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Dear Dr. Page,

I am writing to find out about available research positions associated with your work. This spring I will graduate with high honors from the University of Montana with a BA in biology. I already have conducted research at the Missoula Flight Laboratory studying the aerodynamics of feather morphologies with Dr. Bret Tobalske, and I am now working on rhinoceros beetle horn development in Dr. Doug Emlen's laboratory.

I will be applying to graduate school in evolutionary biology next year. My hope is to use this year to gain additional research experience, preferably in Panama. I am familiar with your work on predator-prey relationships amongst bats and frogs, and I am particularly intrigued by your work on learning within bat species. I am excited about working in the tropics (something Montana lacks!), and I've heard nothing but great things about the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and the network of biologists it attracts.

I briefly describe my research experience below, and I am attaching a copy of my C.V. In addition, I'm sure either Drs. Emlen or Tobalske would be happy to provide information if you decide you want to learn more about me. While working with Dr. Tobalske in the Flight Laboratory, we wanted to understand how altering feather shaft stiffness affects forces of lift and drag. I am currently working with Dr. Emlen's graduate student Jema Rushe to construct a new phylogeny for the rhinoceros beetles (Subfamily Dynastinae) using next-generation sequencing techniques. Also, this semester I will conduct research that utilizes RNAi knockdowns in order to better understand the pathway for horn development in a model species of rhinoceros beetle.

I am aware that research funding is especially limiting these days, and that hiring people to work in other countries can be expensive. What I can offer, if it helps, is my own airfare to Panama, as well as the flexibility to stay on at STRI during the upcoming academic year. I am very excited about the opportunity to work in the tropics with you and your colleagues. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Dylan Gomes