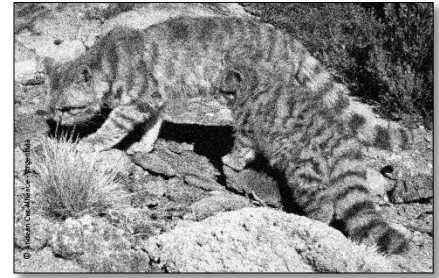




*We are pleased to announce ~*

## The 2018 Wild Felid Legacy Scholarship



The Wild Felid Research and Management Association began awarding the Wild Felid Legacy Scholarship in 2009 to encourage and support graduate level university students involved in wild felid research. To date, 23 scholarships have been awarded. The scholarship honors distinguished and dedicated biologists who lost their lives while seeking to understand and contribute to the conservation of wildlife: Dave Maehr, Ian Ross, Rocky Spencer, Eric York, Deanna Dawn, and Donna Krucki. More on these inspiring biologists can be found on the WFA's web site: [www.wildfelid.org](http://www.wildfelid.org). Scholarships are made possible through grants and donations to WFA from The Summerlee Foundation, Dee Dawn, WFA members, Altria Group, and other contributors.

**FOCUS FOR 2018:** The Andean cat (*Leopardus jacobita*) is the most threatened felid in the Western Hemisphere. Threats to Andean cats include habitat loss and conversion, hunting of both the cat and its prey, direct mortality from domestic dogs, and of course, climate change. **Accordingly, this year WFA has decided to enhance our impact by only accepting applications that focus on Andean cat conservation efforts.** To this end, S.P.E.C.I.E.S. (<http://carnivores.org>) has agreed to contribute an additional \$1000 toward the 2018 award. Also for 2018, we will open the award to individuals working with/ for a conservation NGO, in addition to university graduate students. Projects aiming to solve or mitigate threats to Andean Cats, including enhancing management, mitigating conflict or sources of mortality, and directly promoting conservation through education, outreach, and community-based activities, are strongly encouraged to apply. The scholarship will reopen to students involved in research on any Western Hemisphere felid in 2019.

**SCHOLARSHIP FUND ADMINISTRATION:** The WFA's Scholarship Committee administers the Wild Felid Legacy Scholarship and selects recipients, who are subject to relative ranking based on materials submitted and approval by the Committee, and subsequently by a majority of the WFA Council. This year's awards will be granted in early summer 2018. One to three recipients will be selected to receive awards varying from \$1000 - \$4000. The Review Committee reserves the right to provide or deny award(s), depending on the Committee's opinion of applicant qualifications and the availability of funds. All Committee decisions are final.

**APPLICATION CRITERIA:** Applicants for the Wild Felid Legacy Scholarship must be a member of the Wild Felid Research and Management Association (If you are not currently a member, simply go to our website at [www.wildfelid.org](http://www.wildfelid.org) and sign up) and, if selected, agree to provide an update of their research for the *Wild Felid Monitor*.

### APPLICATION COMPONENTS:

#### For Students:

- 🐾 Current Résumé;
- 🐾 Copy of your undergraduate diploma and your acceptance letter into a graduate program in Wildlife Biology, Wildlife Management or a related natural resource field;
- 🐾 Two letters of reference (including email addresses), one from a professor familiar with your academic capabilities and accomplishments, the other from a supervisor whom you worked for in a natural resources related position;
- 🐾 A short essay (500-750 words) describing: (1) your interests in wild felid research; (2) your career goals; (3) how you would use the award to further your professional development; and (4) your demonstration of financial need. At the top of your essay, provide the following: name and email address; degree applying for; department and university attending; major advisor and his email address; thesis/dissertation title; research objectives; completion date.

#### For Non-Students:

- 🐾 Current Résumé;
- 🐾 One letter of support from a researcher familiar with your academic capabilities and accomplishments as well as with small cat conservation;
- 🐾 A brief study plan (1000-1250 words) including objectives, justification, methods and planned activities, financial need, and cooperators (if any). On a separate page indicate how you intend to use the award.

Send your completed application electronically to Dr. Marcella Kelly, Associate Professor: [makelly2@vt.edu](mailto:makelly2@vt.edu) and put "Wild Felid Legacy Scholarship Application" in the subject line. Clearly name files with your last name and subject (e.g., Smith WFLS Resume.doc). References can also send their letters electronically. All application materials must be received by the Scholarship Chairperson by **MARCH 30, 2018**.

**Incomplete applications will not be considered.**