

WENDY TREVINO / Division of Research

Zelig Amentseged

Dr. Zelig Amentseged's research explores early human evolution in the context of 6 million years of environmental and climate change. Currently, Dr. Amentseged is engaged in a thorough analytical process, a landmark discovery of the earliest and most complete Australopithecus skeleton in the history of paleoanthropology. His other projects focus on the evolutionary history of tool use and meat eating and past environmental and climatic variables responsible to shaping human evolution. Because understanding the place and role of our species in nature promotes conservation and sustainability, land ethics, saving the planet is tantamount to saving our own species. Dr. Amentseged actively makes anthropology part of people's everyday lives by providing lectures and seminars, participating in interviews for popular media and television shows, contributing to prestigious scientific journals, and authoring the Academy's page outlets for over a dozen Academy visitors.

Frank Amenda

Dr. Frank Amenda's research explores the last warburgs, a family of flowering plants known as "princess flowers" and "candy flowers" that comprises a large part of the vegetation in large old flowering forests. Currently, Dr. Amenda's work focuses on a large segment of the princess flower family called *Miconia*, using DNA sequences from this large assemblage of species and other data to provide an evolutionary history of princess flowers. Because princess flowers are an indicator of species richness in tropical rainforests, this work will be used to inform and direct conservation efforts around the world. In addition to his scientific contributions, Dr. Amenda engages diverse groups of people in thinking about the interdependence of people, plants and the environment, lecturing regularly to audiences at the Academy and beyond.

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largely

most biologically diverse marine environment. These biodiversity studies were instrumental in bringing the Passage to the attention of Conservation International and the World Wildlife Fund and the subsequent establishment of the region as a special conservation corridor. Dr. Goolbsy's lab work on mollusks he has also provided advice in identifying species to be studied by the National Cancer Institute and pharmaceutical companies for their potential use in producing new drugs to fight cancer and HIV. In addition to collaborating and presenting his research, Dr. Goolbsy has sought to broaden the impact by training the next generation of systematic biologists who study mollusks, a group including undergraduate and graduate students from the United States, Filipinos, scientists, and students from third-world nations

Heidi Hamilton

The focus of Dr. Heidi Hamilton's research is ecological forecasting which integrates spatial information on species, climate, and environment of the past, present, and future to better prepare for changes in a rapidly changing world. Her research is specifically applied in that it is done to support conservation organizations and management agencies that lack the capacity for rigorous ecological forecasting but still need this information to develop strategies for confronting global change. Dr. Hamilton's ecological forecasts help identify places where a given species may be going, that have a high probability of maintaining their necessary climate into the future, and when applied to ecologically- or economically important animal species, forecast results can contribute to the design of wildlife corridors, one of the most widely recommended approaches for supporting biodiversity adaptation to climate change. Due to the service-oriented and highly collaborative nature of her work, Dr. Hamilton actively develops research results into research efforts that go beyond freshwater pond and publicly aware.