Proposal – Joint activity – Botanical Society of America at the XII Latin American Botanical Congress – 21-28, 2018, Quito, Ecuador ([http://www.clb2018//english.html](http://www.congresolatinoamericanobotanica.org/english.html))

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The XII Latin American Botanical Congress will be held in Quito, Ecuador on 21 to 28 October 2018. It has been decided that the Botanical Society of America (BSA) and the Latin American Botanical Society (ALB) will join the Congress in co-sponsoring an activity. Professor Alina Freire-Fierro and I have been discussing this and have now developed the outline of what an activity might look like. What follows is a description.

We are proposing a three-hour event which would include a mini-symposium with four speakers each assigned a 20 min slot where they would address their own research as related to one of the designated themes of the conference. The speakers for this mini-symposium would be young-career or recent-graduate professionals and they would be selected by a small committee (suggest four people – two each from BSA and ALB) representing the BSA and the ALB. Online applications would be requested fairly soon and the four people selected would be called **‘Pan-American Scholars’** and their expenses would be at least partially covered by the BSA and ALB. Immediately following the mini-symposium would be a 1-hour mixer consisting of wine and hors d’oeuvres and short 5-minute speeches by the presidents of the two societies. The mixer would be intended for the participants to discuss mutual interests and some of the discussion focus would be stimulated by the four Pan-American Scholars.

The BSA has committed $3,000 for the mixer and perhaps another $1500 or $2000 could be committed to contribute to the expenses of the four Pan-American Scholars.

The next step should be to discuss these ideas and proceed with a decision on the way forward. If the Pan-American Scholar idea is accepted, then we need to appoint a 4-member selection committee (Prof. Alina and I could be on the committee) and prepare and submit an announcement pretty soon.

Tom & Alina 10-5-2017