

DR. GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND RECEIVES WORLD ECOLOGY AWARD

Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland received the World Ecology Award from the International Center for Tropical Ecology at a gala dinner held at the Hyatt Regency on June 27, 2001. The award, presented to Dr. Brundtland by **Mr. Robert R. Hermann**, Chairman of the ICTE's Advisory Board, is given to eminent individuals who have made significant contributions to environmental conservation.

Dr. Brundtland is Director-General of the World Health Organization and former Prime Minister of Norway.



At the dinner, Dr. Brundtland made a passionate plea for more action to limit carbon dioxide emissions and thereby slow the rate of climate change. She stressed that "long term changes in world climate will affect many pre-requisites for health -

sufficient food, safe and adequate drinking water, and secure dwellings. Some of the health impacts will be direct, such as heat-wave or flood related deaths. Others come from disturbance of complex ecological processes, changes in water supply, food availability and patterns of vectors and infectious diseases." She concluded her address with the quote: "Healthy people—healthy planet. Healthy planet—healthy people. It works both ways." The full text of her address can be found on the WHO's web-site: <http://www.who.int/director-general/>.

Bank of America and **Mr. and Mrs. Jack C. Taylor** were gold sponsors of the gala dinner and **Mr. and Mrs. Leo A. Drey**, **The Dula Foundation**, **Fox Family Foundation**, **Hermann Foundation**, **Johnson & Johnson**, **Mr. and Mrs. E. Desmond Lee**, **Sanford N. McDonnell Foundation**, **Merck & Company Inc.**, **The**

Spencer T. & Ann W. Olin Foundation, **Rev. Roy Pfautch** and the **Sackler Family** were silver sponsors. Table sponsors were **The Guaranty Trust Company of Missouri** and the **University of Missouri-St. Louis**. Funds raised at this event will support the activities of the Center and provide research scholarships to UM-St. Louis graduate and undergraduate students studying tropical ecology and conservation biology. The gala dinner was co-sponsored by **World Affairs Council of St. Louis, Inc.**



Dr. Bette Loiselle, Chancellor Blanche Touhill, Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, Mr. Robert R. Hermann and Dr. Patrick Osborne following the presentation of the World Ecology Award to Dr. Brundtland.

This Newsletter describes recent activities of the **International Center for Tropical Ecology**. Established in cooperation with the **Missouri Botanical Garden**, the Center promotes research and education in biodiversity conservation, and the sustainable use of tropical ecosystems. The Center provides an interactive, international environment for graduate education in tropical ecology, evolution, systematics, and conservation. Furthermore, the Center supports undergraduate education in conservation biology, focusing on Missouri and temperate ecosystems. The Center also promotes awareness within the St. Louis community of the importance of conservation and environmentally sustainable policies and practices.



THE CHRISTENSEN FUND ENDOWS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

We are delighted to announce establishment of **The Christensen Fund Fellowship Program in Plant Conservation**. This program has been made possible through a \$2 million endowment from The Christensen Fund, in Palo Alto California. This endowment will eventually provide six, fully-funded, graduate fellowships, research scholarships to support plant conservation research and a visiting scientist program. The program will recruit students with strong leadership potential from Latin America, Africa, Asia and Malesia.

The Christensen Fund is a private, independent institution dedicated to assisting organizations in the arts, natural sciences and education. The Fund was established by Allen D. and Carmen M. Christensen in 1957 and in 1981 expanded its focus to include significant support for basic research in natural history.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

A New Partnership to Enhance Plant Conservation

So, what tugs at your heart strings more? A plump, cuddly looking spectacled bear or a majestic nutmeg tree? Well, put that way, you might actually pause before you answer the question. Programs directed at plant conservation have lagged far behind those aimed at charismatic vertebrates, despite the importance of plants to the integrity of ecological systems and their value to human societies. In tropical regions, where plant communities reach their highest diversity, many species are restricted to small geographic ranges. Furthermore, tropical plants have evolved numerous mutualistic relationships with animals. For example, regeneration of the majority of tropical plant species rely on animals as pollinators and seed dispersers. Likewise, many tropical animals depend on fruit and nectar offered by plants for food. High species richness, localized distributions, and complex interspecific interactions between plants and other organisms, combined with unprecedented rates of habitat loss, produce immense challenges for designing strategies for plant conservation.

The Christensen Fund is working with the **International Center for Tropical Ecology** to address these challenges through the establishment of an endowed graduate fellowship program in the critical area of plant conservation. This program will invest in individuals from tropical countries that have demonstrated potential to tackle tough issues in applied plant conservation. The program will build on existing strengths of the Center, the **Missouri Botanical Garden** and the **Center for Plant Conservation**. Together, we will provide these future conservation leaders with high quality education, excellent resources, and the skills they

need to design and conduct scientific research and translate such research into conservation action or environmental policies. Once the program is in full swing, six Christensen Fund Graduate Student Fellows in Plant Conservation will be in residence at UM-St. Louis and the **Missouri Botanical Garden**. Fellows will be recruited from tropical America, Africa, Madagascar, Asia and Malesia and will participate in formal and informal educational opportunities, including specialized conservation internships and workshops designed to maximize their future effectiveness as conservation leaders and scientists. The program will also provide competitive research scholarships to ICTE student associates in the field of plant conservation and will bring internationally recognized conservation professionals to St. Louis to interact with our students and faculty. The ultimate goal of *The Christensen Fund Fellowship Program in Plant Conservation* is to generate a network of plant conservation scientists in the world's tropical regions with research programs designed to have direct and immediate relevance to conserving plants, their complex interactions, and the habitats and ecosystems in which they occur.

I speak for all of our associates at the ICTE in thanking **The Christensen Fund** for granting us this wonderful opportunity to further plant conservation around the world's tropics. We look forward to working with our partners in the conservation and academic arenas in this endeavor. After all, where would all our cuddly, charismatic tropical vertebrates be without the diversity of wild, exotic plants that house, shelter and feed them?

Bette Loiselle
Director, ICTE



ILENE FOLLMAN RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Professor Douglas Durand, Interim Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs presented the 2001 Distinguished Service Award (unit-based) to **Ilene Follman**, for her volunteer services to the International Center for Tropical Ecology. Ilene joined the ICTE's Development Board in 1994 and in 2000 she initiated "*EarthLinks: Ecology in Transit*", an educational outreach program. EarthLinks has reached more than 600 students in its first year and plans to extend the program are underway. Ilene earned her bachelor's degree in biology and master's degree in international affairs, with an emphasis in conservation biology, from Washington University. She is a master ecologist at the **Missouri Botanical Garden** and a mentor for summer interns at the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies in Colorado. Ilene is a freelance science writer and has led numerous development workshops and given presentations to parents and educators. She has published more than 60 articles, curriculum guides and newsletters.



Ilene Follman receives the Distinguished Service Award from Professor Douglas Durand, Interim Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs. The presentation took place at the Annual Chancellor's Report to the Community Luncheon held at the America's Center on Thursday, May 24, 2001.

CONSERVATION FOOD AND HEALTH FOUNDATION SUPPORTS ICTE INTERNSHIPS

The ICTE has received a grant from the **Conservation, Food and Health Foundation** to support internships as part of the *Graduate Certificate in Tropical Biology and Conservation*. This grant will support the travel and living expenses of graduate students from tropical countries who undertake internships with conservation organizations in developing countries. The ICTE has successfully placed more than fifty students in conservation internships with over thirty institutions such as World Wildlife Fund, Conservation International, Wildlife Conservation Society, The Nature Conservancy, The World Bank, Smithsonian Institution, Costa Rica's National Institute of Biodiversity and CONABIO, the Mexican Commission on Biodiversity.

The **Conservation, Food and Health Foundation** supports programs in three primary areas: conservation, food and health. Conservation grants help to improve ecological and environmental conditions in the developing world. The Foundation supports field research, training, and technical assistance efforts that help conserve viable ecosystems and protect biological diversity in developing countries.

COMPTON FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIPS

The ICTE receives significant support through the Compton Foundation Fellowship Program in Environment and Sustainable Development. This program is designed to contribute to the capacity of developing countries to make informed policy and resource management decisions based on principles of sustainable development and sound science and to promote integration of environment, peace and population issues in graduate level study and research.

Compton Foundation Fellowships in Environment and Sustainable Development for 2001 were awarded to: **Ivan Jiménez** (Colombia), **Tibisay Escalona** (Venezuela), **Rosemary Makano** (Zambia), **Grace Servat** (Peru) and **Miriam Ramos-Escobedo** (Mexico). **Ivan Jiménez** is presently conducting his dissertation research at the world famous Cocha Cashu



Biological Station in Manu National Park in southeast Peru. Ivan's research examines how curassows, large, threatened birds of the New World tropics, make foraging decisions in complex rain forest environments. **Tibisay Escalona** spent the first six months of her Compton Fellowship year in the Caura River Basin of Venezuela with the Ye' Kwana people working on the threatened Terecay turtle. This river turtle is an important source of protein for local communities. Yet, its nesting behavior on riverine beaches make it extremely susceptible to overexploitation. Tibisay's research will help find sustainable ways to harvest turtle meat and eggs. Tiby is now back at UM-St. Louis writing her dissertation. In September she will participate in an international wildlife conservation meeting in Cartagena, Colombia to present results of her research with Ye' Kwana people on the Terecay turtle. **Grace Servat** received a one semester Compton Foundation Fellowship to assist her in completing her dissertation writing. Following completion of her Ph.D. degree in early fall, Grace plans to return to Peru to continue her efforts to conserve and study tropical America's highest elevation forest, the *Polylepis* woodlands, which harbor many endemic species and provide critical sources of wood to local communities living in the high Andes. **Miriam Ramos-Escobedo** received Compton Foundation Fellowship support for her second year in the masters program. Miriam recently completed an internship in Costa Rica that used science and education to empower local communities and resulted in a grassroots campaign and declaration of the Sarapiquí River as Patrimonio Historico Natural. **Rose Makano** used her Compton Foundation Fellowship to collect data in Zambia for her assessment of the impact of the structural adjustment program on the forestry sector in Zambia. Rose is enrolled in the Master of Public Policy Administration and is advised by **Dr. Eduardo Silva**. She recently completed an internship in Washington D.C. working with **Michael Arietti**, Senior Fellow, World Wildlife Fund. Specifically, Rose is working with the Alliance Project, a joint venture between the World Bank and WWF, and is examining how to promote local community participation in biodiversity conservation. Rose has been accepted into the Ph.D. program at UM-St. Louis and on completion of her studies will resume her position as Principal

Planning Officer in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in Zambia.

CONSERVATION FORUM 2001

The fifth annual Conservation Forum will be held at the Living World, Saint Louis Zoo on Thursday, October 4, 2001. **Dr. Jan Salick**, Curator of Economic Botany, Missouri Botanical Garden will present a paper in the evening session: "*Interactions of peoples and plants for conservation.*" **Dr. Barry Chernoff**, Associate Curator and Head, Fishes, Department of Zoology, Field Museum, Chicago will present the keynote paper: "*The fishes, the forest and the floods: Challenges and opportunities for conservation of aquatic ecosystems in South America.*"

Twenty local, national and international conservation organizations will participate in the forum this year with displays and information on their missions, activities and programs. A series of concurrent lectures and talks will be held prior to the keynote session. For more information about how your group can participate, contact Patrick Osborne, Executive Director, ICTE.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS 2001

This year the ICTE awarded over \$28,000 in research scholarships. Scholarship recipients and research topics are listed below.

Parker-Gentry Fellowship

Karina Boege: Ontogenetic variation in plant resistance: consequences for the balance between bottom up and top-down forces on herbivores and plants.

Stokes Family Scholarship in Tropical Conservation

Kathryn P. Huyvaert: Mechanisms of kin recognition and mate choice in waved albatrosses (*Phoebastria irrorata*).

Jane and Stanley Birge Tropical Research Scholarship

Bee Fong Gunn: The phylogeny and biogeography of the Cocoeae (Arecaceae) with emphasis on *Cocos nucifera*.

Jane Harris Scholarship in Tropical Botany

Patrick W. Sweeney: Phylogenetic study of the genus *Garcinia* L. (Clusiaceae), with an emphasis on detecting patterns of floral and breeding system evolution and biogeographic history.



John Denver Memorial Scholarship in Tropical Ecology

Kimberly Holbrook: Seed dispersal ecology and movement patterns of toucans in Amazonia Ecuador.

Stephen Mitchell Doyle Scholarship in Tropical Ecology

Ana Agreda: The effect of the river dynamic on the habitat use and foraging behavior of forest birds restricted to river islands in northeastern Ecuador.

Mallinckrodt Graduate Fellowship in Tropical Ecology

Hyosig Won: Phylogenetic and biogeographic study of *Gnetum* using molecular and morphological characters.

ICTE Development Board Scholarships

Greg Basco: Market, community, and nature: The politics of ecotourism in Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

Carlos Daniel Cadena: Ecology and biogeography of *Buarremon* brush-finches in the Colombian Andes.

Cintia Cornelius: Bird assemblages in fragmented south-temperate rainforests: the effects of isolation on bird species composition and abundance.

Yeshey Dorji: Floristic analysis of *Meconopsis* (Papaveraceae) in Bhutan.

John A. Eimes: Behavioral ecology and genetic relatedness structure of a social wasp (*Mischocyttarus mexicanus*).

Luciana M.S. Griz: Population genetic structure of *Ziziphus joazeiro* (Rhamnaceae), an animal dispersed tree from caatinga dry forest (Brazil).

Kevin D. Matson: Maintenance of immune system function in Hawaii's introduced birds.

major books (including two of the most influential ecology texts), over 200 peer-reviewed articles and 70 other publications and book chapters, his work has been cited some 6,000 times since 1995. Ricklefs' contributions to the field of ornithology and evolutionary ecology include seminal research in community ecology, species diversity and the biology of aging. Ricklefs received a bachelor's degree in biology from Stanford University in 1963 and a doctorate in biology from the University of Pennsylvania in 1967.

Luciana Griz (Ph.D. student) recently published part of her master thesis in the Journal of Tropical Ecology: *Fruiting phenology and seed dispersal syndromes in caatinga, a tropical dry forest in the northeast of Brazil.*

Ken Hiser (MS student) is working on a monograph of the grass genus *Ixophorus* (Poaceae) including Scanning Electron Microscope work to describe its distinctive structures and compare them with related grasses. He is also using molecular techniques to place the genus within the *ndhF* and *trnL* phylogenies generated in the E. Desmond Lee Laboratory. Last year he made collections from fifteen localities in Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Mexico. This represents the entire geographical range of the genus *Ixophorus*. He has completed most of the molecular work and also has plants growing in the greenhouse at UM-St. Louis. He has dissected out inflorescences in various stages of development for SEM work and will also carry out chromosome counts.

Bette Loiselle, John Blake, Kimberly Holbrook (Ph.D. student) and **Sandra Arango** (Ph.D. student) participated in the third International Symposium of Frugivores and Seed Dispersal in Sao Pedro, Brazil. Kimberly presented results in her master's thesis on African hornbills and seed dispersal, while John and Bette described their long-term study of seed dispersal in Costa Rican forests. Sandra presented results from part of her dissertation in a paper entitled *The impact of edges, seed predation, and seedling herbivory on forest regeneration in montane forest fragments (Quindío, Colombia).*

Cintia Cornelius (Ph.D. student) and **Lucio Malizia** (Ph.D. student) co-organized a symposium on forest fragmentation at the first Reunion Binacional de Ecologia for Chile and Argentina in Bariloche, Argentina in April 2001. Both Cintia (from Chile) and Lucio (from Argentina) presented

**NEWS OF FACULTY, STUDENTS,
AND ALUMNI**

Robert Ricklefs, Curators' Professor of Biology, received the 2001 University of Missouri's Presidential Award for Research and Creativity. The award is given in recognition of a sustained effort in nationally or internationally prominent research or creativity. Internationally recognized as one of today's leading ecologists, Ricklefs joined the UM-St. Louis faculty in 1995. The author of six





papers at this symposium. **Bette Loiselle** and **John Blake** described results of their work on forest fragmentation from Costa Rica and Bolivia respectively.

Jaqueline Goerck (Ph.D. UM-St. Louis 1999) is now Director, BirdLife International—Brazil Programme. She reports on the creation, through a federal decree signed by the President of Brazil, of the Ecological Station of Murici. Murici is one of the most important areas for the conservation of biodiversity, and specially for the conservation of many threatened bird species. **BirdLife International**, together with **Sociedade Nordestina de Ecologia**, has collaborated with IBAMA and the Ministry of the Environment in the creation of this ecological station.

Claire Masaya (Dallies) works in Guatemala as an ecotourism consultant and teaches at the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala. She is involved in guide training courses, and also helps with training Peace Corps Volunteers who come to Guatemala. Claire is married and has a 7 month-old daughter, Stephanie.

E. DESMOND LEE AND FAMILY FUND COLLABORATION

The partnership between the **Saint Louis Zoo** and **UM-St. Louis** has been strengthened recently through the unique vision of the **E. Desmond Lee and Family Fund** which, in 2000, provided for the joint appointment of **Dr. Patricia Parker** to the Endowed Chair in Zoological Studies. In summer 2001, members of the Saint Louis Zoo veterinary staff and researchers from UM-St. Louis offered a workshop on avian diseases to members of the **Charles Darwin Research Station** on the Galapagos Islands and conducted a survey of exotic diseases on the islands, all funded by the Des Lee Zoological collaborative. This endowment has also provided the start-up salary for the Field Methods in Tropical Ecology and Conservation Training Program coordinator and project officer, **Dr. Patricia McDaniel**.

NEWS FROM OTS

The Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS) is a consortium whose membership includes UM-St. Louis plus 63 other institutions on four continents. The main mission of OTS is education in tropical biology. The original OTS graduate course, first taught in 1963, was an English language, field

based, research intensive experience in Costa Rica. This course is still taught twice each year as part of a suite of education offerings. Other OTS courses include Spanish language courses in tropical biology in both Costa Rica and Peru, a Portuguese language tropical biology course in Brazil, a new coastal ecology course in Mexico, and professional training courses for managers of conserved lands in Latin America and for decision makers from governments, industry, and the press. OTS also offers specialty and advanced graduate courses plus an undergraduate semester abroad program and summer courses in Costa Rica.

Jim Hunt, UM-St. Louis Professor of Biology and an ICTE associate, has served OTS as a member of its Education Committee since 1995. The 2001 annual meeting of that committee occurred in May 2001 at a novel venue: Kruger National Park, South Africa. The one and one-half day committee meeting was followed by a three and one-half day workshop to discuss inauguration of OTS educational activities in South Africa. More than two dozen workshop participants represented four institutions: OTS, the University of Cape Town, the University of the Witwatersrand (in Johannesburg), and Kruger National Park. The workshop was sponsored by OTS with financial support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. An action plan emerged for the implementation of an OTS undergraduate semester abroad program in South Africa. The program is to be based primarily at Kruger National Park and to be coordinated and instructed by faculty from the two participating South African universities. This initiative opens exciting new horizons for OTS educational programs in the Old World tropics.

For more information on OTS educational programs, check the web site, www.ots.duke.edu. UM-St. Louis students who might like to apply to an OTS course can get guidance and encouragement from **Dr. Hunt** or from the two UM-St. Louis representatives to OTS, **Dr. Victoria Sork** and ICTE Director **Dr. Bette Loiselle**.

VISITORS TO THE ICTE

Dr. Mario Cohn-Haft visited the Center in March and gave a seminar entitled: *A case study in Amazonian biogeography: DNA and vocal variation in tiny green flycatchers that all look alike*. Mario is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Brazilian National Amazonian Research Institute



(INPA) in Manaus, Brazil, where he curates the bird collection as well as teaches graduate level courses. He graduated from Dartmouth College with a BA in biology and did his masters at Tulane University in New Orleans, where he studied dietary specialization of Amazonian forest birds. Last year he completed his Ph.D. at Louisiana State University with a dissertation on Amazonian biogeography and geographic variation in *Hemitriccus* flycatchers. Mario is an excellent ornithologist and not only has been involved in the discovery of several new species of birds but has also been actively involved in avifaunal surveys throughout the Amazon for nearly fifteen years. His research interests involve evolutionary biology and community ecology of Amazonian birds, with emphases on biogeography, systematics, habitat selection, and vocal behavior. He recently joined the ICTE and Department of Biology as Adjunct Assistant Professor, but based in Manaus.

Dr. David S. Mitchell, Professorial Associate with the Johnstone Centre at Charles Sturt University, Albury in New South Wales, Australia visited the Center in March. David completed his Ph.D. through the University of London with a study of the taxonomy, reproduction and ecology of *Salvinia molesta* on Lake Kariba in Zimbabwe. He monitored the explosive growth of this then undescribed weed and developed techniques for the integrated management of this and other noxious aquatic plants. Through studies on artificial lakes in Zimbabwe, David developed protocols for the multipurpose management of artificial lakes including minimizing the impact of aquatic weeds on the use of these reservoirs. In Australia, he has worked to develop a sound ecological basis for the sustainable management of wetland systems and to develop constructed wetlands for low-cost treatment of wastewater. He is currently developing solutions to problems of managing limited water resources that provide adequate supplies to rural landholders while maintaining environmental flows, water quality and protecting aquatic habitats.

2001 JANE AND WHITNEY HARRIS LECTURE

Dr. Deborah Clark, Research Professor in the Department of Biology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis delivered the eleventh annual Jane and Whitney Harris lecture on April 10, 2001 in the Shoenberg Auditorium, **Missouri Botanical**

Garden. Dr. Clark described her long-term study of tree growth in the rain forest surrounding La Selva Biological Station in Costa Rica. This study, spanning twenty years, has demonstrated marked inter-annual variation in tree growth with trunk diameter growth slower during el niño years than in la niña years.

IRACAMBI ATLANTIC RAINFOREST RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION CENTER

The directors of Iracambi Atlantic Rainforest Research and Conservation Center provided the following information of this new research station. Founded in 1999, the Center is well-placed for researchers interested in biodiversity conservation, rural development and land management in the tropical rainforests.

The Iracambi Research Center is situated on a working farm in the Atlantic Rainforest, in the southeast of the State of Minas Gerais. Researchers have access to 200 ha of Iracambi's own forest, as well as another 13,200 ha of adjacent protected forest in the Serra do Brigadeiro State Park. This includes partially logged old growth forest, and succession forests in different stages of regeneration. The Research Center is part of a developing local farming community and there is plenty of scope for social science research.

The Center is open to anyone who wishes to do research on topics within the Center's broadly defined priority areas. Iracambi Research Center can accommodate twenty researchers in three houses, with full board and access to phone, fax and email facilities at the farm office. There is a field lab, a library, a tree nursery, and a system of trails in the adjacent forest.

Researchers are currently investigating pharmacological aspects of rain forest medicinal plants and a team is working on marketing medicinal plants. Taxonomic surveys of birds, mammals and amphibians are underway. A team will be arriving shortly to study vocalization behavior in masked titi monkeys.

More information can be found on the Iracambi website: www.iracambi.com. Contact Iracambi Atlantic Rainforest Research and Conservation Center at: Mail: Fazenda Iracambi, Rosário da Limeira, 36878-000 Minas Gerais, Brazil. Tel: (55-32)-3721-1436; Fax: (55-32)-3722-4909; e-mail: research@iracambi.com.



AMAZON CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

ACEER, the Amazon Center for Environmental Education and Research, is dedicated to the conservation and stewardship of the rainforest through education and research. By providing educational programs for Peruvian students and teachers, supporting rain forest ecology research, and conducting international workshops on rain forest ecology, ACEER is working to improve environmental and economic well-being of Peruvians living in the Amazon. ACEER's research and educational facilities are in the upper Amazon river basin, about 3 hours by boat from Iquitos, and is home to a fantastic 500 m long suspended walkway in the forest canopy, the longest canopy walkway in the New World. ACEER's educational programs include special training for rural and urban teachers, advanced technological training for Peruvian scientists, and technical support for establishment of organic gardening and natural pest control practices in local villages. ACEER is also working with community leaders to reintroduce traditional knowledge of medicinal plants and healing practices in many local villages.

In 1999, ACEER established a partnership with the Organization for Tropical Studies to offer courses in the Amazon targeted for graduate students and young scientists from Latin America.

EARTH LINKS: ECOLOGY IN TRANSIT

In collaboration with the **Missouri Botanical Garden (Litzinger Road Ecology Center)**, **Bi-State Development Agency (Arts in Transit)**, **Missouri Department of Conservation (Confluence Greenway)**, the International Center for Tropical Ecology has coordinated the *EarthLinks-Ecology in Transit* program. More than 600 school children in St. Louis produced transit car placards with a focus on the common trees of the bi-state region.

Also as part of this program, students and faculty in the Art and Art History Department at the University of Missouri-St. Louis developed designs for a bus painting on the theme trees and their environment. The winning design was done by Chris Draper and on Earth Day, Sunday, April 22, 2001 the design was painted onto a Bi-State

MetroBus. ICTE Development Board member **Ilene Follman** has provided the leadership for this project and other members of the project development team are: **Celeste Prussia** (Director, Litzinger Road Ecology Center), **Sarah Smith** (Director, Arts in Transit), **Jennifer Strayer** (Program Manager, Arts in Transit), **Stephanie Grossgloss** (St. Louis Public Schools, Ames Visual and Performing Arts), **Martha Schermann** (Litzinger Road Ecology Center), ICTE Development Board members: **Dudley Grove**, **Irv Logan**, **Matt Moynihan** and **Frank Susman** and ICTE Graduate Student associates **Karina Boege** and **Frank Wolff**.



Graphic design student, Chris Draper with his mother and brother, Michael in front of Chris' award-winning design for the EarthLinks-Ecology in Transit MetroBus.



The EarthLinks-Ecology in MetroBus, painted by ICTE Faculty, Students and Friends on Earth Day 2001 in Forest Park. The design depicts the process of photosynthesis and its vital by-product: oxygen.



RAIN FOREST AMBASSADORS

The International Center for Tropical Ecology has established a Rain Forest Ambassadors program which will place ICTE graduate students from tropical countries into St. Louis K-12 schools to educate the kids about ecology and conservation of tropical ecosystems. The program builds on the highly successful pilot run of *EarthLinks: Ecology in Transit*, which was co-sponsored by the ICTE, Litzinger Road Ecology Center (Missouri Botanical Garden), Missouri Department of Conservation and Arts in Transit of the Bi-State Development Agency.

Our rain forest ambassadors will bring international graduate students with first-hand knowledge of tropical ecosystems into school classrooms. Presentations given by ICTE ambassadors will be multi-media presentations and will include hands-on material for kids to see, feel, and perhaps, even taste! Besides offering core programs in English, rain forest ambassadors will also offer programs to Spanish-language classes in the schools.

STAFF CHANGES AT THE ICTE

Bernadette Dalton, ICTE Secretary, resigned from the Center in May. Bernadette remains with the University of Missouri-St. Louis and is now the Administrative Assistant for the Regional Center for Education and Work in the College of Education. We thank Bernadette for all her hard work with the Center and wish her all the best in her new position.

We are pleased to welcome **Brenda West-Ammons** as the new ICTE Administrative Aide. Brenda can be reached on 516-6203.

We thank all who contributed to this newsletter. Send future contributions to the editor, Patrick L. Osborne, International Center for Tropical Ecology, University of Missouri-St. Louis, 8001 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, MO 63121 (Email: posborne@jinx.umsl.edu; FAX: 314-516-6233). If you do not wish to continue receiving this newsletter, please contact the ICTE office: 314-516-5219, email icte@umsl.edu. For further information on the ICTE you can visit our web site: <http://icte.umsl.edu/>



Susanna Brugada, Jorge Pérez-Emán, David Shores (Chair, ICTE Development Board) and Dr. Chrissy Howell, ICTE Post-Doctoral Associate at the Gala Dinner at which Dr. Gro Brundtland received the World Ecology Award.



Nancy Birge-Osborne, Professor Susanne Renner, Mrs. Val Jacoby (in Norwegian National dress), Mr. Hans Jacoby and Professor Robert Ricklefs at the gala dinner honoring Dr. Gro Brundtland.



Beth Congdon, Mercedes Rouges, Dr. Chrissy Howell, Susanna Brugada, Jorge Pérez-Emán, Rosa Ortiz-Gentry, Lucio Malizia, Tibisay Escalona and Alejandra Caro at the Brundtland gala dinner.



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The International Center for Tropical Ecology gratefully acknowledges the following for their support from July 2000 to June 2001.

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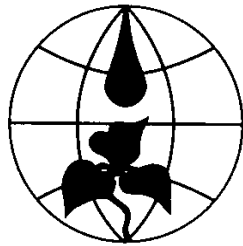
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