

## Latin American Fellowship Committee

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

### **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 Zoología, 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

**Laura Abondano** (Colombia). *Mating strategies of female woolly monkeys (*Lagothrix lagotricha poeppigii*): Implications for female mate choice in a promiscuous primate.* University of Texas at Austin. Research advisor: Anthony Di Fiore.

**Germán Botto Nuñez** (Uruguay). *Effect of landscape fragmentation in bat population dynamics and disease persistence in Uruguay.* Montana State University. Research advisor: Raina Plowright.

**Antonela Marozzi** (Argentina). *Physiological mechanisms involved in Guanaco (*Lama guanicoe*) reproduction and population growth.* CONICET. Research advisor: Pablo Carmanchahi.

**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.

**Amanda Vicente-Santos** (Costa Rica). *Cave dwelling bats ecology and land use change: assessing the dilution effect*. Emory University. Research advisor: Thomas R. Gillespie.

(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

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,**  
S. T. Álvarez-Castañeda, Chair  
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