

I am applying for BGSA Graduate Research Allocation Committee Travel funding to attend the Evolution 2015 conference from 26 to 30 June in Guarujá, Brazil. This conference is a joint meeting of the Society for the Study of Evolution, the Society of Systematic Biologists, and the American Society of Naturalists. Evolution is the premiere meeting for biologists studying evolution and is attended by professors, students, and other professionals from around the world.

At the Evolution conference I will present the second chapter of my dissertation. This project is a unique exploration of the phylogenetic relationships within two pinworm species that infect the same chipmunk hosts. While other studies have used parasites to investigate the evolution of host-parasite associations, few have used multiple species of parasites, and even fewer have the breadth and depth of sampling of my research. I incorporated samples from a broad geographic range, covering 12 of the western states, and a diversity of host species, 17 in total. Due to its uniqueness, I need feedback to maximize the impact of this project and ensure that I am addressing all of the relevant topics. This summer will be an ideal time to incorporate critiques so that my project is in excellent shape to submit for publication in October 2015.

Conference attendance is a critical to my growth as an independent scientist. In addition to receiving feedback on my research and meeting people through my mentors' networks, I started my own network at previous conferences that has already benefited my graduate career by providing logistical and financial support for my dissertation research. Conferences in 2015 will be particularly critical for me, as I am set to graduate in Spring 2016 and will be looking for post-doctoral positions at the Evolution meeting. The ability to put a face to a name increases the likelihood that an applicant will be remembered, particularly if it can be tied to memorable research. Not only will attending Evolution aid in securing my future in academia, the attendees of Evolution 2015 are exactly the audience I hope to reach with my research.

Budget

Item	Cost	Funding Source & Amount	Applied for or Received
Airfare			
Round-trip Albuquerque, NM to Sao Paulo, Brazil 23 June to 1 July 2015	\$1550.00	Biology Graduate Student Association GRAC - \$150 Graduate & Professional Student Association SRG - \$500 Society for the Study of Evolution \$400 UNM Biology Department \$500	applying for here applied for applied for
Conference Registration	\$275.00	Society for the Study of Evolution \$275	applied for
Conference Lodging Accommodations are at the conference Venue, the Casa Grande Hotel	\$97.00	Society for the Study of Evolution \$97.00	applied for

Budget Justification

The cost of airfare from Albuquerque to Sao Paulo, Brazil is currently the cheapest available flight and will allow me to attend the entire conference by arriving the day before it begins and leaving the day after it is over. I am requesting **\$150 from the Biology Graduate Student Association Graduate Research Allocation Committee** to partially cover the airfare. I have also applied for the Graduate and Professional Student Association Student Research Grant and the UNM Biology Departmental Scholarship to help pay for airfare. I have applied for the Society for the Study of Evolution for a Student Travel Award that will pay for registration, lodging, and the remainder of the airfare. The lodging cost is for one room shared with two other people for the duration of the conference.