

**2007 Edward S. Deevey
Award Winner
Leila M. Gonzales**

Edward S. Deevey, a founder of modern paleoecology, was a dedicated student advisor who mentored many investigators active in the field today. To honor his memory and encourage high-quality research by graduate students, the Paleoecology Section presents an award to the student making the best oral or poster presentation in paleoecology at the ESA Annual Meeting. Leila M (Zajac) Gonzales, a Ph.D candidate in the Department of Geography at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, is the winner of the 2007 Deevey award for her talk, “Modeling late-glacial no-analog climates with expanded response surfaces.” Her presentation was co-authored by Jack W. Williams and Rick Nordheim. Ms. Gonzales’ Ph.D research focuses on reconstructing the late glacial climate and vegetation at Crystal Lake in northeastern Illinois using a combination of palynology and computer modeling. Both vegetation communities and climates during the late glacial period at Crystal Lake have no modern counterpart. In order to model these “no-analog” conditions, Ms. Gonzales developed a new statistical modeling approach called expanded response surfaces. This approach allows her to infer pollen–climate relationships for climatic conditions that are outside the modern climate domain.

Read more about her research at <<https://mywebspace.wisc.edu/lgonzales/web/LMGweb/Welcome.html>> The committee was particularly impressed with the innovative approach employed to reconstruct no-analog climatic conditions from fossil pollen assemblages. Ms. Gonzales completed a Masters of Science in Geophysical Science from the University of Chicago in 2004, and a Bachelors of Science and Arts in Mathematics and Spanish in 1995 from Regis University. The Paleoecology Section thanks students who competed for this year’s Deevey Award, and we encourage others to participate in the 2008 competition, to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Section appreciates the efforts of the 2007 Deevey Award Selection Committee: Jason Lynch (Chair), Philip Higuera, Sarah Finkelstein, and Richard Brugam.

