

Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center

News

[Dr. Ricardo Rueda](#) (Ph.D. alum 1993), now with the Herbario, Departamento de Biología, Facultad de Ciencias Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua in León, Nicaragua published a paper (Flora Mesoamericana 4(2), *Rubiaceae a Verbenaceae* Missouri Botanical Garden Press) in which he describes 72 species.

Members of the Harris Center Council and Harris Center faculty and graduate students visited the recently opened [Audubon Center at Riverlands](#) on Saturday, February 18. The Executive Director of the Center, Dr. Patricia Hagen described its mission, work and collaborating organizations and agencies. Dr. Hagen is a member of the Harris Center Scientific Board.

[Drs. Robert Marquis](#), [Patricia Parker](#) and [Patrick Osborne](#) participated in the [Institute for Conservation Medicine](#) Workshop held at the [Saint Louis Zoo](#) from March 14-16. The recently established institute will serve as focal point for conservation medicine in the Midwest region.

The first award of the Jenni Malie Higashiguchi Scholarship was presented to Oyomoare Osazuwa-Peters (Ph.D., [Zanne Lab](#)) at the Department of Biology annual awards ceremony held on March 20. Eloisa Sari (Ph.D., [Parker Lab](#)) received the Raju Mehra Award which recognizes outstanding service to the Department of Biology.

[Gideon Erkenwick](#) (Ph.D., [Parker Lab](#)) will present a poster of his research on the distribution of Goeldi's monkey (*Callimico goeldii*) in Peru at the International Primatological Society Congress in Cancun, Mexico.

David Bogler (PI) and Sandra Arango-Caro (Co-PI, Ph.D. alum 2002) were awarded a National Science Foundation grant to establish a Research Experiences for Undergraduates site at the [Missouri Botanical Garden](#). [The NSF-funded program](#) provides full support for 10 students to work on mentored research projects for 10 weeks during the summers of 2012, 2013, and 2014. The Missouri Botanical Garden program focuses on the areas of plant systematics, conservation biology, and ethnobotany.

External Awards

[Maria W. Pil](#) (Ph.D. candidate, [Ricklefs Lab](#)) received the 2012 [American Society of Naturalists](#) Student Research Award for her dissertation project: *Comparative demography of the West Indian avifauna*.

[Vincenzo Ellis](#) (Ph.D. candidate, [Ricklefs Lab](#)) received Missouri Graduate Research Scholarship from the [Audubon Society of Missouri](#) for his project: *Health and its relation to patterns of abundance and distribution of North American birds*.

Publications

- Baiao, P. and [Parker, P.G.](#) (2012). Evolution of the Melanocortin-1 receptor (MC1R) in boobies and gannets (Aves, Suliformes). *Journal of Heredity*. doi:[10.1093/jhered/esr151](https://doi.org/10.1093/jhered/esr151)
- Chaves, J., [Parker, P.G.](#) and Smith, T.B. (2012). Origin and population history of a recent colonizer, the yellow warbler in Galápagos and Cocos Islands. *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*. doi: [10.1111/j.1420-9101.2011.02447.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1420-9101.2011.02447.x)
- [Ellis, V.A.](#), Merrill, L., Wingfield, J.C., O’Loghlen, A.L. and Rothstein, S.I. (2012). Changes in immunocompetence and other physiological measures during molt in brown-headed cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*). *The Auk*.
- [Levin, I.I.](#), Valkiunas, G., Iezhova, T.A., O’Brien, S.L. and [Parker, P.G.](#) (2012) Novel *Haemoproteus* species (Haemosporida: Haemoproteidae) from the swallow-tailed gull (Lariidae), with remarks on the host range of hippoboscid-transmitted avian hemoproteids. *Journal of Parasitology*. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1645/GE-3007.1>
- [Oberle, B.](#), Beck, J.B., Montgomery, R.A. and Esselman, E.E. (2012). A morphologically intergrading population facilitates chloroplast introgression from diploid to tetraploid *Dodecatheon* (Primulaceae). *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* 168: 91-100.

Upcoming events

[2012 Jane and Whitney Harris Lecture](#)

Dr. [Peter Kareiva](#), Chief Scientist, The Nature Conservancy

Towards a new conservation: Strange bedfellows, broadening the constituency, and rejecting false metaphors

7:30 p.m., Tuesday April 3, 2012

Shoenberg Auditorium, Ridgway Center, Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Boulevard.

This event is FREE and open to the public.

[Consilience Conference](#)

Top researchers will come together this spring to explore evolution in biology, the human sciences and the humanities. [Edward O. Wilson](#), a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, will give the keynote address.

April 26-28, 2012, J.C. Penney Building/Conference Center, University of Missouri-St. Louis.