



Educación para un futuro sostenible...

Executive Director's Message

I would like to express my gratitude for the warm welcome which I have always received from this community, but especially since I took over the position as the new Director of the Monteverde Institute. My daughter, Natalia and I have been coming to Monteverde for the last 13 years, but generally for only a few months in winter. I worked with the Institute when I brought groups from the University of Denver, where I am from, and over the years became acquainted with many of the wonderful people who work here. Our ties in Monteverde have become stronger with the passing of time and when the opportunity to work at the Institute opened up I jumped at the chance and, fortunately, I was offered the position. It is my pleasure to join the Institute at this time of growth and optimism as we look toward the future. Noemi did an admirable job during her time here and thanks to her efforts several programs are now up and running, like the Integrated Water Resources Program and the first semester long College program that will begin in January of 2009. We said "good-bye" to Ruth Salas and her investigations of "Chagas", but we welcome Greg Goldsmith from Berkeley who is conducting exciting new studies in the canopy.

I arrived at MVI during the height of high season when the Institute was full of students and activities. Now the classrooms are empty, but the offices are as busy as ever, planning for next year when we hope to have more classes, more community activities and more information available to everyone through the digital library program. But, as with all things, change is inevitable, so it is with sadness that we say good-bye to Shirley Murillo the Director of Educational Programs. As you know, her husband, Carlos Muñoz, was accepted into a program at Tufts University in the States, and thus the entire family will now reside in Boston. Therefore, in recognition of her exceptional work and support during the past five years at MVI, I would like to dedicate this news bulletin to Shirley. Vaya con Dios.

– Jannelle Wilkins

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News Bulletin

Monteverde Institute

October 2008

What is the Monteverde Institute (MVI)?

Even though the Institute has been working in Monteverde since 1986, many people still do not know what the Institute is and what it does. MVI is a non-profit organization 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Community Outreach** which seeks to provide education opportunities, like English classes, to local residents. Evelyn Rockwell, who is also in charge of the homestay program is heading up this program. For more information contact Evelyn at erockwell@mvinstitute.org.



Part of MVI's Team

2008 Courses

This year MVI operated 21 International courses, with a total of 344 students and 469 course days. Of these courses, 9 included homestay providing a total of 251 nights with families. For next year, 2009, the MVI will start a new semester course (January to May) in which students will be spending 13 weeks with families.

MVI worked with the following Schools and Universities:

IFSA-Butler College • Evergreen State College • Skidmore College • Antioch New England Graduate School • University of California EAP • Honesdale High School • Rollins College • Washington State University • Ball State University • Cultural Studies Abroad • Sustainable Futures • University of Missouri • Oak Park and River Forest High School • University of South Florida • Bank Street College School of Education • Central Connecticut State University • Boston College.

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:

Tim Sales	President
Dev Joslin	Vice-President
Marvin Hidalgo	Treasurer
Alvaro Salazar	Vocal
Ward Kane	Vocal
Aura Sandi	Substitute
Bob Law	Fiscal

If you are interest 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 18 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, like Justin Welch, 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
Anibal Torres - Course Coordinator; Sustainable Futures Coordinator
Claudia Rocha M. - Receptionist
Cristina Rubio - Spanish Program Coordinator
Ernesto Ruiz - Coordinator NSF Nutrition Study
Erick Anchia - Maintenance Assistant
Erick McAdam - Course Coordinator; EAP
Evelyn Rockwell - Community Outreach Program; Homestay
Gerardo Rodríguez - Guard
Giselle Salazar - Operations
Jenny Peña - Ass. Coordinator NSF Nutrition Study, Course Coordinator Health
Justin Welch - Water Resources Program Coordinator; Adopt a Stream Project
Maricella Solís - Human Resource Administrator & Logistics Coordinator
Marlene Leitón - Library Services Coordinator
Sarah Burbank - Educational Programs Administrator
Seidy Torres - Finance Assistant
Tony Salazar - Maintenance
Trinidad González - Guard
Zoraida Brenes - Finance Director

Part-time Staff

Ann Cappelli - Instructor; English
Ana Ovares - Instructor; Spanish
Arturo Vargas - Computer Technician
Cristina Navarro - NSF Nutrition Study
Daniel Ridgeway -Volunteer
Federico Chinchilla - Instructor Tropical Diversity - EAP
Gaudy Picado - Course Coordinator
Greg Goldsmith - PhD. Candidate Biology
Isaura Ortiz - Instructor; Spanish
Jim Weil - Professor Anthropology
Jordan Funke - Instructor; English
Maria Elena Corrales - NSF Nutrition Study
Marielos Abarca - Instructor; Spanish
Mark Wainwright - Course Coordinator and Instructor; Biology
Patricia Ortiz - Instructor; Biology, & Agroecology
Ramsa Chaves - Instructor; Biology
Rita Vargas - Instructor; Spanish
Ronald Rojas - Quickbooks Advisor
Yanni Sanmiguel - Web Designer

Adopt a Stream Project

In February 2008 a new project was launched to monitor the cleanliness of the watersheds of the "Cuenca," "Maquina" and "Sucia" streams. Every month local students visit these watersheds to take samples and check for the physical, chemical and biological qualities of the water. Justin Welch, MSc. is the project coordinator. You will often find him on the banks of the streams with his rubber boots and students surrounding him. The schools and high schools that work with him are: Santa Elena High School, the Friends School, the Adventist School, the Creative Learning Center and the *Juniors Rangers*.

If you would like to hear more &/or join one of the group activities please call Justin at MVI or email him jwelch@mvinstitute.org



Justin Welch with a student group

New...& News!

English Classes. Since September 2007 we have offered and held English classes for community members. Come and join or visit. Please tell friends and neighbors. Fall courses are finishing up, but new enrollment will begin in 2009. For more information contact Evelyn Rockwell, erockwell@mvinstitute.org

Research on how Tourism has Impacted family's Nutrition. 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. Jenny Peña, jennyp@mvinstitute.org.

New Internet Page: www.mvinstitute.org (Soon in Spanish!).

Janelle Wilkins jwilkins@mvinstitute.org

Sustainable Futures Program. Mapping of sidewalks and trails, particularly from the gas station to the cheese factory. One new section of the path was built with the help of Central Connecticut State College. Soon to be unveiled the plan for MVI Campus expansion. Ongoing with with AyA, and others. Anibal Torres, antorres@mvinstitute.org.

Digital Library. Promoting access to information from the Campbell Library through our webpage; this years theme: water resources. Marlene Leitón, campbell@mvinstitute.org

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

Future MVI expansion plan

Stage One: Development of the master plan for the Campus and the harvesting of the mature pine trees behind the Institute for the protection of the current buildings and to provide economic support for future growth. Janelle Wilkins jwilkins@mvinstitute.org

SOON....

Cultural shock workshop for homestay families.

Informal interviews on educational interests families and MVI associates have: courses, workshops, talks and other activities?

Campbell Library: opened for community use and MVI students. **Monday - Friday, from 8 am to 5 pm.** Computer lab with fast internet connection and various programs for a minimum cost. Come and Visit Us!



Marlene Leitón Campbell
Library Service Coordinator