



Centre ValBio Newsletter

September 2024

CVB News

Fulbright Scholar: Dr. Beatriz Otero Jiménez

Dr. Beatriz Otero Jiménez has been selected as a Fulbright Scholar. The Public Affairs Officer of the U.S. Embassy in Madagascar congratulated Dr. Otero Jiménez on September 10th before she launched her expedition in Ivohiboro Community Protected Area. She is studying landscape ecology including the genetics, demography, and conservation of lemurs.

Dr. Otero Jiménez has conducted research in Madagascar with MICET and Centre ValBio since 2019 as a Stony Brook University post-doctoral fellow. She holds an M.S. and a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.



Photo Credit: U.S. Embassy Madagascar

Update from the Field: Target Species Found

Sarah Vaccaro (Ph.D. candidate) and her research team found one of their two target species: *Microgale talazaci*. It is one of the largest species of shrew tenrecs. Literature suggests the species may be more

sensitive to human-induced disturbance than its sister species, *Microgale dobsoni*. Sarah and her team are trying to identify which species will be most resilient to human-induced disturbance such as deforestation and climate change.



Photo Credit: Sarah Vaccaro

Forest Restoration in Action

CVB introduced an innovative forest restoration initiative this month. The project's aim is to reconnect the Ambarimena Forest fragment to the Ranomafana National Park (RNP) by working with local communities.



CVB's Restoration Ecology and Environmental Education departments organized a two-day training course for 35 local landowners and members of CVB Conservation Clubs. Lessons included reforestation techniques, biodiversity value, and conservation efforts.

The grand finale was trekking through the forest of RNP. For 60% percent of the participants, this was the first time they had been inside the Park. They told us they were in awe of the forest's peace, coolness, and lemurs.

Photo credit: Odon Fabrice Rasolomampionona

Dr. Patricia Wright Meets Director General of MNP

Dr. Patricia Wright met with Ony Rakotoarisoa, the Director General of Madagascar National Parks (MNP), to congratulate her on her new position, discuss the future canopy walkway in Ranomafana National Park, and introduce further collaboration ideas. Benjamin

Andriamihaja, the ICTE Country Director, and Shin Shin Hsia, CVB's Chief Operating Officer, were also present.



Photo credit: Dr. Patricia Wright

SBU Student Presents Research at ASP Meeting in Mexico

Stony Brook University undergraduate Leah Schwarz presented her research at the American Society of Primatologists (ASP) 2024 meeting in Mexico on "Infanticide leading cause of infant mortality in endangered lemur, *Propithecus edwardsi* in Ranomafana National Park, Madagascar." Leah was awarded a URECA mini grant to present her research.

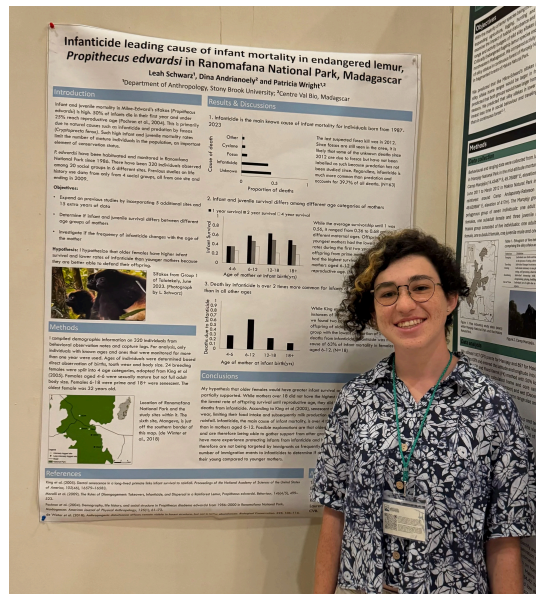


Photo credit: Dr. Patricia Wright

Retirement of CVB's National Director

This month marks the retirement of Pascal Rabeson. As CVB's national director since 2015, Pascal has been responsible for overseeing the internal workings of CVB. He came to CVB in 1993 as a biodiversity expert in endemic fish, ants, and GIS.

“I am a person who likes challenges,” he said. “To me, life is full of problems, and finding solutions is something that makes me happy.” He has been an anchor at CVB, and we are grateful for his wisdom and fairness. We wish him the best in his retirement.



Photo credit: Melanie Formosa

Coming Up: New Documentary Release

A new documentary titled *Ivohiboro: the Forgotten Forest* follows Dr. Patricia Wright and an international team of researchers from at least seven countries as they embark on a 30-day scientific exploration of biodiversity in a newly discovered rainforest in the High Plateau.

The 90-minute film will be broadcasted on October 7th at 9:05 p.m. on France 5 and France.TV.

Haut et Court Doc et France télévisions
ont le plaisir de vous inviter
à la projection du documentaire

IVOHIBORO LA FORÊT OUBLIÉE

Un film de Laurent Portes et Fitzgerald Jego
Écrit par Gautier Dubois et Laurent Portes

JEUDI 3 OCTOBRE 2024 À 19H30
AU CINÉMA LE BRADY
39 bd de Strasbourg, 75010 Paris

En présence du Dr. Patricia Wright
Directrice du centre de recherche Val Bio, Madagascar
Professeur à l'Université de Stony Brook, New York

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Apply for Winter 2025 Study Abroad

Applications for the [Winter 2025 Study Abroad Program](#) (January 2nd–24th) are now being accepted until November 1st. The program is open to all undergraduate students, not only those enrolled at Stony Brook University. Contact Patricia Paladines for more information:

patricia.paladines@stonybrook.edu



Photo credit: Franck Rabenahy

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Program Coordinator](#)

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