The Georgia Museum of Natural History offers financial awards through the Joshua Laerm Academic Support Fund for the purpose of supporting undergraduate and graduate research in natural history. Studies that may be supported include but are not limited to: field or collection-oriented research in archaeology, behavioral biology, ecology, ethnobiology, evolutionary biology, geology, paleontology, plant biology, systematics, wildlife biology, zoology, or any other work which fits within a broad interest in evolutionary processes and the relationships between organisms, including humans, in the natural world. Requests may be for supplies, equipment, publishing, travel, or other costs associated with field or collection-oriented research and disseminating the results. Awards for travel to meetings will only be considered if the student is presenting a paper or poster as senior author.

Eligibility: The award is limited to currently-enrolled University of Georgia students who have completed at least one semester at UGA. Students may submit only one application per academic year but may receive support more than once if all requirements have been completed for the first award.

2015 Undergraduate Nomination Deadline: Friday, October 9, 12:00 noon ($750 funding cap)
2015 Graduate Application Deadline: Friday, October 9, 12:00 noon ($750 funding cap)

Award decisions will be announced Monday, November 2, 2015. Send or hand-deliver undergraduate nominations and graduate applications to the Laerm Award Committee, Georgia Museum of Natural History, Natural History Building, CAMPUS #7882. No electronic submissions will be accepted. Applications must be complete to be considered. Undergraduate nominations are judged separately from graduate applications and receive a separate award.

Undergraduate nominations and graduate applications must be accompanied by a budget showing how the funds will be used. Expenditures must conform to university accounting procedures. All funds awarded must be expended within one calendar year of the award announcement date. The Committee reserves the right to modify the funding requested.

Undergraduate Nomination Format: Nominations should be prepared by a faculty mentor and consist of no more than two pages, including the budget, in at least 12-pt font following the outline described on the museum’s web site.

Graduate Application Format: Applications from graduate students should consist of no more than three pages, including the budget, in at least 12-pt font format accompanied by a one page letter of support from the applicant’s major professor following the outline described on the museum’s web site.

For more information and to view research previously supported by the Laerm Fund click on Academic Affairs at <http://naturalhistory.uga.edu/>. Or contact Elizabeth Reitz at <ereitz@uga.edu> or 706-542-1464.

Revised 11/6/14