Latin American Fellowship Committee


Mission:

The Latin American Student Field Research Award is given annually to support field research projects by Latin Americans in Latin America. Eligible students must be citizens of Latin American countries (excluding Puerto Rico) and currently enrolled in a graduate program in any university of the Americas. Projects must be field-oriented investigations in natural history, conservation, ecology, systematics, wildlife biology, biogeography, or behavior. The selection committee, whose membership reflects these diverse fields and has field experience in Latin America, considers each of these areas of research equally important. Several $1,500 awards are typically granted each year.

The Oliver P. Pearson Award supports a young professional who holds an academic position in a Latin American institution within 5 years of receiving a Ph.D. or equivalent degree. A single $5,000 award is granted each year. In addition, up to $2,000 is offered for the recipient to attend the ASM Annual Meeting the year following the award.

Information Items:

(1) In 2017, we reviewed one applications for the Oliver Pearson award, and selected Dr. Eliécer E. Gutiérrez (Venezuela), Departamento de Zoologia, Instituto de Ciências Biológicas, Campus UnB, Universidade de Brasília.

(2) In 2017, we received 20 applications for the Student Field Research grants. Each Committee Member reviewed and ranked all applications. We awarded 5 grants (according to the budget approved) to the applications with the highest average ranks


Ricardo Sampaio (Brazil). Human-wildlife conflicts in Amazonian extractive reserves: spatial footprint and impact of subsistence hunters on forest vertebrates. Comparative Biology Graduation Program at University of São Paulo. Research advisor: Adriano Garcia Chiarello.

(3) Last year’s budget request for 5 Latin American Student Field Research awards was approved, so we anticipate awarding 5 this year.

(4) We have received 28 applications for the 2018 Latin American Student Field Research awards and 5 applications for the Oliver Pearson award. Committee members are in the process of reviewing applications, and recipients will be announced at the 2018 Annual Banquet in Manhattan, Kansas.

(5) Committee Membership: No former member has stepped off the Committee. Pablo Teta was incorporated as former member.

**Action Items:**

(1) 2018 budget request

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latin American Student Field Research awards 5 x $1500</td>
<td>$ 7,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oliver P. Pearson Award (1) award $5000 + travel $2000</td>
<td>$ 7,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Request</td>
<td>$14,500</td>
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Respectfully submitted,
S. T. Álvarez-Castañeda, Chair
(sticul@cibnor.mx)