

Latin American Fellowship Committee

Committee Members: S. T. Álvarez-Castañeda (Chair), J. L. Dunnum, K. A. Ernest, M. F. Nery, M. A. O'Connell, M. Ortega, T. E. Lacher, Jr., J. Salazar-Bravo, S. Solari, and 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 2019, we reviewed 7 applications for the Oliver Pearson award, and selected Dr. Renan Maestri (Brazil) Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul

(2) In 2019, we received 38 applications for the Student Field Research grants. Each committee member reviewed and ranked 19 applications. We awarded 5 grants (according to the budget approved) to the applications with the highest average ranks:

Daily Martínez Borrego (Cuba). Centro de Investigación en Biodiversidad y Conservación, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Morelos. Cryptic species delimitation in the Mexican harvest mouse *Reithrodontomys mexicanus* (Rodentia: Cricetidae) in México. PhD. Student

David Villalobos Chaves (Costa Rica). University of Washington, Department of biology. Feeding performance and resource partitioning among Costa Rican Cricetid rodents. PhD. student

Melissa Micaelsa Arias (Ecuador). Goetschel University of Oxford, Department of Zoology. Addressing the illegal trade in jaguar body parts: an evidence-based approach to inform conservation actions. PhD. student.

Omar Daniel León-Alvarado (Colombia). Universidad de Federal de Santa Maria. Phylogenetic relationships of nectar-feeding bats (Phyllostomidae: Lonchophyllinae). MS. Student.

Paula Iturralde (Ecuador). Polit Universidad de Costa Rica, Recinto de Golfito. Vocal adaptations of insectivorous bats in response to shifts on temperature and humidity. PhD. Student

(3) Last year's budget request for 5 Latin American Student Field Research awards was

approved, so we anticipate awarding 5 this year.

(4) In 2020 we have 23 applications for the Latin American Student Field Research awards and 9 for the Oliver Pearson award (dead line March 1). Committee members are in the process of reviewing applications, and recipients will send the results to the president of the ASM in April, waiting when are going to be announced to the ASM.

(5) Committee Membership: No former member has stepped off the committee.

Action Items:

(1) 2021 budget request

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

Respectfully submitted,

S. T. Álvarez-Castañeda, Chair

(sticul@cibnor.mx)