

Briana Pobiner
Chairperson, Education Committee

Museum Outreach

The 2019 AAPA meeting occurred during spring break for the Cleveland public school system, so committee members could not do classroom outreach. Instead, 17 Education Committee members participated in outreach in 8 time slots over 4 days at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (CMNH): 10am-12pm and 2pm-4pm Wednesday through Saturday. Thank you to Summer Arrigo-Nelson, Eve Boyle, Holly Dunsworth, Amanda Glaze, Rob O'Malley, John Mead, Kate McGrath, Amy Peterson, Becca Peixotto, Mindy Pitre, Kinley Russell, Caitlin Schrein, Molly Selba, Chalachew Seyoum, Michel Shamooun-Pour, David Strait, and Katrina Yezzi-Woodley for their participation! They engaged with >1300 total visitors - impressive numbers. Thanks also to Denise Su for making the initial introductions with the CMNH Education staff members that facilitated this outreach. In her thank you letter, Nancy J. Howell, CMNH Museum Instructor and In-house Program Coordinator wrote: "I just cannot express how thrilled the educators at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History were to have all of you, the wonderful educators from AAPA, in the gallery and sharing information about human origins. I saw total professionalism, but more importantly, everyone was able to relate to all of the visitors, no matter what age. I have photos of young people, older folks, hipsters and more handling the bones and looking as though they were in awe of the information that was being presented to them. It was nice that so many visitors came by during the spring break time and that our weather encouraged indoor visitation."

Museum Workshop

Briana invited 9 other AAPA Education Committee members that specifically have expertise and/or experience with informal education to participate with her in a workshop for CMNH educators that she was asked to deliver on Wednesday afternoon. Thank you to Rob O'Malley, Molly Selba, Amy Peterson, Caitlin Schrein, Katrina Yezzi-Woodley, Frances Forrest, Kathleen Rust, Becca Peixotto for their participation. In her thank you letter, Nancy J. Howell, CMNH Museum Instructor and In-house Program Coordinator wrote: "The gathering of educators on Wednesday afternoon was awesome. The discussion in the gallery as well as the classroom provided insight on using our gallery in a better way, improving some of the messages we share with students and visitors, and gathering resources from which we can create better teaching situations. Just wonderful."

Education Poster Session

Several members of the AAPA Education Committee organized a joint poster session with the COD-AACT (chaired by Jessica Westin) "Teaching Bio Anth Within and Without a Classroom." Those members are Maggie Hernandez, Becca Peixotto, and Molly Selba. Briana Pobinar was the discussant. There were 19 posters on a variety of topics with a teaching focus including outreach and community education. Congratulations to all involved! AAPA Education Committee member Maggie Hernandez wrote a [blog post](#) about this session featuring pdfs of several of the posters.

Education Committee Annual Meeting

The Education Committee's annual in-person meeting took place from 5-6pm on April 29, 2019. In attendance were Briana Pobiner (Committee Chair), Summer Arrigo-Nelson, Lily Doershuk, Holly Dunsworth, Frances Forrest, Ben Freed, Amanda Glaze, Maggie Hernandez, Rose Leach, Christopher Lynn, Rob O'Malley, Kate McGrath, John Mead, Dawn Mulhern, Nadia Neff, Amy Peterson, Becca Peixotto, Anna Ragni, Kinley Russell, Kathleen Rust, Molly Selba, Chalachew Seyoum, Caitlin Schrein, Michael Shamooun-Pour, Jessica Westin, Katrina Yezzi-Woodley, and Julia Zichello. Topics covered included: Christopher Lynn's 'Anthropology is Elemental' program for elementary school students; request for committee members to bring additional objects/materials for outreach next year; suggestion to create an outreach tip sheet for new outreach participants; doing an adult-oriented outreach event in LA; expansion of the Education page on the AAPA website (to host outreach materials/resources and tips/guidelines, opportunities for online outreach like Skype a Scientist, pdfs of education-focused posters from the annual conference); possible creation of an award for grad student who does a lot of outreach, recognition via some kind of "outreach fellows;" AAPA Education Committee name badge ribbons at future conferences; a survey to quantify the value of engagement as a good career move, since you can publish on outreach research; and possibly having a committee table in the exhibit room.