

Award for Academic Excellence at Humboldt State University in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and the Award for Best Undergraduate Research Project 2011

May Patiño, a graduating senior in the Anthropology department, is this year's recipient of both Humboldt State University's award for Academic Excellence in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and the award for Best Undergraduate Research Project. Currently, Patiño is the Lab Coordinator and Research Assistant at HSU's Biological Anthropology Research Lab, where



she has spent the last two years setting up the primate vocalization research protocol. The initial findings from this research were presented at the 80th annual American Association of Physical Anthropologists conference in Minneapolis earlier this month.

In February and March of this year, May was in Costa Rica working as a field research assistant for Humboldt State University and Max Plank Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology collecting and analyzing data on acoustic communication in howling monkeys. May is also coordinating



with international primatologists in Scotland, France and Japan to further these vocalization comparison studies. Patiño's research is poised to make a significant contribution to understanding the importance and context of 'loud calls' for the survival and reproductive success of primates in their natural habitats - the results have implications across the animal kingdom and for conservation efforts. As such, these findings are garnering attention

from primatologists and environmental conservationists from around the globe.