continents and in seven countries. More than 10,000 students have benefitted from our courses, which reach not only graduate students, but also undergraduates, nature tourists, science teachers, and leaders in public policy. Research conducted at our three stations, located in different ecosystems in Costa Rica, has been a major stimulus to the country's leadership in environmental research and conservation. In addition, our more recent involvement in Kruger National Park, South Africa, is helping park officials manage significant wildlife issues within the reserve.

A YEAR OF CELEBRATION

Throughout 2013, we celebrated our history and ambitions for the future through an exciting series of activities commemorating OTS' 50th anniversary. These events enabled us to strengthen our relationship with our member institutions, community partners, and our network of donors — reaching thousands of people in Costa Rica and the U.S.

We kick-started the year by launching a 50th Anniversary website, which acted as a conduit for alumni, friends and supporters to share photographs and enjoy interviews of people from throughout our history.



Miradas al Mundo Natural

Photography Exhibit

In Costa Rica, the first activity launched was the opening of a photography exhibit at the Museo Nacional: **Miradas al Mundo Natural: 50 años de la Organización para Estudios Tropicales** on March 19. Over 225 individuals attended the opening night. The exhibit featured the artwork of four photographers (Carlos de la Rosa, Giuseppe Tarnero, Karla Kruse, and Juan Carlos Pucci). Fifty-one photographs highlighting

the flora and fauna of the OTS research stations and surrounding areas were on display from March 19 through August 26, 2013. The exhibit also included sculptures, music, a video, and information banners on the history of OTS and recognizing five OTS heroes: Jay Savage, Rafael Lucas Rodríguez, Luis Diego Gómez, Don Stone, and Mildred Mathias.

Over the span of the exhibit, over 35,000 people visited the exhibit hall at the Museo, and during the mid-term school holidays, the Museum organized a workshop for children inspired by the exhibit. Through a series of voting opportunities, sixteen photos were selected for inclusion in the 2014 calendar, which was distributed to the approximately 1,000 participants at the ATBC-OTS Congress, sponsors, donors, board members, and staff.



The Grand Environmental Challenges of Costa Rica



Public Lecture Series

A **public lecture series**, co-organized with the Costa Rican member institutions: Universidad de Costa Rica, Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica, Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica, Universidad Estatal a Distancia, and the Museo Nacional, provided an excellent opportunity to strengthen OTS' relationship with our Costa Rican member institutions and increased our national visibility in Costa Rica. Each of the lectures fit within the theme "**Grand Environmental Challenges**".



Biodiversity: Rodrigo Gámez, sponsored by UNED, March 13; 90 attendees

Water: Carlos Fernández-Jauregui, sponsored by UCR, May 14; 300 attendees

Energy: Orlando Vega, sponsored by TEC, June 5; 180 attendees

Natural Capital: Christian Samper, sponsored by Museo Nacional, June 28; 80 attendees

Climate Change: Peter Vitousek and Pamela Matson, sponsored by UNA, Sept 24; 230 attendees



Rodrigo Gámez and Orlando Vega addressed the biodiversity and biofuel challenges, at UNED (March 13) and ITCR (June 5), respectively. Carlos Fernandez-Jáuregui presented a lecture on water on May 14, which garnered extensive media coverage by TV, radio, newspapers, and electronic media. Museo Nacional hosted the natural capital lecture, on June 28, by Cristian Samper, who also accepted to

be the keynote speaker during the San José Gala. The final lecture took place on September 24, at UNA, with the participation of Peter Vitousek and Pamela Matson, who were also co-sponsored by the Academy of Science of both the US and Costa Rica. The lectures were transmitted directly, and/or filmed and made available via YouTube.





A number of events were planned concurrently with the ATBS-OTS Congress in late June. An informal **OTS Mixer** at the Wyndham Herradura Hotel attracted a large crowd of over 300 current and former staff, researchers, faculty, students, and friends of OTS. On the evening of June 26, OTS organized a special **VIP reception at Museo Nacional** to recognize its founders and member institutions. Moreover, the **US Embassy made a special recognition to Jay Savage** for his outstanding contributions to OTS.



Also on June 26, OTS hosted a panel on **Globalization, the Environment, and the Role of Institutions of Higher Learning**, chaired by Peter Lange, Provost of Duke University, and including Michael Bernstein, Provost of Tulane University, and Jeffrey Loughran from James Cook University (JCU).



The official launching of the early report on the **State of the Tropics**, by JCU, took place just after the panel finished and was prominently displayed in La Nación newspaper.

On June 27, a panel of scientific luminaries including Peter Raven, Mary Jane West-Eberhard, Gordon Orians, Jay Savage, and John Terborgh, chaired by Julie Denslow, reflected on the history of tropical biology and conservation. It was the plenary wrap-up activity and was filmed for posterity in a video co-produced by UNED and OTS.

ATBS-OTS Congress

Eric Norman, Chargé d'Affaires, from the U.S. Embassy, presented Jay Savage with a recognition award at the OTS Reception at the Museo Nacional on June 26 2013. PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. EMBASSY.





San José Gala

A gala at the Costa Rican Country Club on Saturday, June 28, was an opportunity to honor over 100 donors, staff, and friends with a very special fully-organic dinner and a vibrant program, including music, videos, theatrical sketch, and raffles. The key note speaker was Cristián Samper and a special welcome from Honorary Chair, Rodolfo Silva. A high quality video was produced, in addition to other audiovisual materials.



Media Coverage

OTS was featured in a number of videos, newspaper articles, TV ads, and radio interviews. Here is a sample list of the media recognition the 50th Anniversary generated.

- *La Nación* (3 articles, led by one written by Pedro Leon; half and quarter page displays; display on digital portal);
- *Seminario Universitario*
- *Revista de Biología Tropical*, Julian Monge
- *Brenesia*, Museo Nacional. Elizabeth Losos & Liana Babbar
- Video conferences of Grand Challenges lectures
- Special video of OTS 50th anniversary
- *Vivir con Valor*, UNED production for Radio Nacional interview of Pedro León by Katia Grau
- Correos de Costa Rica, stamp cancelation honoring OTS
- Junta de Protección Social, National lotto tickets
- Special edition calendars 2013-2014 highlighting photos from exhibit



October Reception Washington, D.C.



The final event of the series of 50th Anniversary commemorative activities took place on the evening of October 17. A special reception was held at the home of Costa Rica's Ambassador, Muni Figueres in Washington, DC. The event was attended by the OTS Board of Directors and Board of Visitors, the US-based OTS staff, and other distinguished donors and friends of OTS.



Benefit Concert

Longtime friend and supporter of OTS, Richard Thompson, legendary singer/songwriter and renowned guitarist, performed a Benefit Concert in support of the OTS on September 24 to a full house at the Fletcher Center in Raleigh.

Richard Thompson's talent and music are legendary, including being named one of Rolling Stone's Top 20 Guitarists of All Time. We are thrilled to count him as a friend of OTS and offer our heartfelt thanks to Richard and his wife, Nancy, for their continued support and friendship.



A
Vision
for the
Future

The OTS Greening Initiative seeks to transform our research stations into models of efficient and environmentally sustainable sites that enable researchers and students to utilize our stations to the best of their abilities while supporting Costa Rica's goal to become carbon neutral by 2021.

We need your help.

Many of our buildings, constructed with limited resources during our first 50 years, now require retrofitting and, in some cases, reconstruction. Operating equipment, acquired over five decades, must continue to meet the needs of researchers and students and demonstrate the resourceful use of energy efficient technology. We will address our use of water, energy, and everyday supplies with thoughtful attention to a combination of local suitability, available technology, and renovation of antiquated facilities.



Support this effort with a donation to the **OTS Greening Campaign** today.

SUPPORT OTS!

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Phone: (919) 684-5774 | www.ots.duke.edu | ots@duke.edu

50th Anniversary Giving Levels:

- \$100 Greening Friends
- \$500 Greening Supporters
- \$1,000 Greening Partners
- \$2,500 Greening Patrons
- \$5,000 Greening Ambassadors
- \$10,000 Greening Champions
- One time gift
- Please spread my gift out over __2__3__5 years

Please Choose Your 50th Anniversary OTS Gift: (Gifts of \$50 or more. For gifts of \$100 or more, please choose two gifts.)

- OTS Calendar
- OTS Bag
- OTS T-shirt: S M L XL XXL

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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. Special thanks to Bethany Giglio, the US Embassy, and Coto Photo for their photography contributions to this publication.



2013: 50TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



Many Thanks

These activities would not have been possible without the generous support of numerous volunteers and donors. Special recognition goes to Julie Denslow our Honorary Chair of the Commemoration, Rodolfo Silva, Honorary Chair of the San José Gala, Giuseppe Tarnero as Chair of the photo exhibit at the Museo Nacional, and each of the Costa Rican Institutions Representatives (CRIC) as co-organizers of the public lectures. In addition, consultants Silvia Perez and Mariana Mora organize the photo exhibit and the gala and spared no efforts on communications, and Andrea Amighetti coordinated the anniversary activities in Costa Rica.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



La OET agradece el apoyo recibido para las actividades del 50 aniversario a: www.oet50.org

¡Gracias por apoyar la misión de OET a favor de los trópicos!