



...Education for a Sustainable Future

Executive Director's Message

"An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest." ~Benjamin Franklin

What a difference a year makes. When most of us think back to April, 2008, the world seemed like a different place. Goethe once said, "Everything in the world may be endured except continual prosperity." There is no doubt that we at the Institute, as throughout the Monteverde community and beyond, are affected by the economic slowdown. Some groups have cancelled and others have fewer students participating, but overall we are fortunate.

There is intrinsic value in study abroad. Knowledge may be the only investment these days that still pays high interest. Even when economies are shrinking, parents and Institutions recognize the importance of providing international experiences for students, particularly during a time of global change and challenges. Today, even more than before, it is essential that students gain a global perspective; discuss the issues surrounding sustainability; learn about the pressures placed on our natural resources; and strive for solutions.

We at the Institute, have so much to be glad about. There are so many activities, programs, courses and changes going on at the Institute that they won't all fit on these pages. And, yet, for the Institute to continue to be sustainable, we need to make sure that **our** community, that is, all of you, agrees that educating our future generations is still one of the best investments. To this end we have recently created the MVI Alumni and Supporters Association, alumni@mvinstitute.org and have been updating the Monteverde Alliance, our non-profit 501c3 in the U.S.

We are all Alumni of the Institute in one form or another and, as you well know, every Educational Institution dreams about its future and works to establish an endowment. So please remember, "If you count all your assets, you always show a profit." (Robert Quillen) By clicking at "Give back" at www.mvinstitute.org/alumni-association.html you can make a donation of your time, energy or assets, so that, "we can continue to be the change we want to see".

– Janelle Wilkins

Monteverde Institute
Apartado 69-5655
Monteverde, Puntarenas
Costa Rica

www.mvinstitute.org
Tel: (506) 2645-5053
Fax: (506) 2645-9923

News Bulletin

Monteverde Institute

April 2009

Monteverde Institute's work

MVI is a non-profit organization established in 1986 whose purpose and goal is to promote and increase the knowledge and practice on the sustainable management of resources through education, research and community development. In real terms, this is what we do:

- **Organize and run courses for foreign students** on topics related to sustainability like; culture and history, environment and sustainable development, ecology and tropical biology, and social-economic experiences of the Costa Rican and Monteverde area. <http://www.mvinstitute.org/education.html>
- **Promote field research on topics relevant to Monteverde** like; water resources, public health, sustainable growth, ecotourism and tropical ecology. For example, students from public health course focus their research on topics like nutrition, sexual health, HIV/AIDS and water usage. <http://www.mvinstitute.org/research.html>
- **Work with local institutions, families and other groups from Monteverde.** This includes work with the local Government to project the population growth of the area, &/or work with the Santa Elena Public High School to plan its land use.
- **Dissemination of information** through the John and Doris Campbell Library. This effort includes expanding and converting to a digital format our collections of books, reports and articles in English and Spanish, and offering a computer lab open to the community and students. <http://www.mvinstitute.org/library.html>
- **Provide Community Outreach** projects which seek to supply educational opportunities, for the community and the students., English classes, workshops and lectures are among the various additional community and course activities we offer. <http://www.mvinstitute.org/community.html>



Some of MVI's Team

The Farmer's Market: An opportunity for Exchange

This place is not only the place to purchase your produce and other goods directly from the producers, but for another kind of exchange. Students of Agro Ecology and Environmental Sustainability of the Monteverde Institute have been creating posters and videos about producer's farms.

We have also done research on their farms. This material promotes the



farmer's work, supports local food production and we hope motivates other farmer's in the area to join this communal effort of great social, economic and environmental importance. Contact Patricia Ortiz at fireflytropical@yahoo.com

MVI Associates and Board of Director's Members

MVI is an organization managed by a General Assembly consisting of people from Monteverde and outside the country.

Every year MVI hosts an assembly where board members are chosen who meet every month to oversee and guide MVI's work. Currently our board includes:

Marvin Hidalgo	President
Dev Joslin	Vice-President
Ward Kane	Treasurer
Bob Law	Vocal I
Mills Tandy	Vocal II
Aura Sandí	Substitute
Rafael Arguedas	Fiscal

Currently we are looking to add one or two new members. If you are interested in getting involved with MVI and determining its future, **we encourage you to become an Associate!** You can get in touch with Marlene Leitón (campbell@mvinstitute.org) or with any board member to receive more information.



MVI Staff

MVI staff consists of 16 full time employees plus many others who work with specific programs. Some of them, like Marlene Leitón, have more than 15 years working for the MVI, while others just a few months! We invite you to come and meet us! We'd be happy to chat and exchange information.

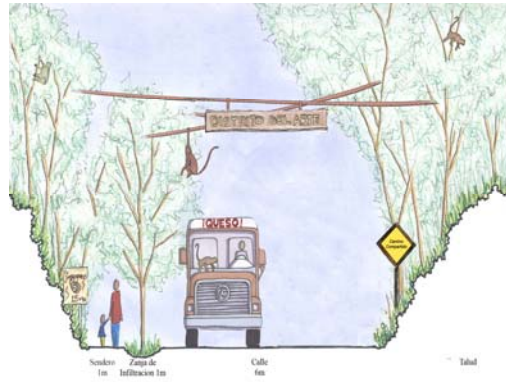
Janelle Wilkins, Executive Director
Claudia Rocha M. - Receptionist; NSF Nutrition Study
Cristina Rubio - Spanish Program Coordinator
Erick Anchía - Maintenance Assistant
Erick McAdam - Course Coordinator; EAP
Evelyn Rockwell - Community Outreach Program; Homestay
Gerardo Rodríguez - Guard
Giselle Salazar - Operations
Maria Antonieta Benavides - Asistente Prog. Educativos
Maricella Solís - Human Resource Administrator & Logistics Coordinator
Marlene Leitón - Library Services Coordinator
Sarah Burbank - Educational Programs Administrator
Seidy Torres - Finance Assistant
Tony Salazar - Maintenance; NSF Nutrition Study
Trinidad González - Guard
Zoraida Brenes - Finance Director

Part-time Staff

Amy Cherwin - Course Coordinator
Ann Cappelli - Instructor; English
Ana Ovares - Instructor; Spanish
Anibal Torres - Course Coordinator; Sustainable Futures Coordinator
Arturo Vargas - Computer Technician
Cristina Navarro - NSF Nutrition Study
Danilo Brenes - Course Coordinator
Ernesto Ruiz - Coordinator NSF Nutrition Study
Federico Chinchilla - Instructor: Tropical Diversity - EAP
Frank Joyce - Course leader and Professor: EAP
Gaudy Picado - Course Coordinator
Greg Goldsmith - PhD. Candidate Biology
Isaura Ortiz - Instructor: Spanish
Jenny Peña - Ass. Coordinator NSF Nutrition Study, Course Coordinator Health
Jim Weil - Anthropology Professor
Jordan Funke - Instructor: English
Justin Welch - Water Resources Program Coordinator; Adopt a Stream Project
Kamila Rakhimova - intern: creator of Alumni & Supporters Association
Lynn Morgan - Sociology Professor
Maria Elena Corrales - NSF Nutrition Study
Marielos Abarca - Instructor: Spanish
Marc Hoffman -intern: multimedia creator
Mark Wainwright - Instructor; Biology; Course Coordinator
Michael Perkins -volunteer: data base organizer
Patricia Ortiz - Instructor; Biology & Agroecology
Rafael Elizondo - Course Coordinator
Ronald Rojas - Quickbooks Advisor
Sofia Arce - Instructor: Biology
Yanni Sanmiguel - Web Designer
Yishai Weinstein - Instructor: English

Sidewalks Project

Sustainable Futures Program (SFP) is pleased to announce the beginning of the *Sidewalks Project*, section Santa Elena—Cerro Plano. In the following weeks engineers will be doing all the survey work to precede with our plan designs and subsequent work. This initiative has been developed with the collaboration of the “Colegio de Ingenieros y Arquitectos” and the local government.



SFP would also like to add that we are following with our project, *Green Ways*, section Cheese Factory-Monteverde Reserve. We anticipate to work with at least two groups this year building &/or improving pedestrian paths. **Perhaps you would like to join us!!!!**

If you would like to hear more &/or join one of the activities please contact [Anibal Torres Leitón](mailto:Antibal.Torres.Leiton@mvinstitute.org)
antorres@mvinstitute.org

MORE!!!

* John and Doris Campbell Library

In cooperation with the Community Outreach Program MVI's library started offering a monthly workshop on basic computer skills to homestay moms from La Cruz and Cañitas. Anxious and eager, all 19 participants started for the first time learning how to use a computer. With Jordan Funke's guidance and Marlene Leitón and Evelyn Rockwell's assistance, we are having great fun!

MVI's digital library projects will continue this June. The documents created through the Public Health Course at MVI will become the newest addition to our public access library collection. We welcome once again, Laurie Kutner, Librarian at the University of Vermont and two Internship students, Cindy Dykes and Stephanie Havelka. For any questions please contact [Marlene Leitón](mailto:Marlene.Leiton@mvinstitute.org) campbell@mvinstitute.org



Library Hours: **Monday - Friday, from 8 am to 5 pm.** Come and learn!

** Mt Holyoke & Goucher Course

This year, for the first time, the Monteverde Institute offered a complete semester set of multidisciplinary courses. Twenty-three college students from Goucher and Mount Holyoke participated in a program called Global-Local Challenges to Sustainability. All were enrolled in Spanish (at one of four levels), Environmental Sustainability, and Development and Social Change in Costa Rica. They also chose between two research methods courses, one in the natural and the other in the social sciences. With the many field trips—including one to Nicaragua—home stays, and various extracurricular activities, they had a total immersion experience. Course professors: Jim Weil, Lynn Morgan, Cristina Rubio & Patricia Ortiz.

Interested in More Info.? ...SURE!!

Some Publications about MVI. Check these websites: <http://eecl.ucdavis.edu/news/news-archives/monteverde/> or <http://strobist.blogspot.com/2009/01/on-assignment-monteverde-institute.html>

NEW Alumni & Supporters Association.

Kamila Rakhimova is creating an association that will help MVI's friends keep in touch and continue supporting projects. Contact info: alumni@mvinstitute.org

English Classes. Since September 2007 we have offered and held English classes for community members. New enrollment coming shortly! For more information contact Evelyn Rockwell, erockwell@mvinstitute.org

IWRP. In 2009, the Integrated Water Resource Program (IWRP) will work with the Monteverde communities on monitoring local stream health, the Program Bandera Azul Ecológica, and will host interns from Monteverde, the USA and the Netherlands. Contact info: jcwelch@mvinstitute.org.

Research on how Tourism has Impacted family's Nutrition. This is a 3 year research study funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation in conjunction with the University of South Florida, to study diet and nutrition of local families from San Luis to Santa Elena. Ernesto Ruiz emruiz@mail.usf.edu or Jenny Peña, jennyp@mvinstitute.org.

New Internet Page: www.mvinstitute.org (Soon in Spanish!). Janelle Wilkins jwilkins@mvinstitute.org

Spanish Classes. Various level classes are offered to Monteverde residents and foreigners. Cristina Rubio, crubiorey@mvinstitute.org.

SOON...

Film projects on Agroecology by Mt. Holyoke & Goucher group available at MVI's Library for public use.