TCD Director’s Note

While this is a transitional year in terms of leadership, the TCD program continues to evolve and innovate. Our new Masters in Development Practice (MDP) expands on the interdisciplinary foundation of the TCD certificate program. This new degree program solidifies a partnership with African Studies which we have been developing over the past several years.

MDP builds on TCD’s strengths integrating social and biophysical sciences, and systematizes the management competencies addressed by the TCD skills courses. Health Sciences is now an included discipline, and we are pleased to welcome new faculty member, Rick Rheingans, who specializes in infectious disease and environmental health hazards in developing countries. MDP will be recruiting a director and specialist in development administration this year.

We also continue to innovate in field courses, with a new Field School being developed in Botswana as part of MDP and a new Specialization Course underway in partnership with the State University of Mato Grosso, Brazil. Both of these apply TCD hallmarks of an integrated approach to conservation and development, engagement of a mix of academics and local stakeholders, and strong partnerships with local institutions.

TCD is branching into exciting new directions as a result of the efforts and entrepreneurship of our outstanding faculty. Rick Stepp is participating in a new UF partnership with Minzu University that is dedicated to education and livelihood improvement of the more than 56 ethnic groups in China; Karen Kainer and Jon Dain have developed a TIES program with CITRO at the University of Veracruz, Mexico (and are spending this academic year there); and Claudia Romero and Jack Putz are developing partnerships on climate change adaptation with Rhodes University and others in southern Africa.

Through our international collaborations, we regularly host a wealth of international exchange visitors who enrich our community. We have already welcomed Zulema Lehm from Bolivia (ACLI visitor), Mayra Villar-Buoz and Esli Zurita from Mexico (TIES), as well as Mishari Garcia from Peru and Marliz Arteaga from Bolivia (USAID M-P consortium, led by Steve Perz). We await faculty and professional exchanges from Acre and Mato Grosso later this year.

It is an exciting time to be part of TCD and I look forward to collaborating with the Steering Committee, faculty, alumni and students this year.

Robert Buschbacher, TCD Interim Director
LAS Annual Conference
Bridging Conservation and Development in Latin America and Africa: Changing Contexts, Changing Strategies

Gainesville, FL
January 28-30, 2010

The conference brought together scholars and practitioners from Europe, Africa, and North and South America. Over 200 people from 45 different institutions attended the three-day event. The contrasting cultural, ecological, and institutional characteristics of African and Latin American realities have led to a range of development and conservation experiments at diverse scales, providing rich opportunities for analysis, comparison, and learning.

The conference consisted of three sessions, focusing on the changing contexts and the changing strategies of conservation and development in Latin America and Africa and on training and capacity-building. Based on the dynamic discussions from the conference, the organizers will edit a special issue of the open-access journal Ecology and Society to share the emerging lessons and themes with a broad audience.

This conference was the 59th Annual Conference of the Center for Latin American Studies and the 26th Annual Center for African Studies Gwendolen M. Carter Lectures. It was organized by TCD faculty and students, with additional support from a Mellon–LASA (Latin American Studies Association) Seminars grant, the UF International Center, the UF Office of Research, and the U.S. Department of Education’s Title VI National Resource Center Program.

Contributed by J.G. Collomb, TCD / SNRE

Following the conference, TCD students, faculty and alumni gathered at a banquet held in honor of Marianne Schmink, who stepped down as Director of the TCD program at the end of spring 2010.
Schmink Fund for Innovation in Tropical Conservation and Development

The Schmink Fund for Innovation in Tropical Conservation and Development was established in June 2009 to strengthen and sustain the impact of the TCD Program. Dr. Marianne Schmink, a co-founder and long-time TCD Director, created the Fund through an initial gift with the goal of fostering a permanently endowed source of funds. Consistent with her years of commitment and creativity in establishing and directing the TCD program, Dr. Schmink has pledged to match the first $15,000 over a period of 5 years in contributions to the Fund on a one-to-one basis.

The Schmink Fund seeks to ensure the long-term impact of TCD around the world by catalyzing new applications and connections. Specifically, it will support the development and application of innovative approaches and programs to address the complex and interrelated problems of human well-being, economic development, and biodiversity conservation for inhabitants of tropical and subtropical regions. The Schmink Fund will complement the on-going successful campus and field-based TCD activities at the University of Florida both by fostering new ideas and applications and by enabling shared learning throughout the tropics.

*If you would like to donate to the Schmink Fund please access:*

http://www.tcd.ufl.edu/schmink_fund.shtml

Tastes of the Tropics raises nearly $500 for the Schmink Fund

The TCD Student Group’s 2nd Annual Tastes of the Tropics raised funds for the Schmink Fund for Innovation in Tropical Conservation and Development. Nineteen students volunteered to cook dishes from their home country or research site for 85 attendees. Marlene Soriano’s dish received first prize and Ana Carolina C. Silva’s received second. Thanks to donations from local businesses, they both received great prizes.

Thanks to everyone who made this event a success!
NEW Tropical Conservation & Development Practicum (LAS 6940)

The goal of the new TCD Practicum is to provide students with supervised practical experience to build their skills and confidence in applied, professional work in tropical conservation and development. The practicum will be a service-oriented activity beyond the normal research and teaching activities required by the student’s department.

Some examples of activities that can count towards the Practicum are: organization of a workshop; conference symposium or learning community; internships; supervision and advising of an undergraduate researcher; outreach in public schools; media and communications projects; convening stakeholders for decision-making; production of a policy brief or a training manual; among other possibilities.

Students may apply to the TCD Practitioner Experience program to compete for funding to support their proposed practicum. For more information please see the curriculum information available online at www.tcd.ufl.edu.

Workshop on Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) for Pineapple in Costa Rica

Silvia Alvarez, PhD student from SNRE & Biology, was the first student to conduct a TCD Practicum in 2009 “Investigating a new environmental label as a tool for sustainable production in Costa Rica”. She collaborated with Wes Ingwersen (local partner) and four students from the UF/University of Costa Rica Conservation Clinic to develop a workshop (to a diverse group of stakeholders) to introduce the concepts and processes involved in an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) for pineapple in Costa Rica.

“ It was eye opening to talk to farmers and try to understand THEIR part of the story.... The problem is very deep and complex and it really made me think about the role of science in environmental protection.” Silvia Alvarez

TCD alumnus Franklin Paniagua also participated in the workshop in Costa Rica.
TCD Graduates 2009/2010

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Degree</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diana Alvira</td>
<td>SNRE</td>
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<td>Simone Athayde</td>
<td>SNRE</td>
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<td>Wendy-Lin Bartels</td>
<td>SNRE</td>
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<td>Trent Blare</td>
<td>FRE</td>
<td>MS</td>
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<td>Renee Bullock</td>
<td>Geography</td>
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<td>Felipe Carvalho</td>
<td>Fisheries</td>
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<td>Pedro Constantino</td>
<td>SNRE</td>
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<td>Willandia Didier</td>
<td>WEC</td>
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<td>Amy Duchelle</td>
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<td>Jean Emptaz-Collomb</td>
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<td>Tatiana Gumucio</td>
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<td>Christie Klimas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Kowler</td>
<td>SNRE</td>
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<td>Leonardo Martinez</td>
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<td>Ricardo Mello</td>
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<td>Brian Nelson</td>
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<td>Ana Carolina Silva</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosa Cossio Solano</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marlene Soriano</td>
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<tr>
<td>Claudia Sticker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joanna Tucker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tracy Van Holt</td>
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TCD Student Spotlight

Jennifer Arnold, fourth year PhD student in SNRE/TCD, came to UF with experience in community organizing, conservation planning, and participatory research. Over the years, she has worked with indigenous groups in Ecuador, Nigeria and the southwestern US, collaborating with community leaders to organize cultural and educational events that highlight local knowledge. As a botanist and grazing management specialist, she was drawn to TCD’s interdisciplinary focus on conservation and agriculture and the program’s strong commitment to community-based research and participatory methods.

Jennifer’s Ph.D. research examines conflicts over livestock grazing, endangered species management, water quality, and riparian function in a National Forest in the southwestern US. She has worked closely with a group of proactive ranchers to build their capacity to engage in dialogue with other stakeholders, despite a long history of conflict in the area. She helped to organize and facilitate a series of workshops designed to bring diverse stakeholders together to learn from each other.

The TCD Collaboration and Conflict Management course was co-taught by Jennifer and Jon Dain in Spring 2010 and she is currently an instructor with the IFAS Natural Resources Leadership Institute. Jennifer is an excellent advocate for TCD and encourages students to increase involvement to get the most out of their TCD experience!
The University of Florida Amazon Conservation Leadership Initiative (ACLI) works to build capacity for science and conservation in the Andes-Amazon region. The program, coordinated by Bob Buschbacher and administered by the Center for Latin American Studies/TCD and the School of Forest Resources and Conservation, has complementary goals of training individuals at UF and building in-country capacity. It is supported by a grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

In July 2010, as part of the regionwide component of the ACLI Program, an interdisciplinary group of UF researchers and students, as well as Brazilian university professors, NGO practitioners and state and local government officers, initiated a two-year Graduate Course on “Collaborative Management of Complex Social-Ecological Systems in the Brazilian Amazon”, accredited by the Brazilian Ministry of Education. The course is held in Mato Grosso state, in the southern Brazilian Amazon. It involves training, research and experiential learning to face the challenge of reconciling conservation and development through the collaborative management of natural resources.

We are developing an innovative experience in combining theories and methods from complex socio-ecological systems, social learning and research-action for the collaborative management of socio-ecological systems in the Amazon. The course is organized in four modules integrated with research and training activities developed by the participants between the modules.

A first training course was held in Alta Floresta (a small town in Mato Grosso) in 2009, which triggered the development of this two-year graduate course integrated with research projects in partnership with the Brazilian University UNEMAT (Universidade do Estado do Mato Grosso), Instituto Centro de Vida (ICV, a Brazilian NGO), SEMA-MT (Mato Grosso State Environmental Agency) and the Municipality of Cotriguaçu-MT. The participants of the course, including three UF students, represented diverse institutional backgrounds, areas of expertise and professional experiences in the Amazon region. The course was coordinated by Bob Buschbacher (UF), Rosane Seluchinesk (UNEMAT/Brazil), Simone Athayde (UF), Wendy-Lin Bartels (UF) and Renato Farias (ICV/Brazil).

For more information: http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/ACLI/index.htm
TCD Alumni News & Notes

2009/2010 Marianne Schmink Award for Outstanding Dissertation in Tropical Conservation and Development

We are pleased to announce that Tracy Van Holt is the inaugural recipient of the Marianne Schmink Award for the Outstanding Dissertation in Tropical Conservation and Development. The selection committee for the Schmink Award was composed of Emilio Bruna (WEC/LAS), Suzana Padua (TCD alumna) and Rick Stepp (Anthropology /LAS).

Tracy completed her dissertation in Interdisciplinary Ecology under the supervision of Michael Binford (Geography) and H. Russell Bernard (Anthropology). Her dissertation was entitled “The influences of landscape change on the nearshore ecosystem in southern Chile.” The selection committee was impressed by the scope and multidisciplinary nature of the dissertation, the close collaboration with stakeholders ranging from government agencies to fisheries cooperatives, and the way in which the dissertation fulfilled the TCD mission. Throughout her tenure at UF, Tracy was a dynamic member of the TCD community, a dedicated and innovative teacher, a prolific fundraiser, and a role model for her fellow students. Her research, approach, and dedication honor the legacy of TCD and Marianne Schmink. Tracy is now an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at East Carolina University.

Dr. Van Holt, who is now an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at East Carolina University, will be presenting a seminar at a future date in the Center for Latin American Studies’ Colloquium Series.

TCD Alumna Received Award at International Conference

Simone Athayde, recent TCD and SNRE alumna, was awarded the First Prize for Alternative Format Presentation by the International Society of Ethnobiology, during the 12th International Congress of Ethnobiology held in Tofino, Canada in May 2010. Simone organized a workshop along with Elaine Sponholtz, an artist who also recently earned a Masters Degree in Digital Arts and Science from the Digital Worlds Institute at UF.

In the workshop, “Playing with Amazonian Myths: a Workshop on Interactive Storytelling Applied to the Education of Ethnobiology,” Simone and Elaine used techniques for involving the audience or students in the process of storytelling, focusing on Amazonian indigenous myths. Most of the myths were collected by Simone from Kaiabi and Yudjá peoples in the Brazilian Amazon. Some of the techniques used were: role play, musical instrument performance, movies, masks, drawing, playing with characters and story telling. The workshop also included multimedia demonstrations using augmented reality and digital 3D images in a computer-book platform. The myths included in the workshop were also discussed with the participants in terms of their spiritual and cosmological significance for indigenous peoples, as well as their interpretation according to western science theories.
**Upcoming events ...**

**Lecture**

“Working through environmental conflict: The collaborative learning approach”

By Dr. Steven Daniels, Professor in the Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Anthropology; and in the Department of Environment and Society at Utah State University.

*When: November 17 at 9:30 am
Where: Reitz Union Auditorium 282
Who: open to public*

**Workshop**

“Researching participatory processes for natural resource management”

By Dr. Steven Daniels, Professor in the Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Anthropology; and in the Department of Environment and Society at Utah State University.

*When: November 18 at 9 am
Where: Grinter Hall 376
Who: open to graduate students; space limited (contact psampaio@ufl.edu if interested in participating)*

*Sponsored by TCD and UF’s Water Institute*

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**Masters in Development Practice (MDP) Director Search**

The MDP program is searching for a second faculty position in Development and Administration. We are looking for someone with extensive practitioner experience in Latin America and who will also serve as the Director of the MDP program. To apply for the position please contact Prof. Marianne Schmink, Chair of the Director Search Committee (Schmink@latam.ufl.edu). **Applications will start to be reviewed by November 30, 2010.**

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**Tropical Conservation and Development Program**

**Center for Latin American Studies**

University of Florida

343 Grinter Hall
Gainesville, FL 32611
Phone: 352-273-4734
Fax: 352-392-7682
E-mail: tcd@ufl.edu
Webpage: www.tcd.ufl.edu