

**OTS RECOGNIZES
DR. ALICE BOYLE**
WITH
**2010 OUTSTANDING
STUDENT
PAPER AWARD**



PHOTO BY H. LUMPKIN



PHOTO BY A. BOYLE

Members of the OTS Assembly of Delegates have announced the winner of the 2010 Outstanding Student Paper Award for excellence in research. The announcement drew a great pool of remarkable submissions, representing five OTS consortium members. Selection of the winning submission was based on the following criteria:

1. Quality of research
2. Relevance of the work to the mission of OTS
3. Broader impacts, including education and potential benefits to society.

The nominees represented a variety of research approaches and interests but in the end, the committee selected Dr. Alice Boyle as the winning entry.

Dr. Boyle's paper presents her empirical study on the mechanisms that explain the evolution of bird migration. A North American calendar can be set by the birds, spring proceeds from warblers to tanagers to orioles, fall from shorebirds to hawks to waterfowl, predictable, fascinating, and bewildering. Why do birds migrate? Dr. Alice Boyle has considered the question by studying altitudinal migrants in the Cordillera Central of Costa Rica. These species migrate across short distances, but cover thousands of meters of elevation. Boyle found evidence that dietary restrictions drive the movement of these species from one place to the next. Her project is exceptional in being among the first to experimentally test competing hypotheses of the causes of bird migration.

Honorable mention awards were given to Natalie Clay from Colby College and Yimen Araya from the Universidad de Costa Rica. Both of these students were undergraduates when their research was completed and were part of the NSF-sponsored OTS Research Experience for Undergraduate program.

On behalf of the Awards committee, Dr. Kim Smith (University of Arkansas), Dr. Sean O'Donnell (University of Washington) Drs. Elisabeth Arévalo and Patrick Ewanchuk (Providence College); the Assembly of Delegate and the entire organization, congratulations!

50
OTS is turning in 2013
and we are beginning
preparations **now.**

Mark your Calendar! We are planning a large celebration of this momentous milestone for June 2013. We are hosting the ATBC (Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation) Annual Meeting on June 23-27, 2013 and raising a glass in celebration with ATBC as both organizations celebrate their 50th Anniversary.

Alumni

Whether you participated in an OTS course last month, last year, last decade or last century, alumni made the decision to expand their knowledge. We can all agree that education, research and conservation are all pieces of the long-term solution to the survival of delicate ecosystems and biodiversity. As you know, OTS offers its alumni post-course fellowships and other research awards to encourage a return to the tropics. Our field stations have enabled OTS alumni to interact with a host of scientists from around the world. But we want to do more.

We are looking for Alumni Representatives to help us reach out to lost alumni and develop a comprehensive alumni program.

Specifically, we want to:

Create an OTS Alumni Benefits Package:
we are working on creating a package of benefits for members of the OTS Alumni community. We would love your input!

Plan an OTS Alumni Reception:
scheduled during the 50th celebration in San José

Locate Lost Alumni

All of these efforts are vital to our efforts to reconnect our alumni and prepare to celebrate 50 years of success. Please consider joining us, once again, and make a powerful statement about your belief in OTS.

If you are interested in helping us prepare for the 50th celebration, please contact Cathleen Lemoine at cathleen.lemoine@duke.edu or 919-684-6969.