

The University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies &
The Tropical Conservation and Development Program proudly present

The Bacardi Lecture Series
Envisioning a Sustainable Tropics

***Conservation of Amazon River
Dolphins in a Sustainable Use
Protected Area***

Vanessa Mintzer

2014 Schmink Outstanding Dissertation Awardee &
Conservation Fellow, Galveston Bay Foundation

Abstract

Since the mid-1990's, the Amazon River dolphin (*Inia geoffrensis*), also known as the boto, has been illegally harvested for use as bait to catch the catfish *Calophysus macropterus*. Vanessa will discuss the use of an interdisciplinary approach to identify conservation strategies for the boto with a specific focus on determining if protected areas (PAs) are an effective tool. Her work took place in and around the Mamirauá Sustainable Development Reserve (MSDR) in the Brazilian Amazon, where the boto population has been monitored since 1994. She will also discuss the impact of the harvest on the MSDR boto population, an overview of how botos utilize the MSDR floodplain, and an assessment of the MSDR fishermen attitudes and behaviors toward botos.

Bio

Dr. Vanessa J. Mintzer completed her doctorate in interdisciplinary ecology at the School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE) in December 2013. She received in 2014 the Marianne Schmink Award for Outstanding Dissertation in Tropical Conservation and Development. Her prior education includes a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from the SNRE (2004) and a Master in Environmental Management from the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University (2006). She recently began working with Galveston Bay Foundation again as a Research and Conservation Fellow and is focusing her time on establishing an interdisciplinary dolphin research and conservation program in Galveston Bay.



February 19 @ 10:40 am
Grinter Hall, Room 376

Light refreshments to follow the Lecture