

Latin American Fellowship Committee

Committee Members: S. T. Álvarez-Castañeda (Chair), J. L. Dunnum, K. A. Ernest, M. F. Nery, M. A. O'Connell, E. Gómez-Ruiz, M. Ortega, T. E. Lacher, Jr., J. Salazar-Bravo, S. Solari, P. Teta.

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. 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 are offered for the recipient to attend the mammal meetings of the year following the award.

Information Items:

(1) In 2020, we reviewed 9 applications for the Oliver Pearson award, and selected **Dr. Emma P. Gómez-Ruiz**, originally from México, where she completed a bachelor degree in Biological Sciences at the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, México. She then continued her MS research at the Instituto Politécnico Nacional, and obtained a PhD in 2015 at Texas A&M University, USA.

(2) In 2020, we received 23 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:

Gimena Illia (Argentina). Instituto de Biología Subtropical, Puerto Iguazu. Effects of landscape modification on ecosystem health: the role of the black capuchin monkey (*Sapajus nigritus*) as sentinels of the ecosystem health in the Atlantic Forest. PhD. Student.

Issac Camargo (México). Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas del Noroeste. Relaciones filogenéticas entre las musarañas desérticas del género *Notiosorex*. PhD. Student.

Luciana Luz Castillo Sanchez (Argentina). National University of San Luis. Relationships between sympatric predators in semiarid environments of Argentina. PhD. Student.

Malena Candino (Argentina). University of Wisconsin-Madison. Habitat and resource selection of a partially migratory population of guanacos in a strongly seasonal environment. MS Student.

Natalia Ivone Sandoval Herrera (Costa Rica). University of Toronto. Sublethal effects of

pesticides on bats: from cells to behavior. 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) Committee members are in the process of reviewing applications, and recipients will be announced at the 2021 "Annual Banquet".

(5) Committee Membership: No former member has stepped off the committee and E. Gómez-Ruiz is a new member.

Action Items:

(1) 2022 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

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