

Latin American Fellowship Committee

Committee Members: J. A. Cook, M. M. Diaz, S. T. Álvarez-Castañeda, K. A. Ernest (Chair), E. A. Lacey, M. A. O'Connell, T. E. Lacher, Jr., J. Salazar-Bravo, S. Solari.

Mission:

The Latin American Student Field Research Award is made 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. Projects must be field-oriented investigations of 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. Five \$1,500 awards are 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 are offered for the recipient to attend the mammal meetings of the year following the award.

Information Items:

(1) In 2012, we reviewed two applications for the Oliver Pearson Award, and selected Dr. María Encarnación (“Pati”) Pérez, from Argentina. Dr. Pérez is a post-doctoral fellow at the Museo Paleontológico Egidio Feruglio in Chubut, Argentina.

(2) In 2012, we received 22 applications for the Student Field Research grants. Each committee member reviewed and ranked all applications. Based on average ranks, we awarded 7:

Nicholas Camargo (Argentina), Ph.D. Program in Ecology, University of Brasilia, Brazil.

Vertical stratification of small mammals in forested habitats of the Brazilian Cerrado, a highly threatened tropical savanna.

Juan Pablo Carrera (Ecuador), Ph.D. Program in Biological Sciences, Texas Tech University, USA. Phenotypic variation in Phyllostominae bats distributed on both sides of the Ecuadorian Andes.

Lenin Oviedo (Venezuela), Ph.D. Program in Ecology, The University of Hong Kong. The ecology of coexistence of tropical delphinids: sympatric coastal dolphins in a tropical fjord, Golfo Dulce, Costa Rica

Mariana Raño (Argentina), Ph.D. Program in Biological Sciences, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina. Female reproductive strategies in black and gold howler monkeys (*Alouatta caraya*)

Daniela Rivera (dual citizenship in Chile and Bolivia), Ph.D. Program in Biology specializing in Ecology at Universidad Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Social organization in *Octodontomys gliroides* and its consequences on the origin and evolution of sociality in octodontid rodents.

Mauro Tamstone (Argentina), Ph.D. Program in Biology at Universidad Nacional del Comahue, S. C. de Bariloche, Argentina. Loss of genetic diversity: implications for the

evolution and conservation of two species of *Ctenomys* (Rodentia: Ctenomyidae) in north Patagonia.

Veronica Zamora-Gutierrez (Mexico), Ph.D. Program in Zoology, University of Cambridge, UK. Estimating the effects of land management, climate change and protected areas on the conservation of bats.

(3) Last year's budget request to maintain 7 Latin American Student Field Research awards was reduced to 3, which we anticipate awarding this year.

(4) We have received 11 applications for the 2013 Latin American Student Field Research Awards and 4 applications for the Oliver Pearson Award. Committee members will be reviewing applications in the next few weeks, and recipients will be announced at the 2013 Annual Banquet in Philadelphia.

(5) Committee Membership: New member Jorge Salazar-Bravo joined the committee this spring 2013.

Action Items:

(1) 2013 budget request

Latin American Student Field Research awards 5 x \$1500	\$ 7,500
Oliver P. Pearson Award (1) award \$5000 + travel \$2000	\$ 7,000
Total Request	\$14,500

Respectfully submitted,
Kristina A. Ernest, Chair
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