2006 GRADUATE STUDENT/ADVANCED UNDERGRADUATE TRAVEL AWARDS

Matthew Dalstrom (Ph.D. candidate, Anthropology) will conduct research in Mexico on medical tourism in Merida through exploration of historical and contemporary conditions which have shaped the healthcare landscape and examine how both national and international agendas influence and direct health policy which has shifted from public health care to privatization that favors foreigners over citizens during July-August 2007.

Tanya Gregg (M.S. candidate, Geosciences) will conduct a volcanic study on two Guatemalan stratovolcanoes and cinder cones to determine detailed variations in the geochemistry throughout their lifespans and distinguish the explosive-effusive transition in a basaltic magmatic system during January 2007.

Lindsey Henry (M.S. candidate, Geosciences) has conducted field research on the western margin of glaciation during the late Paleozoic Gondwanan Ice Age (LPGIA) located in present day Argentina to decipher the climatic history of the region and provide an understanding of how the glaciation in Argentina correlates with the overall glaciation of Gondwana during September-October 2006.

Laura Jurgens (M.S. candidate, Biological Sciences) will conduct research on the gap hypothesis (frequent, small-scale disturbances from treefall gaps which create a heterogeneous environment in the forest allowing multiple species to coexist through resource partitioning within a nutrient-rich environment) on woody plants across the rainfall gradient present along the isthmus of Panama during January-February 2007.

Suzanne Rutishauser (Ph.D. candidate, Biological Sciences) will conduct field research in Costa Rica to determine if lianas (woody vines) are increasing in tropical forests to determine the demographic mechanism (higher regeneration rate, lower mortality rate, or both) driving the change by tracking individual liana stems using an eight-year data set during December 2006-January 2007.

The award recipients will be recognized at a ceremony on Friday, December 8 (3:30-5:00pm) in Garland Hall, Room 104. Please join us in honoring these individuals. Ceremony at 4:00pm.

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