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from the society

Plan now for the Miami 2013 conference

Registration is now open for the 6th Biennial Conference of the International Biogeography Society (IBS) in Miami, Florida on 9-13 January, 2013¹. Located at the Kovens Conference Center at the Biscayne Bay campus of Florida International University, we are preparing for what we hope will be the largest conference of the IBS. With the bulk of the planning now complete, we wish to share our excitement about the conference's agenda, location, and associated activities.

Highlighting the meeting will be the keynote address by the Alfred Russel Wallace Award winner, James H. Brown. Jim was the first President of the IBS. Jim also received a Lifetime Honorary Membership from the society in early 2012. The society will be presenting its new award, the MacArthur & Wilson Award, to Miguel Araújo (see *Frontiers of Biogeography* 4.2 for short biographies of the award winners). The plenary symposia will span the gamut of subfields in biogeography across temporal scales, from paleontology to projected impacts of climate change and across taxonomic scales, from a focus on functional traits to entire biotas. In addition, this year we will double the number of contributed oral presentations, with four concurrent sessions on the third day of the conference.

Posters will be highly visible, located in a long gallery and adjoining rooms running through the conference center. Posters will be organized thematically and two long poster-viewing times per day will provide plenty of time for interaction. To facilitate attendance at posters, we are exploring a means by which poster presenters can invite conference attendees to their poster. At some point after registration closes, poster presenters will be able to view a list of all attendees and invite up to five people to their poster. The system will prevent any one person from receiving more than five invitations. Although this remains a tentative plan, we have witnessed its success at the 2013 *Evolution* meeting in Ottawa and we think it

has great promise to enhance the IBS conference.

January is peak tourist season in Miami. The conference hotel, the Newport Beachside Resort, is literally on the beach in the city of Sunny Isles Beach. Located halfway between Miami and Fort Lauderdale, the row of hotels has the official slogan of "Florida's Riviera". The hotel will be hosting the conference banquet and auction on the beach. During your time off, you can get about easily within the city using a free shuttle service within Sunny Isles Beach. We have arranged competitive pricing at the conference hotel, with one price that covers breakfasts, a shuttle for transportation to the meeting location, and taxes. Please see the conference "Travel & Accommodation" web page for important information on booking your room.

The slate of field trips and workshops is also impressive. The field trips, which will be run both pre- and post-conference, will focus on the nature of the greater Everglades National Park and nearby coastal habitats. In addition, one field trip tours the world-class Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden. Please see the conference web site¹ for more information.

Prior to the main meeting, we will offer five optional workshops, which will provide unique opportunities for training and professional growth. The "Biogeography of Stress" workshop will involve presentations and discussions on the geographic patterns and processes impacting stress, disease susceptibility, and genetic diversity in natural populations. Another half-day workshop will be a presentation and discussion of "Bayesian Statistical Analysis" with applications in ecology and biogeography. The full-day "Biodiversity Informatics Tools" workshop will address how to tackle both conceptual and practical issues in dealing with massive quantities of biogeographic data. Lastly, there are two workshops involving writing and presenting your research. The "Communicating Biogeography" workshop

1. Full details are available at <http://www.biogeography.org/html/Meetings/2013/>

will provide an overview of how to put together a paper for journal submission, what happens in the peer review process, and what reviewers and editors are looking for. The “Popular Science Writing” workshop, using interactive exercises, will equip you with a set of skills for identifying, understanding, and using strategies that contribute to effective and engaging science communication.

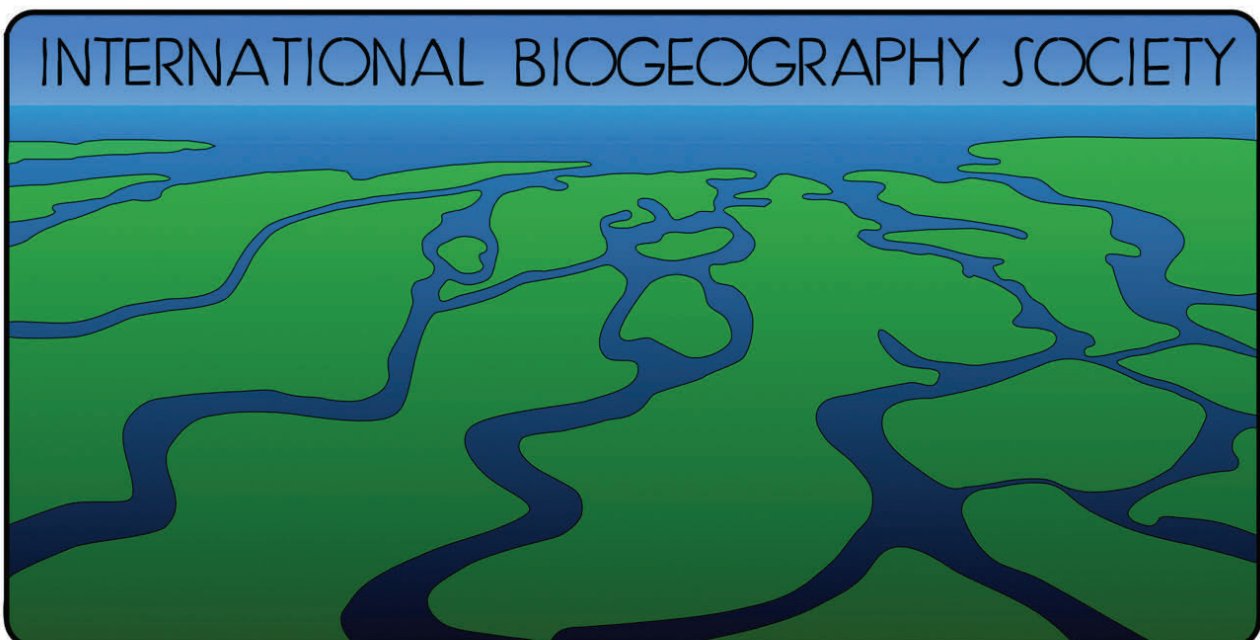
We look forward to seeing you in Miami in January!

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SIXTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE – MIAMI, FLORIDA – JANUARY 2013