

# 2017 Conference Sponsorships

In honor of last year's holiday season, we pledged to sponsor promising students to attend various movement ecology meetings around the world throughout 2017. Our goal was to support the careers of this next generation of biologists and connect them with the global scientific community. Here are some of their experiences:

## David Villalobos Chaves, MS

Programa para la Conservación de los Murciélagos de Costa Rica  
Theria. Asociación para el Estudio y la Conservación

I am a Costa Rican biologist interested in several aspects of mammalian biology. Attending the Biologging Symposium 6 (BLS6) was an incredible and enriching experience in my professional career; as it gave me the opportunity to get in touch with and learn from bright scientists working with diverse topics related to animal movement. Experience, new ideas, and new knowledge are what I bring back to Costa Rica. My goal is to use this motivation and knowledge to continue generating concise and robust information to elucidate intriguing questions of animals' behavior, as well as continuing to contribute to the understanding and resolution of conservation and management problems.



## Gwendoline Traisnel, PhD Candidate

Nelson Mandela University, Port Elizabeth

I was eager to participate in the recent BLS6 in Konstanz, Germany so I could learn about new methods or technologies to apply to my research on the behavioural ecology of African penguins. My personal experience from BLS6 can be described in one word: intense. The venue and surroundings offered an idyllic environment to network and learn, and the presentations were of high quality. Personally, I gained much from my poster presentation. Not only did I receive several interesting inputs for future work, but I also shared my experience and could offer advice to other students attending the symposium. Additionally, I met another researcher who is also digging into foraging behaviour consistency of a seabird species. Discussions with this researcher resulted in a greater understanding about this specific subject and positively guided my thinking for future steps to take with my research. Overall, the symposium broadened my vision of biologging tools but also confirmed my wish for future work in this field, notably around information sharing between conspecifics and whether it focuses on decision making or communication.

*Jayson Ibanez, PhD, Director for Research and Conservation of the PEF (featured on page 4), and 3 of his associates attended this year's Asian Raptor Research and Conservation Network Symposium (ARRCN) in the Philippines.*

## Jhonnell P. Villegas

Extension Unit Head, Compostela Valley State College

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to MTI for giving me the opportunity to share knowledge, learn, and interact with fellow researchers during the ARRCN. As an early career researcher, the conference allowed me to share my research findings as well as validate them. Above all, I had the chance to be constructively corrected, hence helping me improve my research methodologies. I was also able to apply my learning to my current work as the Extension Unit Head of Compostela Valley State College. I feel very blessed and privileged to be a grantee of your scholarship.



*Anthony, Jayson, and Jhonnell at the ARRCN*

## Anthony Pingoy, MS Student

Ateneo de Davao University

The ARRCN Conference 2017 was a golden opportunity for me as an aspiring raptor researcher. I am looking forward to proposing raptor research for my graduate thesis. This work will be about the preliminary scanning on the biology and ecological niche of Pinsker's Hawk-eagles on Mindanao Island. I am inspired by the dedication of our friends from Java, Indonesia who courageously explore the unknown about the *Nisaetus bartelsi*. I anticipate contributing scientific knowledge about the *Nisaetus pinskeri* and am ambitiously looking forward to present whatever I yield to ARRCN 2019. I love raptors and I love ARRCN. Thank you very much.



## Rolly C. Urriza, MS Student

University of the Philippines, Los Baños, Laguna  
National Museum of Natural History, Manila, Philippines

It is my first time attending the ARRCN and I am glad that our country was able to host the event, as it gave opportunities for locals (including me) to participate. My goal in attending the symposium was to find ideas that I may later apply to my research on investigating the threatened Philippine Eagle-owl and hopefully also to meet possible collaborators and local researchers on raptors. I am deeply grateful to the Philippine Eagle Foundation and MTI for providing this grant.

We understand that we are extremely fortunate to do everyday work that has a broad reach and the ability to elicit change and progress. To celebrate this holiday season, we are proudly donating to 3 organizations striving to make our planet a better place:

**National Park Foundation, Every Kid in a Park**

[www.nationalparks.org/our-work/campaigns-initiatives/open-outdoors-kids/every-kid-park](http://www.nationalparks.org/our-work/campaigns-initiatives/open-outdoors-kids/every-kid-park)

**Grassroots Crisis Intervention, Columbia, Maryland**

[www.grassrootscrisis.org](http://www.grassrootscrisis.org)

**National Aquarium, Henry Hall Program, Baltimore, Maryland**

[aqua.org/learn/student-programs/henry-hall-program](http://aqua.org/learn/student-programs/henry-hall-program)