

Summary

I am requesting funds to help defray the costs of attending the American Society of Mammologists annual conference in Jacksonville, Florida (June 12 to June 16, 2015). My attached abstract was accepted and I did present a 12.5 minute talk at this conference. The talk highlighted my work on resource partitioning by *Perognathus flavus* (the silky pocket mouse) across an arid grassland/shrubland transition. This study examines how this species of rodent responds to natural pulses in forage availability in response to precipitation. I have been trapping small mammals on the Sevilleta Long Term Ecological Reserve since July, 2013. I currently have 2,561 data points from approximately 8 species with 67% of these data consisting of plasma samples taken from the silky pocket mouse. Plasma is analyzed in a mass spectrometer for relative proportions of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{15}\text{N}$. These data allow you to track foraging preferences for C_3 shrubs versus C_4 grasses and to delineate trophic level based on $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ values. Delineating niche partitioning among and between species of rodents is an important contribution to predicting future effects of climate on small mammal communities in response to a changing landscape of plant community assemblies. This study is chapter 1 of my dissertation. I am currently working on a manuscript and the opportunity to discuss my work with fellow mammologists and to obtain feedback from my presentation was invaluable.

This was my first conference as a graduate student and my first foray into forging acquaintances with potential future collaborators. Peer review is critical to the growth and development of ideas, I was able to network with scientists working with small mammals in similar ecosystems. This helped refine future directions of my research and encouraged me to add a new component to my research which will incorporate modeling interspecific competition among the small mammal community in my study area (The Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge).

I have not received any money from the BGSA since I started my PhD two years ago.

Budget

Item	Cost	Funding Source	Status
Airfare	437.30	Gaudin Scholarship UNM Biology	Awarded
Early Bird Registration	150.00	GRAC	Pending
Early Bird Registration	75.00	American Society of Mammologists	Awarded
Lodging	269.00	American Society of Mammologists	Awarded
Food	150.00	Personal Funds	
Transportation	75.00	Personal Funds	

Budget Justification:

Airfare:

Airfare based on roundtrip fare from Albuquerque to Jacksonville, FL on Southwest airlines. Price determined from the southwest airlines website. This was covered when I was granted the Gaudin Award for Academic Excellence from the Biology Department, this award also allowed me to attend the Ecological Society of America Conference in Baltimore in August, 2015.

Registration:

Early bird registration is 225.00 I was awarded a \$350.00 travel grant from the American Society of Mammologists which covered my Lodging and a portion of the Registration.

Lodging:

I found a house on Air BnB for \$60.00 per night with a 29.00 service charge. This was covered by the American Society of Mammologists Travel Grant.

Meals:

Some meals are covered by the conference, and I plan to cover the rest with my personal funds.

Transportation:

This is an estimate to pay for transportation from the airport to my lodgings. I can walk to the conference from my lodgings. I will cover this cost with my personal funds.

Funding Sources:

The Gaudin Scholarship for Academic Excellence and The American Society of Mammologists Travel Grant covered a large portion of my expenses. I hope to cover the remainder with the \$150.00 travel grant from the Biology Graduate Student Association grants (Graduate Research Allocation Committee Travel Grant).