

SUMMARY:

I am requesting funds to travel to the annual meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) in Dallas, TX. The meeting will take place in October 14-18, 2015; **I will be presenting the first chapter of my doctoral dissertation** during one of the poster sessions. The title of my poster is, "The onset of trophic downgrading in North America: biotic responses of canids to the terminal Pleistocene megafauna extinction." This study utilized ecological niche modeling to infer potential interspecific interactions within the Canidae in North America following the end Pleistocene megafauna extinction, at the end of the last ice age.

This project will be of great interest to this particular audience because ecological niche modeling is a relatively new tool being used in paleontological research. The study of past interspecific interactions has long been a challenge in paleoecology, and this project is the first of its kind to use this particular methodology to infer changes in past species interactions over geologic time.

The timing of this meeting is fortuitous because it coincides with the publication of my first dissertation chapter in *Ecography*, in a special issue on megafauna extinction. I will therefore have a unique opportunity to directly promote my research with scientists within my sub discipline. This is especially important for me because I will be applying for postdoctoral positions in the coming year, and the vast majority of suitable postdoctoral advisers are SVP members who will be at the meeting. Attending the meeting will also allow me to meet with some of my other collaborators from around the country for other ongoing projects.

BUDGET:

Item	Cost	Funding Source	Status
Registration	\$220.00	*GPSA and **GRAC	Pending
Carpool	\$34.50	Personal funds	
Lodging	\$215.00	GPSA	Pending
TOTAL GRAC REQUESTED:		\$150	
Other:		\$319.50	
Total:		\$469.50	

*Graduate and Professional Student Association

**Graduate Research Allocations Committee

Budget Justification

1. Registration: **\$220.00** was the rate for early student registration for the annual meeting. I will not be attending any workshops or field trips.

2. Carpool: Our lab will be carpooling to the conference with a professor from UNM's Honor's College and will be contributing for the price of gas. Price estimates are based on the average national cost of gas (Currently \$2.36/gal) with an estimated gas mileage of 22 miles/gal for a 1288 mile round trip = \$138/4 passengers = **\$34.50**

3. Lodging: The conference group rate for lodging at the Hyatt Regency Dallas is \$215 for a 4 person room. Three members of our lab plus a colleague from another university will be splitting the cost for four nights = **\$215**