

MIT Adventure

On Friday, 10 August, after our four days of clinics, our team was treated to an adventure at the port facilities of Manzanillo International Terminal Panama, whose dorms we used.



MIT entrance garden, with the red and green shrubs shaped like Panama.



Rita Wong gave us an overview of MIT. We all put on safety gear for our tour.



4 giant cranes move shipping containers such as onto this departing ship.



When working, these are horizontal.

We rode a 4-person elevator to the white motor rooms 20 stories above the dock.



Our team at elevator top.



Arrival in room with motors and cables.



In room for equipment status and display View inland from crane



The original photo size shows our MIT dormitory behind the ship and crane in the upper right. Stacks of containers are on the left, yellow construction equipment in the center and a parking lot packed with white cars in the rear. The ship at the right was being unloaded and we could watch apparatus being lowered to grab a container, raise it, and deliver it to ground on the far side dock.



While we waited, one boom was lowered.

Part way down.

Almost horizontal, the end far over water



Looking back at "tiny" white moter room,

and far down,

and going to the far end of the boom!

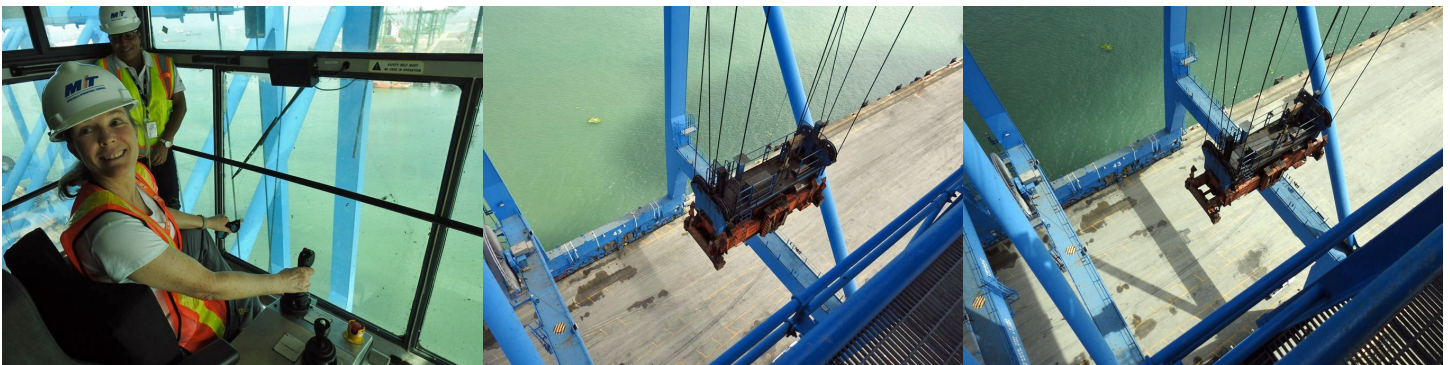
Back at the motor room we got a tour of the operator's cab that slides from over the ship to over the dock.



Looking down at top of operator's cab.

Side view of operator's cab.

Demonstrating the controls.

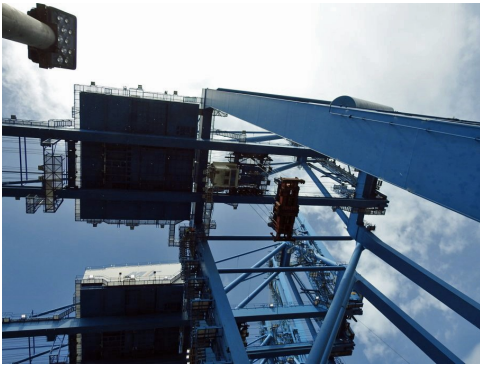


Eva in control seat. Others took turns.

Container grabber being raised and lowered by Meghan.

Meghan extended grabber arms.

These photos show the grabber arms in position for 20-foot containers, but can extend for 40-foot sizes. We were told that about half dozen women were working alone in such cabs rapidly moving containers between ship and shore. So Meghan was thrilled to control some of the equipment herself.



Looking up at where we had been.



Team photo as next ship arrives.



Photo with MIT president (center)

Friday afternoon we went to near Panama City to visit the canal museum and old Miraflores locks.



Ship entering Miraflores lock with others. Small boats leave first, pulled by ropes.



Miraflores spillway.



Visiting Panama Viejo's 1500s ruins and museum on Saturday morning.



Ancient and modern towers.



Final team breakfast on Sunday, 12th



Panama Viejo

250 meters

satellite view of ruins area, among first of New World Spanish settlements.





Black-bellied Whistling-Duck



Black-necked Stilt



Brown Pelican preening



Crested Caracara



Black Vulture



Gray-breasted Martin



Great-tailed Grackle - young



House Wren



Great-tailed Grackle - adult



Little Blue Heron-adult



Pale-vented Pigeon



Magnificent Frigatebird



Neotropic Cormorant



Little Blue Heron-young



Laughing Gulls



Palm Tanager



Ruddy Ground-Dove



Sapphire-throated Hummingbird



Saffron Finch



Social Flycatcher



Tropical Kingbird



Short-tailed Hawk



Semipalmated Sandpiper



Great Egret



Spotted Sandpiper



Southern Lapwing



Southern Lapwing -
parent watching chicks



one of its chicks



Variable Seedeater -
male, different pattern



Western Sandpiper



Whimbrel



Willet



Variable Seedeater -
male



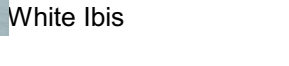
Variable Seedeater -
female



Yellow-green Vireo



Wood Stork



White Ibis



Yellow-bellied
Seedeater



Yellow-headed Caracara

Samples of the great variety and beauty.

by Dr. Ed Holroyd
26 August 2018