

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., 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 2011, we reviewed and ranked applications for the Oliver Pearson Award, and selected Dr. Sergio Solari (from Peru; now Assistant Professor at the Instituto de Biología, Universidad de Antioquia in Medellín, Colombia) as the recipient. We received 19 applications for the Student Field Research grants. Each committee member reviewed and ranked all applications. Based on average ranks, we awarded 5:

- Francisca Astorga (Chile), Ph.D. Program in Conservation Medicine at Universidad Andrés Bello, Chile. Project Title: Canids versus canids: peri-urban conflict of wild foxes and free-ranging domestic dogs in Central Chile.
- Loreto Correa (Chile), Ph.D. Program in Sciences specializing in Systematics & Ecology at Universidad Austral de Chile. Project Title: Mechanisms of regulation of litter size and sex ratio in *Octodon degus*: the impact of stress on the masculinization of females and their consequences on the stability of social groups
- Juan Diaz-Nieto (Colombia), Ph.D. Program in Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior at the University of Minnesota. Project Title: Diversification in the Neotropical Rainforests: species limits, phylogenetic relationships and describing new species of an American marsupial clade.
- Francisco Fonturbel (Ecuador), Ph.D. Program in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Universidad de Chile. Project title: Effects of habitat degradation on the monito del monte (*Dromiciops gliroides*) and its consequences on the seed dispersal interaction with an endemic mistletoe.
- Bianca Montero (Costa Rica), Ph.D. Program in Biological Sciences, North Dakota State University. Project Title: Influence of roosting ecology on the social behavior and communication strategies of two leaf-roosting bats, *Throptera tricolor* and *Myzopoda aurita*.

(2) Last year's request for an increase in budget from 5 to 7 Latin American Student Field Research Awards was approved, so we anticipate awarding 7 field grants this year.

(3) We have received 22 applications (in 2012) for the Latin American Student Field Research Awards and 2 applications for the Oliver Pearson Award. Committee members are currently reviewing applications, and recipients will be announced at the 2012 Annual Banquet in Reno.

(4) Committee Membership: Enrique Lessa and Jim Kenagy have rotated off the committee. We appreciate their contributions to the committee. New member Sergio Solari (the 2011 Pearson recipient) will join the Committee this year. The Committee recognizes the importance of a diverse committee membership, including Latin American biologists.

Action Items:

(1) We request a 2012 budget of \$10,500 to cover 7 Latin American Student Field Research Awards and \$7,000 (\$5000 award, \$2000 travel) for The Oliver P. Pearson Award. This is the same amount that was requested and approved for 2011.

2012 List of Awardees

1) The Latin American Student Field Research award

Nícholas Camargo

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

Citizenship: Argentina

Current Graduate Program: Ph.D Program in Ecology, University of Brasilia

Juan Pablo Carrera

Project Title: Phenotypic variation in Phyllostominae bats distributed on both sides of the Ecuadorian Andes

Citizenship: Ecuador

Current Graduate Program: Ph.D Program in Biological Sciences, Texas Tech University

Lenin Oviedo

Project title: The ecology of coexistence of tropical delphinids: sympatric coastal dolphins in a tropical fjord, Golfo Dulce, Costa Rica

Citizenship: Venezuela

Current Graduate Program: Ph.D. in Ecology, The University of Hong Kong

Mariana Raño

Project Title: Female reproductive strategies in black and gold howler monkeys (*Alouatta caraya*)

Citizenship: Argentina

Current Graduate Program: Ph.D Program in Biological Sciences, Universidad de Buenos Aires

Daniela Rivera

Project Title: Social organization in *Octodontomys gliroides* and its consequences on the origin and evolution of sociality in octodontid rodents

Citizenship: Chile-Bolivia (dual)

Current Graduate Program: PhD in Biology specializing in Ecology at Universidad Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Mauro Tammone

Project Title: Loss of genetic diversity: implications for the evolution and conservation of two species of *Ctenomys* (Rodentia: Ctenomyidae) in north Patagonia

Citizenship: Argentina

Current Graduate Program: Ph.D. in Biology at Universidad Nacional del Comahue, S. C. de Bariloche, Argentina

Veronica Zamora-Gutierrez

Project Title: Estimating the effects of land management, climate change and protected areas on the conservation of bats.

Citizenship: Mexico

Current Graduate Program: Ph.D. in Zoology, University of Cambridge, UK

2) The Oliver P. Pearson award A single \$5,000 award is granted each year. \$2000 is also provided for travel to the following year's ASM annual meeting.

Dr. María Encarnación (“Pati”) Pérez

Citizenship: Argentina

currently holds a post-doctoral fellowship from CONICET

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Respectfully submitted,

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