



**Organization for
Tropical Studies**

OTS SPECIALTY COURSE: TROPICAL FUNGI AND FUNGAL-LIKE ORGANISMS



Fungi and fungal-like organisms play key ecological roles in tropical ecosystems. They are taxonomically, morphologically, and ecologically diverse as well as beautiful and interesting.

FIELDWORK, LECTURES, AND CLASS PROJECTS WILL COVER:

- 🌿 The diversity and basic identification of tropical fungi and fungal-like organisms (i.e., “myxomycetes” and “oomycetes”)
- 🌿 Many of the myriad of relationships that they form with other organisms including microorganisms (hyperparasites), insects (entomopathogens), plants (pathogens, endophytes, mycorrhizae), and animals.
- 🌿 Methods for sampling, culturing, and preserving specimens
- 🌿 Fungal conservation and fungi as indicators of forest health.

The course will make use of two field stations, one at high elevation and the other at mid elevation to provide the opportunity to study ecological and taxonomical differences among the fungi and locations.



WHEN:

August 3-13, 2012
(arrive 2 August, depart 14 August)

WHERE:

Costa Rica:
Las Cruces Biological Station
Cueric Biological Station

FACULTY:

Dr. Priscila Chaverri, University of Maryland, U.S.A. – Ascomycota, endophytes, entomopathogens.
<http://mycology.umd.edu/>

Dr. Gregory M. Mueller, Chicago Botanic Garden, U.S.A. – Basidiomycota, mycorrhizas, fungal diversity and conservation.
<http://www.chicagobotanic.org/research/staff/mueller.php>

Dr. Andrew Miller
University of Illinois, U.S.A.
Tropical ascomycetes, with emphasis on wood decaying fungi.
<http://www.inhs.illinois.edu/research/pi/amiller>

Support faculty:
Dr. Carlos Rojas, University of Costa Rica, Costa Rica – Myxomycetes
Guest lectures by Costa Rican mycologists.

PARTICIPANTS:

Advanced undergraduates, graduate students, and postdocs with interest in fungal diversity and ecology.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

May 30, 2012 for priority consideration, followed by rolling admission until fully enrolled (22 students).

TUITION:

\$2,000 OTS consortium applicants
\$2,700 non-consortium applicants

Partial scholarships up to 50% are available. Awards will be based on academic merit and proven financial need, with first priority given to OTS consortium applicants and Latin Americans.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

For registration contact Barbara Lewis [barbara.lewis@ots.ac.cr] or the OTS website at www.ots.duke.edu and for course content, Priscila Chaverri pchaverr@umd.edu

Applicants should check with their departments and advisors to arrange academic credit for this course.