

Latin American Fellowship Committee

Committee Members: J. A. Cook, M. M. Diaz, S. T. Álvarez-Castañeda, K. A. Ernest (Chair), G. J. Kenagy, E. A. Lacey, E. P. Lessa, M. A. O'Connell, T. E. Lacher, Jr.

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) We received 19 applications in 2011 for the Latin American Student Field Research awards and 3 for the Oliver Pearson award. Winners will be announced at the 2011 Annual Banquet in Portland, OR.

Action Items:

(1) A 2011 budget request for \$10,500 to cover 7 Latin American Student Field Research Awards and \$7,000 (\$5000 award, \$2000 travel) for The Oliver P. Pearson Award. The request to increase field grants by two is to help promote more research in Latin America where funding (especially for field research) can be quite challenging.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristina A. Ernest, Chair
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