

## 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, 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) and currently 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\$1,500 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 US\$7,000 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 2023, we reviewed seven (7) applications for the Oliver Pearson Award and selected Dr. Jamile Bubadué (Brazil). She completed a bachelor's degree in Biology at the Universidade Federale de Santa Maria (UFSM), an M.Sc. in Animal Biodiversity, and a Ph.D. in Zoology, all at the same institution, in Santa Maria, Brazil, in 2020. Currently, she is a Postdoctoral fellow at the Universidade Estadual do Norte Fluminense Darcy Ribeiro (UENF), Brazil.

(2) In 2023, we received 23 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 five grants (according to the budget approved) to the applications with the highest average ranks:

Andrea R. Sánchez Domina (Argentina). Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Argentina. Environmental factors as modulators of endogenous mechanisms: implications for the singular reproductive strategy of the South American marsupial *Thylamys bruchi* (Marsupialia, Didelphidae). Ph.D. student.

Flávia Weber-Souza (Brazil). Universidade Estadual de Santa Cruz, Brazil. Can cocoa agroforests provide functional connectivity within a biodiversity global hotspot? Ph.D. student.

Giovane Carreira Improtá (Brazil). Universidade de Sao Paulo, Brazil. Circadian clock genes expression in different regions of suprachiasmatic nuclei of tuco-tucos (*Ctenomys famosus*) captured in summer and winter. Ph.D. student.

Lais Lautenschlager Rodrigues (Brazil). University of Miami, USA. Dietary ecological functioning of large mammalian herbivores in a tropical forest. Ph.D. student.

Marcelo Gamboa (Argentina). Universidad Nacional del Nordeste, Argentina. Eco-parasitology of hantavirus and rabies in chiropterans living in natural areas of Misiones province. Ph.D. student.

(3) Last year’s budget request for six (6) Latin American Student Field Research awards was approved, and for next year we would like to add one awardee and give seven (7) for 2025. In this way, we can respond to the increase in applications by increasing the number of proposals that could be supported by the ASM. Also, our request for an addition to the Pearson Award, to go from US\$ 5,000 to US\$ 7,000 (plus an additional US\$ 2,000 to attend the next year's meeting) was approved and is reflected in our mission (see above).

(4) Committee members are in the final steps of reviewing applications, and recipients will be announced at the 2024 “Annual Banquet”.

(5) Committee Membership: Most of our recent members are staying for another period, and keeping up with our tradition, we added Jamile Bubadué (BR; recent awardee of the O.P. Pearson Award) as our new member.

**Action Items:**

(1) 2024 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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