

LACS is proud to share that this was an excellent year for the A. Sánchez Construction Corporation Scholarship for Undergraduate Academic Achievement. We received more than triple the applications usually submitted in the Humanities, Social Sciences and Sciences, and read many excellent applications. Professors Lena Burgos-Lafuente (LACS Director; Hispanic Languages and Literature); Lori Flores (History); Javier Uriarte (Hispanic Languages and Literature); and Cristina Kahn (Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies) served on the evaluating committee this year.

LACS is delighted to award this year's A. Sánchez Construction Corporation Scholarship for Undergraduate Academic Achievement to Marcela Muricy, a student majoring both in Biology and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, who is focusing on gynecology/endocrinology. A Brazilian-American student with a 4.0 GPA, Marcela co-founded Speaking STEM, a club designed to both break the barriers students experience when entering a STEM field, and improve STEM students' rhetorical expression in their fields. Her recommenders unanimously highlight her exceptional academic performance and her strong sense of responsibility when it comes to community service. This winter, Marcela will be interning in the largest public hospital in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with the intention of expanding her global perspective on healthcare and so become able to better analyze strong and weak points within the US's current healthcare system. She plans to apply for a joint MD/PhD program in order to be well-versed in both the practice of medicine and in research. We're honored to celebrate her achievements with her today. Congratulations Marcela!

Due to our very limited budget, we could only give out one monetary award, but wanted to recognize another outstanding candidate. An Honorable Mention goes to Sara Jaramillo, an Anthropology major and LACS minor. A first generation immigrant from Colombia with a 3.94 GPA, Sara's wide-ranging research interests include Pre-Columbian Mexico, Colonial Mexico, historical archaeology, migration and identity, social organization, zooarchaeology, community development archaeology and history of Latin America. Sara's recommenders were unanimously impressed by her intelligence, dedication, insight, engagement, and also by her work ethic and leadership. One recommender highlights her analytical ability for translating archaeological finds into information about human activities from thousands of years ago. Hers is a difficult project and, in the recommender's words, "Sara grasps it all." LACS is delighted to celebrate her achievements. Congratulations Sara!