

Latin American Fellowship Committee

Committee Members: S. T. Álvarez-Castañeda (Chair), J. L. Dunnum, M. Freitas N., K. A. Ernest, T. E. Lacher, Jr., M. A. O'Connell, M. Ortega, J. Salazar-Bravo, S. Solari.

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 2016, we reviewed four applications for the Oliver Pearson Award, and selected **Dr. Pablo Vicente Teta** (Argentina), Chief of Division and Curator, in the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales “Bernardino Rivadavia”.

(2) In 2016, we received 23 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:

Mario Fernando Garces Restrepo (Colombia): *Is female choice driving mating system in tree sloths*. University of Wisconsin; advisor - Jonathan N. Pauli

Antonella Panebianco (Argentina): *Conservation of genetic baggage of Patagonian wild guanacos *Lama guanicoe* exposed to liveshearing management*. Universidad de Buenos Aires; advisor – Pablo Carmanchahi

Edson Fiedler de Abreu Junior (Brazil): *Diversity and evolutionary history of South American tree squirrels (*Rodentia, Sciurini*)*. Universidade de São Paulo; advisor - Alexandre Reis Percequillo

Daniela Arenas-Viveros (Colombia): *Assessing the systematic status of members of the genus *Akodon* (*Rodentia: Cricetidae*) in Colombia*. Texas Tech University; advisor – Jorge Salazar-Bravo

Carlos Carrion (Ecuador): *Multilocus Phylogenetics, Species Delimitation and Biogeography of New World *Myotis* (*Chiroptera: Vespertilionidae*), with an emphasis in Neotropical Species*. University of New Mexico; advisor - Joseph A. Cook

(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 19 applications for the 2017 Latin American Student Field Research Awards and 2 applications for the Oliver Pearson Award. Committee members are in the process of reviewing applications, and recipients will be announced at the 2017 Annual Banquet in Moscow, Idaho.

(5) Committee Membership: No former member has stepped off the Committee this year. We thank her for her service. Mariana Freitas was incorporated as former member.

Action Items:

(1) 2017 budget request

Latin American Student Field Research Awards 5 x \$1,500	\$ 7,500
Oliver P. Pearson Award (1) award \$5000 + travel \$2,000	\$ 7,000
Total Request	\$14,500

(2) We changed to an online application process for both Pearson and Sstudent Field Grant awards, so in 2017 was 1 March, using the ASM web page online.

Respectfully submitted,

S. T. Álvarez-Castañeda, Chair

sticul@cibnor.mx