

FLORIDA CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



Greater Everglades Student Memorial Scholarship

We are pleased to announce that **Jose Grisales** is the recipient of the 20th annual scholarship for undergraduate studies, administered by the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Jose is a senior at Florida Atlantic University majoring in Biological Sciences with a minor in Psychology and certification in Environmental Sciences. He expects to graduate in December 2018.

Jose came to the US with his family as a political refugee from Colombia in 2005. During his undergraduate program at Palm Beach State College and Florida Atlantic University (FAU), he has actively sought out experiences to get involved with conservation issues in Florida. He has interned and worked for Palm Beach County Parks and Research & Development Divisions to gain experience in park management and GIS database management. He has worked in the FAU Plant Biotechnology Lab conducting leaf regeneration, seed germination, and plant transformation using agrobacterium and particle bombardment. He was selected as an Audubon Conservation Leadership Initiative Ambassador, and currently volunteers as an analyst and videographer for Audubon Everglades in Palm Beach County.

Jose's real entry into the field of wildlife ecology started last year when he began working in the FAU Avian Ecology Lab. He volunteered on projects in the Keys, Lake Okeechobee, and the Everglades, riding helicopters, airboats, and skiffs. He assisted with prey sampling, vegetation mapping, microtopography, water measurements, amphibian documentation, and collecting regurgitant from nestling wading birds. Jose recently has worked independently on modeling wading bird movement patterns, based on a previously unused dataset, teaching himself model selection using R-programming and rendered graphic representations using SigmaPlot 12.

Following graduation, Jose plans to pursue a Master's degree in FAU's Avian Ecology Lab. His goal is to have a significant impact on the management and ecology of South Florida, using comprehensive statistical analyses and environmental mathematical modeling.

The FLTWS Undergraduate Student Scholarship was established in 1998 to recognize and financially assist undergraduate students pursuing a career in wildlife biology at a 4-year school in Florida, during their Junior or Senior year. In 2008, the scholarship was renamed the *Greater Everglades Student Memorial Scholarship* in honor of the 3 FAU students so tragically lost during a wading bird survey. Applicants for the scholarship are judged based on extracurricular activities, demonstrated leadership, professional potential, financial need, personal goals, contribution to Florida wildlife and a letter of reference from a wildlife professional. The Florida Wildlife Federation and the National Wild Turkey Federation co-sponsor the scholarship. As this year's recipient, Jose will receive a check for \$2,000 at the FLTWS Spring Meeting, 11-13 April 2018 in Crystal River, Florida.

Monica Folk
Chair, FLTWS Scholarship Committee