

## Latin American Fellowship Committee

**Committee Members:** S. Solari (Chair), S. T. Álvarez-Castañeda, J. Bubadué, J. L. Dunnum, G. Garbino, E. Gómez-Ruiz, L. Guevara, R. Missagia, M. F. Nery, M. A. O'Connell, A. Ojeda, N. Ordoñez-Garza, M. Ortega, S. Pavan, J. Salazar-Bravo

### 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), enrolled in a graduate program. Projects must be field-oriented investigations of natural history, conservation, ecology, systematics, wildlife biology, biogeography, or behavior. Our committee, whose membership reflects these diverse fields and has field experience in Latin America, considers each of these areas of research equally important. Several US\$1,750 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 US\$8,000 award is granted each year. In addition, up to US\$2,000 is offered for the recipient to attend the mammal meetings of the year following the award.

### Information Items:

(1) In 2024, we reviewed six (6) applications for the Oliver Pearson award, and selected Dr. Rafaela Missagia (Brazil). She received a Master's degree in Ecology from the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil, and a Ph.D. in Zoology from the same institution. Currently, she is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Zoology, University of São Paulo (USP), Brazil.

(2) In 2024, we received 19 applications for the Latin American Student Field Research Awards (LASFRA). Each committee member reviewed and ranked all applications; then, we consolidated and averaged these ranks. We awarded six grants (according to the budget approved) to the applications with the highest average ranks:

Valeria E. Pomponio (Argentina). Ph.D. student, Universidad Nacional del Comahue, Argentina. The role of the gastrointestinal microbiome of the guanaco (*Lama guanicoe*) under changing scenarios: potential applications for management and conservation.

Pedro Ivo Monico (Brazil). Ph.D. student, State University of New Jersey, Newark, USA. Estimating genomic species diversity in the Insular Big-Brown Bat species (*Eptesicus dutertrei*).

Darwin M. Morales-Martínez (Colombia). Ph.D. student, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, USA. Systematics and biogeography of North Andean shrews of the genus *Cryptotis* (Eulipotyphla).

Cecilia Contarde (Argentina). Ph.D. student, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina.

Acoustic communication in viscachas (*Lagostomus maximus*): The challenge of social interaction and survival in two environments with different acoustic qualities.

Nicolás Gorostiaga (Argentina). Ph.D. student, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina.  
Influence of a yellow fever outbreak on the demography and genetic structure of a public health sentinel specie (*Alouatta caraya*) in northeastern Argentina.

Diego García-Núñez (Mexico). Ph.D. student, Universidad de Guadalajara CUCBA, Mexico.  
Community of intestinal bacteria associated with the seasonal diet of *Leptoncyteris yerbabuenae* in Central Mexico.

(3) Last year's budget request for seven (7) Latin American Student Field Research awards was not approved, and we will keep awarding SIX (7) students for 2025. Also, our request for an additional payment to the Pearson Award, to go from US\$ 7,000 to US\$ 8,000 (plus an additional US\$ 2,000 to attend the next meeting) was approved and is reflected in our mission (see above).

(4) Committee members have finished reviewing applications and made a final decision; recipients will be announced at the 2025 "Annual Banquet".

(5) Committee Membership: Most of our recent members are staying for another period, and

keeping up with our tradition, we added Rafaela Missagia (recent awardee of the O. P. Pearson Award) as our new member.

#### **Action Items:**

(1) 2025 budget request

Latin American Student Field Research awards 6 x \$1,750	\$ 10,500
Oliver P. Pearson Award (1) award \$8,000 + travel \$2,000	\$ 10,000
Total Request	\$ 20,500

**Respectfully submitted,**

S. Solari, Chair

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