

## 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, 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 2018, we reviewed 5 applications for the Oliver Pearson award, and selected **Dr. José F. González-Maya** (Colombia) *ProCat Colombia*

(2) In 2018, we received 27 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:

**Tania Marisol Gonzalez** (Colombia). UNAL. Project: Effects of fire on mammal communities in orinoco landscapes. PhD. student

**Zaira Yaneth Gonzalez Saucedo** (México). UNAM. Project: Functional connectivity in response to environmental change for large carnivores in Northwest of México and the South of the US. PhD. student

**Juan Manuel Martinez Ceron** (Colombia). Universidad EAFIT. Project: Structure and phylogenetic diversity of mammalian communities in an elevation gradient in the western cordillera of Colombia. MS. student.

**Ingrid de Mattos** (Brazil). Universidade de Brasília. Project: Small mammal responses to fragmentation and habitat loss in the Brazilian Cerrado. PhD. Student.

**Andrea del Pilar Tarquino-Carbonell** (Argentina). GiB-IADIZA-CCT. Project: Spatial ecology of The Red Viscacha Rat, an endemic rodent from the temperate arid lands of central Argentina. 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 2019 we have 38 applications for the Latin American Student Field Research awards and 8 for the Oliver Pearson award (dead line March 1). Committee members are in the process of reviewing applications, and recipients will be announced at the 2019 Annual Banquet in Washington, District of Columbia.

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

**Action Items:**

(1) 2019 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](mailto:sticul@cibnor.mx))